

July 9, 2019

The Wythe County Board of Supervisors held its regularly scheduled meeting at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 9, 2019. The location of the meeting was in the Boardroom of the County Administration Building, 340 South Sixth Street, Wytheville, Virginia.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Timothy A. Reeves, Sr., Chair
 Joe F. Hale, Vice Chair
 B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
 Ryan M. Lawson

Charlie G. Lester
 Coy L. McRoberts
 Brian W. Vaught

STAFF PRESENT:

Stephen D. Bear, County Administrator
 Martha Collins, Administrative Assistant/Clerk
 Curtis Crawford, Emergency Services Coordinator
 Scot Farthing, County Attorney

OTHERS PRESENT:

Brian Alexander
 Sissy Anders
 Doug Carner
 Rolland Cook
 Lesa Cox
 Eric Crowgey
 Stacy Dixon
 Gina Dunford-Harper
 Michael Gillman
 Buddy Johnstone
 Chris King
 Whitley Lester

Bob Melton
 Linda Meyer
 Matthew Miller
 Manny O'neal
 Cathy Pattison
 Tammy & Todd Porter
 Jared Price
 Bob & Berlene Shook
 Kristina Smith
 Tammy & Stacy Terry
 Hunter Wilson
 and approximately 25 other citizens

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Reeves determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pastor Todd Porter, Life Changers Christian Center, provided the invocation and Chair Reeves led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS' TIME

Chair Reeves inquired if anyone present wished to address the Board.

1. APEX Barn – Mr. Eric Crowgey appeared before the Board and stated “Good evening. I appreciate you allowing us to come speak tonight. Ladies and gentlemen of the Board, and staff, I come tonight in support of the barns for the APEX Center. If each one of you has had a chance somewhere along the way, your comprehensive plan here, Chapter 5, page 5-17, mentions agriculture and agriculture tourism, and this is what the APEX Center is all about. Now I know that Facebook information that’s been put out recently, there was an individual that quoted something saying about ‘come on out – we’re building a barn’ and that we’ve never done that. But we have, as a County, built a barn in this County. That wasn’t necessarily a barn; it was a shell building and the shell building was out at Fairview Industrial Park. But it was a bigger facility than what you’re looking at building at the APEX Center, and #1, the County funded the whole thing. So, the County funded this facility out at the APEX Center; you know we have funded Progress Park, we have funded the sewage systems down at the Poplar Camp area, all these things enhance our County. All these things make us what we are. My suggestion is that we stay the course. You’ve done a good job. You’ve continued to, you put a shell building out there, now there’s an industry, you bought an industrial park out here and look at the industry that has moved in out there. You’ve built a sewage system, just recently completed, at the Poplar Camp exit and in hopes that somebody will come and build a motel or restaurant and we will get that meals and hotels tax from that. Well, this APEX Center that you built, and it’s a fantastic facility, it’s bringing people into the County, a barn will just enhance that. It will make it more versatile. It will make it to where we can reap the almighty Yankee dollar that someone told me about one time. So, the only thing that I could see that we’re not doing is that we’re not putting it out on the County webpage how much money that thing generates. How much money is coming back to the County from this tax that you get from that, or how much increase we’re getting from the restaurants or the motels recently from where we’re having events. They can see an uptick. Well, the County should see an uptick in taxable income off that. So, the bottom line is, stay the course. Past boards have done this, you’ve done it yourselves with industry, so continue doing what you’re doing and it will keep our tax base lower, hopefully. Thank you and I appreciate your support.”
2. Speedwell Feedlot – Ms. Linda Meyer appeared before the Board and stated “I’d like to talk about the continuing saga of the Speedwell feedlot. This has been

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going on, we haven't heard, I have gotten no response from any State agencies in many many months concerning any monitoring or anything that is going on. So, at this point in time, you had talked about next year being a reassessment; the people within a one-mile area of that feedlot I'm sure or should be reassessed at a much much lower value next year. That is a loss of revenue from the County because nobody's going to buy those houses, nobody's going to go there if they have to endure what people are now enduring from that feedlot area. Speedwell's been established for over 200 years and now we have a dagger stabbing us and it's not going to go anyplace. I would like to suggest to you that the County send a letter to the owner of that feedlot and ask him what his intentions are. Is he going to be responsible for the lowering of taxes when the reassessment comes? Is he going to pay the County for the discrepancy? What is he going to do as far as health conditions, and so on and so forth? Since we have gotten nothing from State agencies, how about getting on the stick and going to him personally and asking him what he intends to do since he is killing our little community. Okay? Very easy. And I hope you can do something by the next meeting. So, everybody's talking about reparations, we should also ask him what does he intend to do for the people in Speedwell now that have to endure what they're enduring on a daily, weekly, monthly basis, and this has been going on for several years now, and it is time that we really get a handle on it and do something about it. Thank you."

Chairman Reeves asked Mr. Bear to follow-up with DEQ and find out when the last time was they assessed the situation.

3. Ivanhoe Fire Department – Ms. Gina Dunford-Harper appeared before the Board and stated "Board, I'm here, I'm a 44 year old volunteer for the Ivanhoe community; my family is six generations strong living in Ivanhoe. We have great pride in our community. For years, the Ivanhoe community has complained about the Ivanhoe Fire Department and, more importantly, our Fire Chief, Mr. Gary McKinney. Tonight, we come to you for your help and your support. We have talked to our Supervisors, Coy McRoberts and Gene Horney to no avail. We attempted to have a meeting to discuss our concerns with the firemen on Sunday, and we were greeted with snide remarks and threats. One of our senior citizens was threatened to be beaten up by the Assistant Chief. All we heard was how wonderful Gary is and how wonderful a leader he is. All we're asking for is your help in helping us find that evidence because we have yet to see it. The condition of the building and the grounds of the Fire Department are a disgrace to Wythe County, not only to Ivanhoe. I am also a District III employee. I am the

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Site Manager for the Ivanhoe Senior Citizens. We meet at the firehouse every Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Would you want your 70 or 80 year old mother or grandmother going into a bathroom where feces is all over the seat, on the floor, up the wall, where dirty clothes are over in the corner, where it looks like somebody took a grease bath in the sink, with rotten hamburger meat and everything that I'm telling you I have pictures right now that I can show you; they're on my phone. I'd be more than glad to show you. Rotten hamburger meat that was sitting in the refrigerator while we were out for Christmas for two weeks that was not thrown away until May. It was dated August 23rd. I have pictures. We begged. I know District III made a complaint. The Extension Office made a complaint and finally the Senior Citizens' President called in. The hamburger meat was thrown away but that was all that was mostly done. It is a disgrace to go in there. They let people have birthday parties and everything; they leave everything. We have to go in there every week; I get in there at 8:30 a.m. and for the first hour I'm in there cleaning with another senior citizen. I never go in that building alone because I don't want it said that I was in there with anybody else. There's a lack of community support. What was once an organization of pride and honor is now a town joke and a bad name on the community. The volunteers for the auxiliary and the retired firemen were asked by Mr. McKinney not to even, to leave the building, to leave and not come back. Their help was not needed nor asked for. All we're asking you for is for some accountability. We want a Chief that is top-notch and a real leader. We want an Assistant Chief that is not a 'yes man'. We want building and grounds keepers and we want a committee formed and we want our community member, a Fire Department member and a County representative on this board to check the grounds, not only the fire department but also at Jubilee Park. We want the books audited as a community. But the big elephant in the room is the fact that Gary McKinney lives in our firehouse. You want proof? You're in your home and you're watching cable and you're answering the phone and you're receiving phone calls there; and I'm answering phone calls when I'm supposed to be helping the senior citizens. Debt collectors are calling and personally asking for him, not the Fire Department. I have answered the phone to AEP wanting to turn the lights off at Jubilee Park. If you eat somewhere, sleep somewhere, wash your clothes somewhere, bathe somewhere, cook somewhere, is that not your residence? If you drive a vehicle that belongs to the Fire Department, for a long extensive time, is that not living somewhere? To me, that's my own personal residence. If anyone here says that Gary McKinney does not live in that building, I wouldn't want to be in their shoes come Judgement Day. We thank you for listening and we pray that we can get a resolution to this problem. The solution has been to shut down the Fire

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Department; it was made by Coy McRoberts. He said he would rather have it shut down. We don't want it shut down. We need our Fire Department. We fought hard, Ivanhoe's fought hard, for everything we've ever had, and we do not want to lose our Fire Department. What we want is, we want accountability. We want Gary McKinney evicted from Jubilee Park; we want him evicted. That is community property. He pays nothing. I asked at the meeting on Sunday, I said if you say you don't live here, where's he live? He's got a trailer down on the river. I said, 'you mean the camper that's in Jubilee Park?' I said is he paying lot rent for that? Everybody else that goes down there has to pay \$10 a night. I said is he paying power, is he paying water? He aint paying nothing. They said he mows. Whose lawn mower, whose gas? Who's buying the gas? Yeah, if I lived somewhere for free, I'd mow the yard myself. We're just asking you for help without shutting the Fire Department down. But help us; help the community, and while we're here, we'd also like for you to think about helping our community with working fire hydrants, and cleaning up our hog problem right downtown. You can't breathe. You can't have a family affair; the Masons, the Odd Fellows, they can't have nothing outside because we have hog manure all over the place. So we're asking you, it's a health and a safety concern for the entire community, and for anybody to ask for a senior citizen to go into that building and have a meal where flies are drawn; we couldn't even sit in the meeting Sunday; we looked like umpires calling in home runs and take first base because we were slapping off the gnats and flies because the trash can was overfilled and the trash was on the floor. We thank you, and we hope that, if anybody here, would anybody like to see the pictures?"

Chairman Reeves asked that she show the pictures to Mr. Bear after the meeting concludes.

Ms. Dunford-Harper agreed to and thanked the Board.

4. Spiller Annex Building – Mr. Hunter Wilson appeared before the Board and stated "I'm here on behalf of the Wythe County Historical Society along with Michael Gillman. We're both on the Board of Directors. You can probably scratch that name off the list. But we're here for one of the agenda items, the Annex Building at Spiller. Just to express our interest in the building, we have performed an initial evaluation of the spaces. I crafted our intended uses for it, if we were able to occupy that space. We're in the process of procuring services to perform greater studies of it, if it's available to us, and we would love to field questions later on

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when we get to that agenda item, if you'd like us to do that. But we just wanted to be here in support of the Society and take any questions that you had."

5. Ivanhoe Fire Department – Mr. Jared Price appeared before the Board and stated "I'm here on behalf of the Ivanhoe Fire Department. I'm the Assistant Chief of the Ivanhoe Fire Department. I'm not here for me, and I'm not here for the Fire Department as a whole. I'm here for everybody in our community. There has been accusations made on Gary but no reasoning behind why they want Gary out, other than lies. The meeting that we had on Sunday, Gary was not there for half of this meeting. I was Assistant Chief and I took command of this meeting. I had this room completely calm, everybody was talking, there was no arguing, no fussing, I never once threatened, I never once first threatened anybody. I was threatened first. But that's neither here nor there. Our leadership, Gary has been a fabulous Chief. Nobody in the community other than the members of our department understand the shape that the department was in when Gary became Chief. I honestly feel, and I'm not the only one, that this is a personal lynching against Gary McKinney. She says there's evidence. They use the kitchen in that fire house more than we do. Me and Gary and my wife, my family, my kids, they've all come down there and help clean this kitchen and she'll come in and it's never good enough. The building itself, yeah, we do slack. I do not deny that we do slack on our cleaning sometimes. We're a volunteer department. It's hard to get people to come all the time to keep cleaning it, but we've been working since I became Assistant Chief, we've been working to improve things that we are soft on, like cleaning. I told Gina and the rest of the seniors that was at that meeting on Sunday that I had been talking to one of my lieutenants about putting together a cleaning rotation so that once a week somebody, or two of the members of our department, comes in and cleans the bathrooms, cleans the kitchens, cleans the meeting room and hallways, that way it stays clean. I told them that it takes time. Change is not something that happens overnight. It doesn't, and anybody that thinks it does is crazy and you all know this. The bathrooms and all that, I covered that. The Auxiliary, Gary did not run the Auxiliary off. I can produce documents where the department as a whole voted to abolish the Ladies Auxiliary. That was not a decision made by Gary McKinney. That was a decision made by the department as a whole, and like I said if you need me to, I can produce documentation of that because we keep minutes from every meeting.

Gary living on the river. Yes, Gary does stay down there a lot. But Gary mows, he takes care of the grounds, he cleans the bathrooms, sometimes he don't have any

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help; nobody goes to help him mow, nobody goes to help him clean the bathrooms, the concession stands, none of that. Gary takes care of everything. He makes sure that people pay when they camp, he takes care of everything on that river, by himself 90% of the time. So, if he wants to stay down there for a while, so be it. I mean, he's basically taking care of everything. But I honestly feel that if Gary was not the Chief of this department, none of this would be an issue. It wouldn't. This is, honest to God, I feel it is a personal attack against Gary. But I know from fact that Gary is willing to do anything that it takes to save this department because he has the same passion and desire to do this, and he has the same care and passion for our department that I do, that all those people on that back row do. We all have families, but we took time from our families to come here because we love our department and we love our community. I wouldn't be here; I'm not a public speaker, I'm horrible at it, so if I look nervous and I'm fidgety, that's my fault and I'm sorry. I'm not a politician. I'm a fireman that loves to be a part of this fire department. And I will do anything that it takes to keep this fire department going and I just ask that you all give us a chance to try to get things straightened up that we know we're weak on and move things in the right direction. Like I said, change don't happen overnight. But it's working and I can show you things that we've been doing this year that we haven't done in any other year; things that have never been done in that department, on a good side. And as far as the truck, Gary does use the truck to go get supplies for the river where we do our horse shows and all that stuff. He goes to Pulaski a lot to get paper towels and all that stuff. He goes to Sam's to get food. In the winter time, he brings his personal truck off that river to scrape that snow out of the parking lot so that we can get into the parking lot so that we can get our trucks in and out of that building. Gary does not use that truck for his personal use. So, I'm not a politician and I'm not a good public speaker but I appreciate you all for listening and you all have a good evening."

With no one else wishing to address the Board, Chair Reeves closed Citizens' Time. He also asked Mr. Bear and Mr. Crawford to look into this matter and come up with a solution at the next Fire & Rescue Committee meeting. He said the last thing we want to do is close the Fire Department. The Chairman added that if we have to reorganize it, we will, but things will get straightened out.

PAYMENT OF COUNTY INVOICES

Supervisor McRoberts made a motion to pay the invoices for approval on July 9, 2019, for the various departments of County government. The invoices were paid on General Warrants 30104101-30104135 as follows:

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**EXPENDITURES BY DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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CHECK #	ISSUE DATE	VENDOR	AMOUNT
30104101	07/09/2019	APPALACHIAN POWER	\$ 1,958.73
30104102	07/09/2019	BROWN EXTERMINATING CO	45.00
30104103	07/09/2019	BUSINESS CARD	2,076.53
30104104	07/09/2019	CENTURYLINK	52.76
30104105	07/09/2019	CENTURYLINK	232.10
30104106	07/09/2019	CENTURYLINK	4,698.69
30104107	07/09/2019	CRIGGER, TERRY	8.00
30104108	07/09/2019	DIGITAL MEMORIES LINK	3,050.00
30104109	07/09/2019	GRANT, BRUCE M	4,136.75
30104110	07/09/2019	JONES NURSERY INC	4,500.00
30104111	07/09/2019	KING-MOORE INC	728.00
30104112	07/09/2019	LOWE'S	2,724.94
30104113	07/09/2019	MANSFIELD OIL CO	7,750.53
30104114	07/09/2019	MEADOWS, RICHARD	202.00
30104115	07/09/2019	MAILROOM FINANCE, INC	628.70
30104116	07/09/2019	NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY	328.05
30104117	07/09/2019	POSTON, TREY	37.90
30104118	07/09/2019	STOWERS, BLAKE	22.16
30104119	07/09/2019	TOWN OF RURAL RETREAT	1,628.42
30104120	07/09/2019	UNITED STATES TREASURY	329.82
30104121	07/09/2019	VERIZON WIRELESS	760.19
30104122	07/09/2019	VITA	164.11
30104123	07/09/2019	VITA	265.37
30104124	07/09/2019	WYTHE CO WWATER & WASTEWAT	1,018.85
30104125	07/09/2019	WYTHEVILLE OFFICE SUPPLY	4.89
30104126	07/09/2019	XEROX	132.67
TOTAL EXPENDITURES 07/09/2019			\$37,485.16

CHECK #	ISSUE DATE	VENDOR	AMOUNT
30104127	07/09/2019	CITIZENS TELEPHONE COOP	\$ 720.00
30104128	07/09/2019	RURAL DEVELOPMENT	2,282.00
30104129	07/09/2019	RURAL DEVELOPMENT	2,514.00
30104130	07/09/2019	RURAL DEVELOPMENT	11,572.00
30104131	07/09/2019	SMYTH WYTHE AIRPORT COMMI	13,430.00

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30104132	07/09/2019	SUNTRUST	36,881.92
30104133	07/09/2019	SUPERION LLC	21,243.32
30104134	07/09/2019	VACO	6,017.00
30104135	07/09/2019	WYTHE CO HEALTH DEPT	91,529.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES 07/09/2019			\$186,189.24

TOTAL EXPENDITURES APPROVED 07/09/2019 **\$223,674.40**

Supervisor Horney seconded the motion and the roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Brian W. Vaught	Coy L. McRoberts
	Charlie G. Lester	B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
	Ryan M. Lawson	Timothy A. Reeves, Sr.
	Joe F. Hale	

NAYS: None

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Board was presented with the June 28, 2019 minutes for approval.

Supervisor Lawson made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Lester, to approve the June 28, 2019, minutes as presented.

The roll call vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Charlie G. Lester	Coy L. McRoberts
	Ryan M. Lawson	B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
	Joe F. Hale	Timothy A. Reeves, Sr.

ABSTAIN: Brian W. Vaught

NAYS: None

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Bear reported there are two vacancies on the Recreation Commission and one vacancy on the Wythe Grayson Regional Library Board that remain open. He has received interest in the library board and will forward that information to the Board of Supervisors for their review.

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HAGERS SPRINGS PUMP STATION

Mr. Bear referenced letters from Mr. Crisp and Peed & Bortz, both of whom recommend the bid from Clearwater, Inc. for two pumps at Hagers Springs Pump Station. Mr. Bear said that time is of the essence which is why this didn't go in front of the Water Committee first. One pump is out of order and the other, while it is still functioning, is nearly 20 years old with no repair parts available any more. Therefore, the purchase of two pumps is necessary.

Supervisor Horney made a motion, seconded by Supervisor McRoberts, to accept the proposal from Clearwater, Inc. at a cost of \$28,100.

The roll call vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Brian W. Vaught	Coy L. McRoberts
	Charlie G. Lester	B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
	Ryan M. Lawson	Timothy A. Reeves, Sr.
	Joe F. Hale	

NAYS: None

HEALTH DEPARTMENT VACCINE ROOM

Mr. Bear explained that the air conditioning unit services several rooms. The control is not in the vaccine room, so it can get hot in there. Many vaccines are stored in the refrigerators; but those that don't need to be refrigerated, are stored in cabinets and need to be kept cool. Mr. Bear said that Building & Grounds has reviewed the situation and, together with the Health Department, recommend the installation of an individually controlled, split-wall unit. Mr. Bear recommends approval to amend and appropriate \$2,783 and added that the Health Department is attempting to find emergency funds to assist.

Supervisor Lester made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Vaught, to amend and appropriate \$2,783 for an air conditioning unit for the Health Department Vaccine Room.

Supervisor Hale recommended that they make an effort to use standardized equipment.

The roll call vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Brian W. Vaught	Coy L. McRoberts
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Charlie G. Lester
Ryan M. Lawson
Joe F. Hale

B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
Timothy A. Reeves, Sr.

NAYS: None

APEX CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

1. Change Order – Supervisor Hale made a motion, as recommended by the APEX Construction Committee, to approve change order in the amount of \$1,500 to add three independent quad outlets under the exhaust fans.

Supervisor Vaught asked if this helps get electricity on the floor, and Supervisor Hale responded yes.

The roll call vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Brian W. Vaught	Coy L. McRoberts
	Charlie G. Lester	B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
	Ryan M. Lawson	Timothy A. Reeves, Sr.
	Joe F. Hale	

NAYS: None

2. Barn - The APEX Construction Committee reviewed bids received on July 3rd for the utility barn. The bids consisted of a base bid for a 32,000 square foot barn (200'x160') in accordance with contract documents (generally steel frame construction), an alternative bid#1 for 16,000 square foot barn (100'x160') in accordance with contract documents, an alternative bid#2 for a 32,000 square foot barn in compliance with contract documents, but allowing for alternative construction materials which met prescriptive design specifications, and an alternative bid#3 for a 16,000 square foot barn in compliance with contract documents, but allowing for alternative construction materials which met prescriptive design specifications.

The committee recommended declaring two bids non-responsive. Champions bid did not include a bid bond, did not include a contractor's license, did not place a complete bid for the base bid, and indicated in supporting documentation that

they would not be serving as general contractor. Rudolph & Delp bid did not include required level of contractor's license.

The committee recommended entering into negotiations with the highest ranked contractor for construction of the 32,000 square foot utility barn (base bid). Negotiations would include potential removal of asphalt floor, installation of waterline to building and backflow prevention device by county employees, and exterior electrical work by AEP. The contractors were ranked in order of lowest bid price:

1. Simcon Company, LLC
2. RGM Erectors, Inc.
3. Colt W. Simmons Construction Company, LLC
4. Blair Construction, Inc.

Contingent upon Board approval of the above, negotiations would be entered into with the goal of a contract being presented to the Board for approval at its July 23rd meeting.

Supervisor Vaught stated that while he agrees with what Mr. Crowgey said about growing the County, this is a prime example of the issue he has with the entire project. He said we get a \$200k grant with a \$200k match, then we issue a press release indicating we're building a \$400k barn, and now we're talking about negotiating with a contractor for more than double the amount. This project initially was to cost \$6.5M and we're now at \$10.3M. Where does it end? Supervisor Vaught suspects the vote will be 5:2 and he asks Supervisors Horney and McRoberts to "do the right thing" to represent the taxpayers and vote against this.

Chairman Reeves admitted that when they estimated the cost of the barn, they underestimated. He said when you put things out for bid, it can sometimes be a rude awakening as to the actual costs.

Supervisor Vaught stated that initially it was to be 16,000 sf; then it was decided they wanted a 32,000 sf structure because they were told to build it bigger. He said it's like when he trades in a vehicle, they try and sway him towards the more expensive vehicles, but he stays within his budget. He said we should do the same with this tax money.

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Chairman Reeves commented that when preliminary plans were done for the APEX, it called for three smaller barns. This one larger barn takes the place of three smaller ones.

Supervisor Hale asked Mr. Bear how much money has been donated that is not taxpayer's money.

Mr. Bear responded that there's a \$200k grant from the Tobacco Commission, a \$50k commitment from the Farm Bureau, \$275k donated by AAEC (\$250k for bleachers and \$25k for barn) and at least another \$75k.

Supervisor Hale added that there is another \$50k that we didn't pay for the bleachers (and will not pay). He said there's already more than \$400k here of total monies, and the quality of the building is for the long-term economy to scale. Supervisor Hale stated that we should build it right and build it correctly, and we should also take into consideration the rising cost of steel, concrete and labor. We should build not just for the present, but we should also build for the future.

Supervisor McRoberts does not believe that constructing a barn half the size (16k sf) is going to do us any good. He said we should get it to where we can use it and make money with it. We're not going to make any money sitting here arguing whether we're going to do it or not. Supervisor McRoberts said he is for building the barn.

Supervisor Lawson added that she is all for community growth, and she agrees with Mr. Crowgey that it would enhance the County. But she said this has grown into something so massive from where we started. Supervisor Lawson feels that if the County has close to \$400k, we should bring it back down to what we can afford. She said that might be something that we could look at. But right now, she cannot agree to support something this expensive.

Supervisor Horney feels it's something we got to do and it will make the APEX Center better. Simply put, he said it's like him going out and buying a farm that's good for nothing but grazing cattle, and after he signs the papers, he decides not to spend any more money so he's not buying any cattle. But if he doesn't buy cattle, then he can't make any money off it. That's the way he looks at it. Supervisor Horney feels the barn will enhance the property, and even if the APEX flops, the barn hopefully will be adding value to the property.

Supervisor Lawson asked if we need to have this now. She feels it's necessary but is concerned with the amount of money that's already been poured into the facility.

Supervisor Horney feels it's important to do it now. He said there are events that won't come unless there's a barn to put their animals in.

Supervisor Vaught asked Supervisor Horney what if they priced your hypothetical farm at \$6.5M with tractor and cattle included, and you went to pay for it and the cost is now \$10.3M. The study done on the APEX indicated that this could all be done with the barns and everything for \$6.5M. Supervisor Vaught said the same study indicated this would pay for itself and he wants to see it succeed, but he said they were told before the APEX opened that the phone was ringing off the hook with people booking events. He said they've only had a handful of events this summer. He wonders what happened to all those phone calls.

Supervisor Horney believes that since the APEX opened, there have been a lot of events. He said that every event he's been to, there have been a lot of people in attendance.

Supervisor Lawson agrees that everyone is doing a great job there, and would just like to see it continue before putting any more money into it.

The roll call vote on the motion to enter into negotiations with the low bidder was as follows:

AYES:	Charlie G. Lester	B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
	Joe F. Hale	Timothy A. Reeves, Sr.
	Coy L. McRoberts	

NAYS:	Brian W. Vaught	Ryan M. Lawson
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3. VA Tobacco Commission Southwest Economic Development Grant Request – Sign - Supervisor Hale made a motion, as recommended by the APEX Construction Committee, to adopt Resolution 2019-19 supporting an application to the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission for funding the construction of support facilities at the APEX Center (which would include an exterior bathroom/shower facility, livestock washing facility, and equipment

storage). The grant request will be for \$100,000 which would require a \$100,000 match by the County. The resolution is as follows:

**WYTHE COUNTY RESOLUTION 2019-19
AUTHORIZING THE PREPARATION AND FILING
OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE
TOBACCO REGION REVITALIZATION COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission is soliciting applications for the 2019 Southwest Economic Development Program; and,

WHEREAS, the Wythe County Board of Supervisors has determined that the construction of a bathroom/shower facility and equipment storage/maintenance building at the APEX Center in the Wythe County meets the program requirements.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors wishes to make application to the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission's 2019 Southwest Economic Development Program in order to obtain funding for the construction of a bathroom/shower facility and equipment storage/maintenance building at the APEX Center.

Adopted this 9th day of July, 2019.

Supervisor Vaught asked if this is a grant for yet another \$200k bill.

Supervisor Hale replied yes.

Chairman Reeves reiterated that this is for the bathroom and shower facilities outside the barn.

Supervisor Hale added that it is also a wash facility for livestock.

The roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Charlie G. Lester	B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
	Joe F. Hale	Timothy A. Reeves, Sr.
	Coy L. McRoberts	

NAYS:	Brian W. Vaught	Ryan M. Lawson
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SPILLER ANNEX DISCUSSIONS

Mr. Bear announced that Building & Grounds Committee has been working for some time on the Spiller Annex building. This building has not been used since around 2003-2004. The Committee discussed with the Town the possibility of leasing the building to the Town for museum purposes. However, the Town didn't want to restrict usage solely for museum purposes (using some space for offices). The Committee feels strongly that the building be used for historical/museum type purposes and discussed same with the Historical Society who is interested in obtaining the property. and the County could possibly convey it to the Historical Society. County Attorney has researched conveying the property to the Historical Society but the Board of Supervisors would have to set a public hearing for comment. Mr. Bear also said that the Board could set parameters in the deed document as to usage/purposes of the building.

Supervisor Hale has spent much of his professional career in saving old buildings across the country. He said that this is a unique piece of architecture and many in our community went to school there. Wytheville has a strong museum commitment and board, which is part of tourism. Tourism is good clean revenue if we act smart – make money off our valued and long history. We've toured the building and its set up for an educational facility. Museum could have programs conducted there – and solid good for the community.

Supervisor Lawson commented that she went to school there and she fully supports this.

Supervisor Vaught has spoken with both Mr. Wilson and Mr. Jim Lloyd (JAM). JAM has done exceedingly well and one of the goals of the Historical Society is to have a larger place for the JAM program. Supervisor Vaught agrees and said the County is not currently getting any benefit from it. He would like to save the building.

The Chairman added that Mr. Lloyd is doing a tremendous service for our community and the young people. It would be great to provide them with a permanent place to teach.

Mr. Bear recommends the County Attorney draft a deed for review by both the Historical Society and the Board of Supervisors. He recommends setting a public hearing for the evening of August 13th.

Supervisor Vaught made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Lester, to set a public hearing on August 13, 2019.

The roll call vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Brian W. Vaught	Coy L. McRoberts
	Charlie G. Lester	B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
	Ryan M. Lawson	Timothy A. Reeves, Sr.
	Joe F. Hale	

NAYS: None

IVANHOE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Supervisor Vaught asked that the County Administrator and Mr. Crawford provide the Board with an update/solution for discussion at the next Board meeting on July 23rd. It was noted that the Fire & Rescue Committee will have their next meeting on July 15th.

Supervisor Hale recommended a site visit as soon as possible. Because it is a County-owned building, he said we have authority to visit/inspect it. He also suggested that a staff person go to the firehouse first thing tomorrow morning and take pictures, then the Board can conduct a site visit after the Senior Citizens Meeting (8:30-12:30).

A gentleman in the audience stood and thanked the Board for wanting to keep the Fire Department open and he encouraged everyone to work together to achieve this.

The Board and County staff will meet tomorrow at noon at the County Administration office, then arrive at the fire station around 12:30 p.m.

Supervisor Hale asked who owns and operates Jubilee Park.

Mr. Bear explained that Jubilee Park is actually in Carroll County. He is uncertain of the details/terms of the agreement between Ivanhoe Civic League and Carroll County as it relates to Jubilee Park.

Supervisor McRoberts said the property belongs to Ivanhoe Civic League and is leased to Ivanhoe Fire Department, and, in part, in exchange for mowing.

Supervisor Hale said DGIF owns the first part of the park (not mowed) but are there one or two entities that own/control the park?

Mr. Bear will look into it.

Supervisor McRoberts added that the Civic League owns the park in conjunction with the lease to the Fire Department.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to come before the Board, Chair Reeves adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:59 p.m.

Timothy A. Reeves, Sr., Chair