

January 23, 2018

The Wythe County Board of Supervisors held its regularly scheduled meeting at 9 a.m., Tuesday, January 23, 2018. 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
Brian W. Vaught

Charlie G. Lester
Coy L. McRoberts
B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ryan M. Lawson

STAFF PRESENT:

Stephen D. Bear, County Administrator
Scot Farthing, County Attorney
Martha G. Collins, Administrative Assistant/Clerk
Jason Busick, Emergency Services Coordinator
Darlene Lang, Director of Communications

OTHERS PRESENT:

Faye Barker
Anthony Cline
Stacy Dixon
Keith Dunagan
Charles Foster
Lori Gynn
Jeff Hall

Rick Lindamood
David Manley
John Matthews
Linda Meyer
Jeff Russell
Chris Terry
Adam Williams

CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Chair Reeves determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. Rick Lindamood of the West End United Methodist Church provided the invocation and Chair Reeves led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS' TIME

Chair Reeves welcomed the citizens present at the meeting and inquired if anyone wished to address the Board.

1. Wythe County Public School Superintendent – Linda Meyer of 1118 Dry Road in Speedwell addressed the Board and stated the following:

"I was wondering, did you guys get the superintendent search survey from the school? I picked them up this morning. This is kind of important to do. I thought that this might be a little bit interesting. I hope that you guys can give them some input so we have a real person at the job. A conservative person. Somebody that doesn't have an ego the size of Texas and can work within the County. Thank you."

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With no one else to address the Board, Chair Reeves closed Citizens' Time.

PAYMENT OF COUNTY INVOICES

Supervisor McRoberts made a motion to pay the invoices for approval on January 23, 2018, for the various departments of County government. The invoices were paid on General Warrants 30099790-30099903 as follows:

**EXPENDITURES BY DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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CHECK NO.	ISSUE DATE	VENDOR	TOTAL
30099790	01/10/18	RGM ERECTORS INC.	\$1,045,278.38
TOTAL CHECKS 01/10/18			\$1,045,278.38

CHECK NO.	ISSUE DATE	VENDOR	TOTAL
30099791	01/16/18	APPALACHIAN POWER	\$2,530.02
30099792	01/16/18	BUSINESS CARD	\$5,074.38
30099793	01/16/18	CENTURY LINK	\$59.76
30099794	01/16/18	CENTURY LINK	\$294.89
30099795	01/16/18	CENTURY LINK	\$3,891.05
30099796	01/16/18	SHENEL	\$73.37
30099797	01/16/18	SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA GAS SERVICE	\$1,737.89
30099798	01/16/18	SUBURBAN PROPANE 1241	\$112.01
30099799	01/16/18	US CELLULAR	\$66.10
30099800	01/16/18	US CELLULAR	\$516.66
30099801	01/16/18	US CELLULAR	\$642.12
30099802	01/16/18	US CELLULAR	\$846.85
TOTAL CHECKS 01/16/18			\$15,845.10

CHECK NO.	ISSUE DATE	VENDOR	TOTAL
30099803	01/23/18	ACADEMIC TRAINING CENTER LLC	\$375.00
30099804	01/23/18	ANDERS, SONDR A W.	\$55.00
30099805	01/23/18	APPALACHIAN JUVENILE COMMISSION	\$5,425.00
30099806	01/23/18	APPALACHIAN POWER	\$36,909.26
30099807	01/23/18	AXON ENTERPRISE INC.	\$12,155.96
30099808	01/23/18	BLUE RIDGE AUTO PARTS INC.	\$126.99
30099809	01/23/18	BRENNTAG MID-SOUTH INC.	\$1,637.61
30099810	01/23/18	BROWN EXTERMINATING CO.	\$40.73
30099811	01/23/18	BUSINESS INK CO.	\$1,577.94
30099812	01/23/18	CASSELL, MARY N.	\$37.60
30099813	01/23/18	CAVALIER SUPPLY CO.	\$1,620.75
30099814	01/23/18	CDW GOVERNMENT INC.	\$2,308.97
30099815	01/23/18	CENTURY LINK	\$39.98
30099816	01/23/18	CENTURY LINK	\$57.48

30099817	01/23/18	CENTURY LINK	\$63.96
30099818	01/23/18	CENTURY LINK	\$77.02
30099819	01/23/18	CENTURY LINK	\$267.73
30099820	01/23/18	COM TEC	\$125.00
30099821	01/23/18	COUNTY OF WYTHE	\$1,416.67
30099822	01/23/18	DELL MARKETING LP	\$1,884.17
30099823	01/23/18	DELL MARKETING LP	\$84.99
30099824	01/23/18	DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES	\$100.00
30099825	01/23/18	DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES	\$30.00
30099826	01/23/18	DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES	\$125.00
30099827	01/23/18	DICKENSON PHARMACY PC	\$10,000.00
30099828	01/23/18	DISTRICT THREE	\$9,303.00
30099829	01/23/18	DUKES PRINTING	\$264.00
30099830	01/23/18	DUNAGAN, KEITH	\$858.06
30099831	01/23/18	ECONOMY QUICK LUBE	\$39.95
30099832	01/23/18	ELEVEN WEST INC.	\$46.00
30099833	01/23/18	EMS INC.	\$1,137.50
30099834	01/23/18	FARTHING, SCOT S.	\$1,030.00
30099835	01/23/18	FERGUSON ENTERPRISES NO. 5	\$1,764.15
30099836	01/23/18	FRIZZELL CONSTRUCTION CO. INC.	\$1,728.52
30099837	01/23/18	FROEHLING AND ROBERTSON INC.	\$2,742.25
30099838	01/23/18	GALLS	\$447.91
30099839	01/23/18	GRANT, BRUCE M.	\$4,136.75
30099840	01/23/18	HALE, JOE F.	\$95.20
30099841	01/23/18	HORNEY, B. GENE JR.	\$75.60
30099842	01/23/18	HOUSEMAN, GARY M.	\$33.60
30099843	01/23/18	JASON'S AUTO SERVICE	\$16.00
30099844	01/23/18	JOINT PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY	\$37,136.84
30099845	01/23/18	KC AUTOMOTIVE	\$58.95
30099846	01/23/18	LAW ENFORCEMENT SYSTEMS	\$232.00
30099847	01/23/18	LOWES	\$1,143.66
30099848	01/23/18	MABE, GERALD E. II	\$57.07
30099849	01/23/18	MCI COMMUNICATION SERVICES	\$34.43
30099850	01/23/18	MCI COMMUNICATION SERVICES	\$73.66
30099851	01/23/18	MCI COMMUNICATION SERVICES	\$483.24
30099852	01/23/18	MCROBERTS, COY L.	\$89.60
30099853	01/23/18	MEREDITH'S GARAGE	\$874.45
30099854	01/23/18	MODERN SHOE STORE	\$478.97
30099855	01/23/18	NATIONAL SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION	\$115.00
30099856	01/23/18	NDAА	\$181.00
30099857	01/23/18	NEW RIVER RESOURCE AUTHORITY	\$562.65
30099858	01/23/18	NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL JAIL	\$90,035.00
30099859	01/23/18	PAPER CLIP	\$4,381.22
30099860	01/23/18	PARTNERSHIP SCREENING INTL. INC.	\$14.40
30099861	01/23/18	PEED AND BORTZ LLC	\$4,450.00

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30099862	01/23/18	PITNEY BOWES	\$591.00
30099863	01/23/18	PNC BANK NA	\$77,179.90
30099864	01/23/18	POLYTEC INC.	\$2,880.00
30099865	01/23/18	R. WRIGHT AND ASSOCIATES LLC	\$125.00
30099866	01/23/18	R & C TOWING AND REPAIR CO.	\$718.57
30099867	01/23/18	R & R ENTERPRISES INC.	\$60.00
30099868	01/23/18	RCI	\$230.00
30099869	01/23/18	REEVES, TIMOTHY A. SR.	\$21.60
30099870	01/23/18	REGION I VBCOA	\$60.00
30099871	01/23/18	RURAL RETREAT AUTO PARTS INC.	\$22.42
30099872	01/23/18	SENTRY SERVICES	\$2,051.43
30099873	01/23/18	SLEMP BRANT SAUNDERS AND ASSOC. INC.	\$6,320.00
30099874	01/23/18	SMYTH WYTHE AIRPORT COMMISSION	\$15,500.00
30099875	01/23/18	SOUTHERN STATES	\$74.49
30099876	01/23/18	SOUTHWESTERN EQUIPMENT	\$20.23
30099877	01/23/18	SUPPLY WORKS	\$1,169.55
30099878	01/23/18	TAKE A BREAK FROM THE INTERSTATE	\$500.00
30099879	01/23/18	TESSCO INC.	\$3,297.39
30099880	01/23/18	THOMPSON TIRE	\$1,558.98
30099881	01/23/18	THRASHER GROUP INC.	\$7,274.50
30099882	01/23/18	THREE RIVERS MEDIA CORP.	\$660.00
30099883	01/23/18	TOWN OF WYTHEVILLE	\$7,615.43
30099884	01/23/18	TRANSUNION RISK AND ALTERNATIVE	\$35.30
30099885	01/23/18	TRI CITIES SWVA REGIONAL	\$206.60
30099886	01/23/18	TWO WAY RADIO	\$900.00
30099887	01/23/18	TYLER TECHNOLOGIES INC.	\$55,051.25
30099888	01/23/18	UNIFIRST CORP.	\$202.14
30099889	01/23/18	USA BLUE BOOK	\$96.43
30099890	01/23/18	V & M RECYCLING	\$71,368.73
30099891	01/23/18	VERIZON	\$18.50
30099892	01/23/18	VERIZON WIRELESS	\$40.03
30099893	01/23/18	VEST'S SALES AND SERVICE INC.	\$5,092.97
30099894	01/23/18	VIRGINIA TECH	\$13,059.47
30099895	01/23/18	VRAV	\$170.00
30099896	01/23/18	VUPS	\$99.75
30099897	01/23/18	WELLS FARGO CORPORATE TRUST	\$302,409.94
30099898	01/23/18	WILLIAMS, KEVIN	\$327.09
30099899	01/23/18	WYTHE ARTS COUNCIL LTD	\$9,500.00
30099900	01/23/18	WYTHE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT	\$87,975.00
30099901	01/23/18	WYTHE TIRE AND MUFFLER	\$340.19
30099902	01/23/18	WYTHEVILLE OFFICE SUPPLY	\$166.82
30099903	01/23/18	XEROX	\$377.04
TOTAL CHECKS 01/23/18			\$916,031.18

TOTAL EXPENDITURES APPROVED 01/23/18 **\$1,977,154.66**

Supervisor Horney seconded the motion.

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.
	Joe F. Hale	Timothy A. Reeves, Sr.

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Ryan M. Lawson

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Board was presented with the January 9, 2018, and January 17, 2018, minutes for adoption.

Supervisor Horney made a motion, seconded by Supervisor McRoberts to approve the January 9, 2018, and January 17, 2018, minutes as presented.

Supervisor Lester noted that Doug Hughes was omitted from the list of those present at the January 17 work session.

Supervisor Horney made an amended motion, seconded by Supervisor Hale to approve the January 9, 2018, and January 17, 2018, minutes as corrected.

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.
	Joe F. Hale	Timothy A. Reeves, Sr.

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Ryan M. Lawson

2018 RULES OF PROCEDURE

The Board reviewed and discussed revised Rules of Procedure for calendar year 2018.

Supervisor Vaught made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Lester to adopt the revised 2018 Rules of Procedure as presented.

Mr. Bear reported that revisions to the 2018 Rules of Procedure were as follows:

- Addition of Section 5.3 – Remote Participation in Board Meetings.

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- Removal of the sentence from Section 6.10, which states, "The request will not be considered at the same meeting it is presented."
- Increase of public hearing time limits to five minutes for individuals, ten minutes for persons speaking on behalf of an organization whose membership represents an entire district, and fifteen minutes for individuals speaking on behalf of an organization whose membership represents the entire County.
- Extension of the time period the clerk shall maintain electronic recordings of proceedings from one year to five as described in Section 6.8.

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.
 Joe F. Hale Timothy A. Reeves, Sr.

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Ryan M. Lawson

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL EXPOSITION CENTER SEATING

The Board reviewed and discussed the bids received for new and used seating for the Appalachian Regional Exposition Center facility, as well as a sales agreement from Bleacher Builders for the purchase of used seating.

Mr. Bear advised that he received an e-mail on January 22 from Mark Munsey of the Southwest Virginia Horsemen’s Association, who has provided funding for purchase of seating for the facility. He noted that Mr. Munsey has indicated in his e-mail that the Horsemen’s Association would approve the style of the yellow folding seats as discussed in the previous week for purchase with the funds donated.

Mr. Bear reported that he received the sales agreement from Bleacher Builders as provided to the Board. He noted that in accordance with the agreement, Bleacher Builders has agreed to provide 5,000 seats for a contracted price of \$250,000. Mr. Bear explained that they received approximately \$268,000 from the Horsemen’s Association, which would more than cover the cost of the seating. He advised that he has contacted Bleacher Builders concerning the agreement and has informed them that they could not agree to the terms of sale, which states that the County would provide \$200,000 upon signing of the agreement. Mr. Bear stated that Bleacher Builders has indicated that they are amenable to revision of the agreement for payment of a substantial portion of the amount upon arrival of the bleachers on site, with any labor paid as the final bill. He added that that would be agreeable, as the County cannot pay for goods in advance. Mr. Bear requested that the Board take action to proceed with Bleacher Builders if acceptable, and then to reject all bids received for new bleachers.

Supervisor Hale made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Horney to accept the bid from Bleacher Builders for purchase of 5,000 seats for the Appalachian Regional Exposition Center facility.

Supervisor McRoberts questioned if a completion date has been provided by Bleacher Builders.

Mr. Bear noted that the sales agreement does not include a completion date. He explained that Bleacher Builders is working with the County, and they hope to have the bleachers installed as soon as the building is ready. Mr. Bear advised that Bleacher Builders' timeline is dependent upon the project timeline. He added that a completion date could be included in the agreement.

Supervisor Hale inquired if the Horsemen's Association has agreed to release the funds in total for purchase of the seating. He also asked if the County would receive the remaining funds above the purchase price of the bleachers.

Mr. Bear explained that Mr. Munsey's e-mail states, "We have discussed costs. As is my understanding, there could be approximately \$20,000 to \$25,000 left over. We would like the balance of that utilized with the authorized funds for construction of a barn." He noted that he does not believe that there would be that much remaining, as any residual funds would be needed for other bleacher related costs such as enclosures on the back of the seating system before expended for another use. Mr. Bear confirmed that the Horsemen's Association has approved use of the funds for purchase of the bleachers.

Supervisor Hale requested that the purchase order indicate that the seating must be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). He noted that the residual funds should be sufficient to provide the enclosures on the back of the seating, which would improve the sound in the arena tremendously.

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.
	Joe F. Hale	Timothy A. Reeves, Sr.

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Ryan M. Lawson

Supervisor Horney made a motion, seconded by Supervisor McRoberts to reject all bids received for new bleachers.

The motion passed unanimously with six ayes and one absent.

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APPOINTMENTS

1. Wythe Grayson Regional Library Board – Supervisor Vaught made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Lester to appoint Judy Buck to the Wythe Grayson Regional Library Board.

The motion passed unanimously with six ayes and one absent.

2. Wythe County Rescue Squad Board of Directors – Supervisor Lester made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Vaught to appoint Trina Leedy to the Wythe County Rescue Squad Board of Directors.

The motion passed unanimously with six ayes and one absent.

3. Recreation Commission – Supervisor Lester made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Horney to appoint Emily Darlington to the Recreation Commission to serve as the West Wytheville representative.

The motion passed unanimously with six ayes and one absent.

4. Mount Rogers Planning District Commission – Supervisor McRoberts made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Vaught to reappoint Eural Clippard to the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission.

The motion passed unanimously with six ayes and one absent.

5. Water Committee – Chair Reeves noted that he has appointed himself to serve on the Water Committee for 2018.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Treasurer Lori Guynn appeared before the Board and presented the Treasurer’s Report as follows:

1. Revenue Statement – Ms. Guynn reported that the consolidated account was comprised of \$67,186,309 of which \$41,404,524 was in the General Fund Account at the end of December.
2. Tax Collections – Ms. Guynn advised that due to the tax deadline extension, the January report would more accurately reflect tax collections through the due date. She noted that as of the December report, the Treasurer’s Office had collected 83% of the taxes that they had billed. Ms. Guynn reported that at that time \$3,350,000 in taxes remained outstanding. She explained that through the close of business on January 22, they had collected an additional \$960,000. Ms. Guynn stated that this equates to a current outstanding balance of \$2,400,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for 2017.

3. Delinquent Taxes – Ms. Guynn reported that they are in the process of submitting accounts to the Department of Taxation Set Off Debt. She noted that the Treasurer’s Office has not submitted accounts in a number of years and are attempting to enter as many as possible prior to the end of the month.

Supervisor Hale questioned how 2017 collections compare to that of previous years.

Ms. Guynn explained that 2017 collections are close to that of previous years. She noted that there are three groups, those who pay prior to the due date, those who pay when they receive their income tax refund, and then those who have to be pursued. Ms. Guynn stated that currently they have collected 88% of the taxes billed for 2017 as of close of business January 22. She added that normally by the end of the fiscal year they have collected 94 to 95% of the taxes billed.

Ms. Guynn advised that they were unable to submit Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) Stops in the previous year due to upload issues. She noted that she is working with the Information Technology department to ensure that those are uploaded this year. Ms. Guynn added that DMV Stops are a beneficial tool to collect unpaid taxes.

Supervisor Hale inquired how much in unpaid taxes remains to be collected.

Ms. Guynn noted that she is unsure, but would provide an amount with her next report.

Supervisor Hale asked how much the Treasurer’s Office collects in penalties.

Ms. Guynn stated that penalties and interest are not included in tax collected. She noted that they collected approximately \$16,000 in penalties and interest in the fiscal year through December.

Ms. Guynn explained that a large number of the higher amounts of delinquent personal property taxes, which includes vehicles, machine and tools, merchant’s capital, and mobile homes, are from businesses. She noted that these are often businesses that are no longer operating and have been closed for a number of years. Ms. Guynn added that they do have judgements against these businesses.

4. Refunds – Ms. Guynn reported that the Treasurer’s Office is also working on tax refunds for overpayments. She noted that escrow services miss paid on a large number of accounts this year, overpaying some and underpaying others. Ms. Guynn explained that they are working to refund the overpayments and collect the unpaid amounts. She stated that many individuals pay the tax even though their bill notes that their account is paid by escrow. Ms. Guynn advised that her office does not currently have a way to flag the system to notify them

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that an account is on escrow payment so that they do not accept a payment from the individual. She added that they are working to determine a method to address this in the payment system.

5. Debbie Repass – Ms. Guynn thanked the Board for their recognition of Debbie Repass at the December 27 meeting.

COMMISSIONER OF THE REVENUE'S REPORT

Commissioner of the Revenue Faye Barker appeared before the Board and reported the following:

1. 2017 Report – Ms. Barker reviewed the 2017 Commissioner of the Revenue Annual Report with the Board. She reported that real estate increased on average 2.56%, personal property increased 4.6%, machinery and tools was up 1.01%, mobile homes decreased 44.48%, merchants capital decreased 1.72%, and public service increased 13.5%. Ms. Barker advised that their overall total increased 3.25% for the year.

Ms. Barker reported that Crossroads Regional Industrial Facility Authority pass through funds are currently \$421,854, which will increase with the SVC Manufacturing and Bottling Group supplement. She noted that with the help of Corbin Stone of Robinson Farmer Cox Associates they were able to return \$9,383,450 to the tax rolls.

2. Farm Use Tags – Supervisor Hale advised that a large number of individuals utilize farm use plastic tags illegally in Wythe County. He noted that law enforcement often will not issue a summons to these individuals, as they believe that the judge will dismiss the charge. Supervisor Hale explained that even if the judge throws out the case, the individual still has the inconvenience and expense of attending court. He stated that often issuing a warning ticket is all that is needed to cause many individuals to purchase license plates for the vehicle. Supervisor Hale added that when the individual purchases a license plate, they would in turn be required to register, insure, and obtain a safety inspection for the vehicle.

Chair Reeves noted that the issuance of farm license plates through the Department of Motor Vehicles would resolve the issue if the General Assembly would pursue this avenue.

Ms. Barker agreed. She suggested that they eliminate the plastic farm use tag and require all farmers to obtain a license plate through the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Supervisor Vaught explained that while touring the County as part of his orientation, they witnessed a dump truck with a plastic farm use tag on the site of

a large County funded project. He noted that he would hope that Mr. Bear would address this.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Sheriff Keith Dunagan appeared before the Board and reported the following:

1. Debris Collection Report – Sheriff Dunagan reported that the debris collection crew picked up 168,870 pounds of trash from May through December of 2017. He noted that in December alone they picked up 17,000 with another 8,000 pounds of trash picked up through January 23.

Sheriff Dunagan explained that the debris collection crew was injured while working for Pulaski County in the previous week and will be unable to work until released from the hospital. He noted that they are working to obtain a replacement crew from the Jail.

2. Naloxone and Defibrillator Grants – Sheriff Dunagan advised that they received the supplies requested with the Naloxone and defibrillator grant funds. He noted that they would begin Naloxone and defibrillator training within the next several weeks and then deploy the equipment out to the patrol cars.
3. Foster Falls Road – Chair Reeves noted that he has received several complaints concerning the tires dumped on Foster Falls Road.

Supervisor Vaught explained that he also received a complaint about the tires on Foster Falls Road. He noted that Supervisor McRoberts received a complaint concerning tires on Gap of the Ridge Road. Supervisor Vaught advised that the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) would not pick up discarded tires due to the cost.

Chair Reeves questioned if they could use the Water Department dump truck to pick up and haul the tires.

Mr. Bear noted that tires collected could be stacked at a County building or stored in a trailer until they could be disposed of properly. He recommended that they work with the Sheriff's Office and Code Enforcement Officer to deploy the cameras at dumpsites to catch the individuals who are dumping the tires.

Sheriff Dunagan advised that if they provide the locations, the Sheriff's Office would deploy the cameras. He explained that they would not be able to utilize VDOT funds to clean up sites that are off of the right-of-way.

Chair Reeves stated that he believes that the County could provide the funds needed to clean up these areas. He suggested that they obtain a trailer for storage of the tires and begin cleaning up these sites.

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Supervisor McRoberts requested cleanup of the tires on Gap of the Ridge Road.

BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Digital Radio Upgrade Project –Mr. Bear reported that the Budget Committee had recommended amendment and appropriation of \$147,406 to the Sheriff's Office budget for the digital radio upgrade project with \$133,754 of that taken from the General Fund and \$13,651 coming from the Police Activity Fund. He noted that the Sheriff had indicated in November of last year that they were having radio problems and had prepared an estimate for consideration during the upcoming budget cycle for upgrade to digital radios. Mr. Bear advised that last Thursday the Sheriff had contacted him and had stated that they were having major radio problems and could not effectively communicate with dispatch. He stated that Darlene Lang, Wythe County Director of Communications, had indicated some of the same concerns as well. Mr. Bear advised that the Sheriff met with the Budget Committee on January 18 and had proposed purchase of 65 portable radios, 20 of which would be used for courtroom security. He explained that he would suggest revision of the Budget Committee's recommendation to fund 20 portable radios from Courtroom Security funds in the amount of \$25,886; 35 radios from the General Fund in the amount of \$95,155; and 10 radios from the Police Activity Fund in the amount of \$26,365 for the Police Activity Funded officers.

Sheriff Dunagan recommended reducing the number of radios for courtroom security by half, as they do not have more than ten courtroom security officers working at one time. He stated, however, that he would prefer the Small Budget Committee's original recommendation. Sheriff Dunagan noted that their ten Police Activity funded deputies are the same as any other deputy on the road. He reported that all of the deputies ride in patrol vehicles, wear uniforms, and use weapons, with the exception of the M4s, that were supplied through the Police Activity Fund. Sheriff Dunagan explained that a police radio is a basic elementary piece of equipment that is necessary for effective communication with other localities and for the safety of the officers. He added that he believes that it would be justifiable to pay the total amount from the General Fund.

Mr. Bear questioned if Sheriff Dunagan would be agreeable to the ten radios for courtroom security officers paid from courtroom security fees. He explained that these are funds collected from courtroom fees for these costs. Mr. Bear noted that they pay courtroom Security employees, and provide their uniforms and other eligible costs from these funds.

Supervisor Vaught advised that the Sheriff had indicated in the Budget Committee meeting that he had applied for several grants for the radio upgrade, but they were denied. He noted that the Sheriff had presented an audio recording at the Committee meeting, but was unable to play it due to a technical issue. Supervisor Vaught questioned if Mr. Bear had been able to listen to the audio.

Mr. Bear stated that he had not, but he does understand that the radio issue is one that needs to be corrected as soon as possible.

Chair Reeves agreed that the upgrade needs to move forward. He noted that digital radios are essential and he does not believe that any Board member would disagree that the radios are needed.

Supervisor Hale noted that he is in favor of all of the deputies having digital radios. He questioned if the radio tower upgrade is still planned.

Mr. Bear explained that the radio upgrade is part of the main goal of a complete system upgrade. He noted that they are continuing to complete improvements of the towers.

Chair Reeves requested an update on the tower improvement project.

Jason Busick, Wythe County Emergency Services Coordinator, addressed the Board. Mr. Busick reported that as part of the County's lease agreement, the owners of the Hamilton's Knob Tower had requested a study to determine if the tower was structurally sound. He advised that the tower failed and they cannot move forward until the owners decide how they wish to proceed. Mr. Busick noted that although the owners have not had functioning equipment on the tower since 1995, the lease does stipulate that the owner is responsible for any tower maintenance. He added that he does not believe that the owners would want to complete the repairs, but may instead provide the tower to the County.

Chair Reeves inquired what failed and how much it would cost to upgrade the tower.

Mr. Busick advised that the first and third section cross members failed. He noted that they have not yet obtained a cost for the upgrade as they are waiting until the owners decide how they wish to proceed.

Mr. Bear noted that in accordance with their contract, the owner is responsible to repair the tower. He explained that it may be advantageous to the County to procure the entire tower site. Mr. Bear added that they are working towards ownership of the tower site.

Mr. Busick explained that they are working to obtain approval from the Forest Service to upgrade the Big Walker Tower. He noted that when he last spoke with the Forest Service representative, she had stated that as long as the County does not add any additional equipment to the tower, renegotiation of their contract would not be necessary. Mr. Busick added that they would only be replacing the equipment currently on the tower.

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Mr. Busick reported that they have decided to begin repair of the Sand Mountain site, which was slated for upgrade last, while they await a decision on the Hamilton's Knob Tower and approval for the Big Walker Tower upgrade project. He noted that upgrade of the Sand Mountain Tower would impact most of the County agencies with the exception of those in Rural Retreat and in the east.

Supervisor Hale requested that Mr. Busick stand by while they finish addressing the Sheriff's Office radio upgrade. He questioned if the Sheriff would be amenable to reducing the number of Courtroom Security radios by half and paying for installation costs from the Police Activity Fund.

Sheriff Dunagan agreed.

Mr. Bear advised that based on discussions, the Board would amend and appropriate \$134,462 to the Sheriff's Office's budget (3102-470020) for the digital radio upgrade, of which \$107,869 would be provided from the General Fund, \$12,943 from Courtroom Security Funds, and installation costs in the amount of \$13,650 from the Special Police Activity Fund.

Supervisor McRoberts noted that he would prefer that the County pay for radios in their entirety from the General Fund.

Supervisor Vaught agreed with Supervisor McRoberts.

Supervisor Vaught made an amended motion, seconded by Supervisor Hale to amend and appropriate \$134,462 to the Sheriff's Office budget (3102-470020) for the digital radio upgrade, of which \$120,812 would be provided from the General Fund with installation and programming costs in the amount of \$13,650 from the Police Activity Fund.

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.
	Joe F. Hale	Timothy A. Reeves, Sr.

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Ryan M. Lawson

2. Crossroads Regional Industrial Facility Authority Payment – Supervisor Lester made a motion, as recommended by the Budget Committee to proceed with payment in the amount of \$110,893.50 to the Crossroads Regional Industrial Facility Authority for the Pepsi Bottling Group 2002-01 Tax Revenue Supplement 2017 upon receipt of payment from Pepsi.

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.
Joe F. Hale Timothy A. Reeves, Sr.

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Ryan M. Lawson

3. Smyth Wythe Airport Commission – Supervisor Lester made a motion, as recommended by the Budget Committee to proceed with payment in the amount of \$1,525.50 to the Smyth Wythe Airport Commission for Wythe County's portion of the Obstruction Removal Project costs, contingent upon the other localities' participation.

The roll call vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES: Brian W. Vaught B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
Charlie G. Lester Timothy A. Reeves, Sr.
Coy L. McRoberts

NAYS: Joe F. Hale

ABSENT: Ryan M. Lawson

4. Violence Against Women's Act Program Grant – Supervisor Lester made a motion, as recommended by the Budget Committee to accept the Violence Against Women's Act Program Grant in the amount of \$34,815, with the required \$9,896 matching funds already budgeted for Fiscal Year 18.

Supervisor Vaught noted that this project has shifted from the Sheriff's Office to the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office. He questioned if the paperwork would need to be revised to reflect this change.

Mr. Bear explained that they have discussed with Commonwealth Attorney Jerry Mabe and would amend the project director information on the paperwork.

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.
Joe F. Hale Timothy A. Reeves, Sr.

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Ryan M. Lawson

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APPALACHIAN REGIONAL EXPOSITION CENTER CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Tobacco Commission Grants – Supervisor Hale made a motion, as recommended by the Appalachian Regional Exposition Center Construction Committee to proceed with two Tobacco Commission grant applications, one to the Southwest Virginia Economic Development Program for \$500,000 for a sign and the other to the Agribusiness Program for \$250,000 for a barn.

Supervisor Vaught inquired if a local grant match is required.

Mr. Bear advised that a dollar for dollar match is required. He noted that the County would be required to provide matching funds in the amount of \$500,000 for the sign project if the full grant amount is received and expended.

Chair Reeves explained that typically they do not receive the full amount of Tobacco Commission grant funding requested. He added that if they do receive all of the funding requested, they do not have to spend it and can return unspent funds to the Tobacco Commission.

Supervisor Hale noted that they have not had to pay matching funds for any of the money they have received from the Tobacco Commission to date.

Chair Reeves stated that funding previously expended on the project may cover the matching fund requirement.

The motion passed unanimously with six ayes and one absent.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Jeff Russell, Virginia Department of Transportation Residency Administrator addressed the Board.

1. Town of Wytheville Connector Road Extension – Mr. Russell reported that the Connector Road extension project within the Town of Wytheville is expected to be completed on November 19.
2. Interstate 77 Auxiliary Lane Project – Mr. Russell advised that the I77 auxiliary lane project in Fort Chiswell is projected to be completed in September 2018.
3. Millers Creek Road Culvert Pipe Project – Mr. Russell explained that they are preparing to begin the Millers Creek Road culvert pipe replacement project and hope to have the pipes in within one month. He noted that they intend to pour concrete slabs on both sides, as well as on the roadway to prevent the pipes from washing out in the future. Mr. Russell added that the project is scheduled to be completed on May 7.

Supervisor Hale inquired if VDOT could provide a schedule of closure for the Millers Creek Road project. He noted that two active farms are located in the area and may need to stockpile hay if lengthy closures are planned.

Mr. Russell advised that there are no scheduled closures planned for the project. He explained that they would hope not to hold traffic for longer than fifteen minutes at a time, and would minimize any longer traffic delays. Mr. Russell added that he would contact the contract manager to determine how they plan to address traffic while pouring the concrete slab.

Supervisor Hale questioned why VDOT is planning to use an inexpensive uncoated pipe, which would only last five to ten years in the creek. He requested that they consider pouring a flow line when the pipe is installed, which would extend its life.

Mr. Russell noted that he believed that they were installing concrete pipe. He explained that this decision is the Bridge Division's call, but he would confirm the pipe type to be used and check on use of a flow line.

4. Routes 52 and 126 – Supervisor Hale reported that the edges of Route 52 and Route 126 are eroded and in need of repair.
5. Flying J – Supervisor Hale advised that a chug hole has developed on the road into the Flying J Truck Stop.

Mr. Russell explained that he believes that the crew dug out the area in question and filled it with gravel on January 22. He noted that they intend to pave the repair in the future.

6. Painter Hill Road – Chair Reeves inquired who determines the road pavement schedule for Wythe County.

Mr. Russell reported that the District Office handles the primary routes and interstates with the Residency Office handling secondary roads.

Chair Reeves requested pavement of Painters Hill Road.

7. Major Graham Road – Supervisor Hale questioned if Mr. Russell believes that they have a chance of receiving more high volume road funding for pavement of additional sections of Major Graham Road.

Mr. Russell noted that he is optimistic that they would receive additional high volume funds. He explained that they would pave an additional three quarters more of a mile of the road with the high volume funding if approved. Mr. Russell added that they would continue to apply for high volume road funding if the Board agrees. He advised that if approved, Six-Year Road funding that was appropriated to Major Graham Road could then be allocated to other projects.

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8. Mount Airy Road – Supervisor Vaught inquired when Mount Airy Road would be improved. He noted that he has received several calls concerning the condition of the road.

Mr. Russell explained that as of July 2017, Mount Airy Road was scheduled to be funded in July 2020.

Supervisor Vaught questioned if Mount Airy Road could be moved ahead on the schedule. He noted that he has not seen much improvement of the roads in the Black Lick District.

Mr. Russell advised that two sections of New Bethel Road are scheduled to begin this year. He explained that projects are on the Six-Year Road Plan in priority order as added to the Plan, but can be adjusted at the Board's discretion. Mr. Russell noted that any remaining funds from completed projects and roads improved with other funding, such as high volume road and recreational access, can move projects ahead on the schedule. He advised that there is the possibility that projects can move forward or that they can be delayed. Mr. Russell added that they have no guarantee that they will receive funds as projected in the Plan. Supervisor Hale asked what roads are funded for completion in Fiscal Year 2018.

Mr. Russell reported that they are currently completing the Sharon's Drive projects and are scheduled to construct two sections of New Bethel Road, Nixon Road, Pump Hollow Road, and one section of Millers Creek Road. He noted that they have applied for recreational access funds for the Pump Hollow Road project, which if approved would release additional funds for reallocation within the Six-Year Plan.

9. Cripple Creek Road – Supervisor Horney explained that the section of Cripple Creek Road from Slate Springs Branch to the CC Camp Road is scheduled for pavement. He noted that a slurry mix was applied in the previous year and he hopes that they do not plan to redo it again this year.

Mr. Russell noted that he would investigate.

10. Gleaves Road – Supervisor Horney requested the completion of the remaining section of Gleaves Road. He noted that the half-mile section is not scheduled for improvement until 2019.
11. Pope Road – Supervisor Hale requested an update on Pope Road.

Mr. Russell advised that Pope Road is on the Six-Year Plan. He added that he does not anticipate replacement of the bridge at this time.

Supervisor Hale questioned if they could address the drainage issue on the steep hill near Roy Cox's house. He recommended that they consider installation of a pipe half way up the hill to divert the water so as not to wash out the road.

Mr. Russell stated that they could look into the possibility of installing a pipe. He explained that anytime they divert water as described, they would have to obtain an easement. Mr. Russell suggested that they meet on site and discuss options.

Supervisor Horney noted that it is in his district. He agreed to meet with Mr. Russell on site to review the situation.

12. Atkins Mill Road – Chair Reeves requested a guardrail on Atkins Mill Road. He noted that they had a recent fatality on the road.

Mr. Russell explained that they are not supposed to spend maintenance funds for installation of new guardrails. He noted that they have periodically been able to install guardrails and would work to determine if this is possible. Mr. Russell added that if he cannot install the guardrail, he could request the installation of one.

RADIO TOWERS

Supervisor Hale questioned if any efforts have been made to improve the radio system to date. He noted that Mr. Busick had stated that they have reprioritized the project and would begin work on the Sand Mountain tower first. Supervisor Hale added that he believes that upgrade of the Sand Mountain tower would benefit all of the emergency agencies.

Mr. Busick noted that the Sand Mountain Tower is the main hub of the system. He explained that Rural Retreat and those agencies in the east may not benefit from the Sand Mountain tower upgrade. Mr. Busick advised that he has completed tests with the digital repeater on the Big Walker tower and radio reception was vastly improved in Rural Retreat. He added that the digital upgrade when complete would substantially increase coverage in all areas.

Supervisor Vaught inquired if they would maintain the analog system once the digital system is in place.

Mr. Busick reported that the repeater on Big Walker currently is set up as analog/digital. He explained that they would set all of the repeaters going forward as analog/digital, which would allow communication with those agencies that are not using digital. Mr. Busick noted that this is necessary for mutual aid interoperability.

Supervisor Hale requested that Ms. Lang compile dispatch data related to the Ivanhoe fire. He questioned why the Fries Fire Department was called instead of the tanker taskforce.

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Ms. Lang noted that she would investigate the issue.

Supervisor Hale questioned how many times they have dispatched the tanker taskforce.

Ms. Lang stated that she could not recall a point when they have dispatched the tanker taskforce. She explained that their system is set up basically to act like a tanker taskforce.

JOINT INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY REPORT

David Manley, Joint Industrial Development Authority Executive Director, appeared before the Board and reported the following:

"First, I just want to thank the Board for the support it has shown us in the last year at the Joint IDA. I think that we have a very strong working relationship with the Board and with Mr. Bear and staff with John and Ginny and myself and I look forward to a continued productive relationship this coming calendar year. I would normally welcome Ms. Lawson, but I will welcome Mr. Vaught anyway to the Board and this aspect of public service. I have had productive discussions with each of them in their new official capacities and I think that we will have a good working relationship as well in the coming term. For the record, I did enjoy working with Dr. Houseman and Mr. Willis as well. Every month, as I think everybody knows, unless I am away, I try to come to the Economic Development Committee meeting, but if there is a time that you all want to talk to me outside of that, please don't hesitate to contact us. We are available to come talk at any Board meeting or to you as individuals or a couple of you folks, just let me know.

This quarter we will be producing our annual report and sharing it along with our audit, once our board has been presented with and approves of both of those. We will complete it before our February board meeting at which point we will circulate it. This past year we did have a clean audit. Corbin Stone as mentioned earlier of Robinson Farmer Cox will be presenting it this Thursday to our board meeting and we will share it with all three local governing boards after that.

I do have material for closed session today so that I can update you on active prospects. I did want to hand out something that we do keep up every year and that is economic just basic benchmark data for Wythe County. Looking at workforce, looking at unemployment, looking at payroll, looking at number of businesses started, which is not always a perfect record of businesses started, but it is something to try to keep track of. Unemployment is at a low point right now. The most recent data would be for November and that is at 4.6%. That compares to 5.8% the year before, 5% the year before that, and 6.1% a year before that. Our workforce shrank just a little bit from last year, but there are less unemployed people than there have been in the last four years in Wythe County. Aggregate payroll for the quarter is at its highest point. It is up 10% from where it was just three years ago. Second quarter of 2014 it was at \$91,000,000. In 2015, it went up to \$94,000,000. In 2016, it dropped back just a hair to \$93,500,000. In the second quarter of 2017, we are up to over a \$100,000,000 in

quarterly payroll, which is a significant leap from just four years ago. So while none of us point to any of these particular things exactly that anybody can take credit for, but we do know that we have got a pretty healthy economy here especially compared to some of our neighbors. This is hard data that we get based on payroll taxes and reporting done through Virginia LMI, which maintains all of the economic data for the State. I did want to share that.

One reminder, our board meets monthly at 3 p.m. on the fourth Thursday at 150 East Monroe Street in the Town Council Chambers. That means that we have a board meeting this Thursday. Wythe County's appointees to our board are Wes Mabe, our vice chair; David Carpenter, our treasurer; Dicky Morgan and Matt Clarke. Other board members are our chairman David Kause and Charlie White, who both represent Wytheville and John Silva from Rural Retreat.

We have three grantee companies out in the community currently that have received economic development grants. We monitor them annually. We will be getting our annual compliance check of those after the end of the year, which has just happened. We will have a report ready shortly. Coperion Corp, Schaffner North America, and Branch Botanicals are the three companies that have received grants. Coperion has reached the end of its three-year monitoring period and we anticipate their full release from further monitoring as they have met and exceeded, in some cases far exceeded, their expectations and goals they set with their performance agreement. Schaffner is two years into its three years compliance period and Branch Botanicals is probably 50% of the way through its agreed upon three year period.

I do have information about the Retail Coach. We meet as needed with the working group. Mr. Hale and Mr. Bear represent the County. Mr. Willis was a previous member and since he is no longer there, I would presume that somebody will be appointed to fill his slot. Without naming names of companies because that is not strategically advantageous in open session, there is moderate interest. There are dozens of properties that are marketing at various shopping center shows and to industry contacts like developers and retailers. The year will expire, our first year on May 15, 2018. Two contacts that they have worked have ended up here in Town. Those include Rural King and Cricket. A number of companies would be willing to expand here if there were qualified and interested franchisees. That shouldn't be surprising to anybody because a franchisor is always happy to sell somebody a franchise to operate. I don't take that as really meaningful. In closed session, we can discuss maybe some specific names, but beyond that, I can't really do that in open session.

Our annual tenure awards will be held in March. I do have a good section on industrial activity that I can discuss in open session before we go to closed session because it I think does point to economic indicators in our area. Industrial activity and interest experienced a pretty steep decline, frankly, especially in the fourth quarter of last year. Most of the growth that you have seen in this part of the State has been into existing buildings or from expansions. We have not had many of those recently, existing building wise and that is a good thing. We don't want lots of existing empty buildings in our

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area. The vacancies we have had have been brief and the buildings have been filled in pretty short order after that. Our industrial and logistic space is pretty tight and until something is built, we are not going to have a lot of vacant space. We have had a good bit of interest starting just before Christmas especially in the IT and data center space. We can discuss that more during closed session. I do try to monitor activity across the State just to see sort of where we are falling in relation to our fellow communities. Folks at the Commonwealth say the Richmond area has been busy while Hampton Roads and Shenandoah Valley have been less so. Our level of activity is sort of what is expected based on comparable communities elsewhere. That doesn't mean I am content with it or happy about it. I think it is low. To that end, we are going to be doing some new marketing this year as we move a little bit closer to Spring. Targeting folks that are decision makers at companies, corporate levels, site selection consultants, commercial real estate brokers, and those types of folks. The bulk of our marketing efforts are carried out through Virginia's Industrial Advancement Alliance, the VIAA. Josh Lewis is the executive director. That is our regional marketing organization that represents Carroll, Grayson, Galax, Bland, Smyth, and Wythe. That was called the aCorridor in the old days and I am sure a lot of folks remember that name. I know that Mr. Bear serves on that executive committee and he may have more to share about what their activities are.

The question is then begged, why are we slow. These are not excuses, but I think some factors based on research and some discussions. First, lots of attention is being paid to more urban areas. Secondly, demographics have begun to work against us to a degree. There is a lot of news out there about the shrinking population and shrinking workforce in Southwest Virginia. We are trying to battle back against that to prove that we do have the workforce that we know that we have. Our unemployment rate is low, which is fantastic, but that also makes prospective businesses begin to question whether or not we can provide the workforce they need when they come into an area. When an unemployment rate hits below 5%, I am not calling it full employment, but that is pretty close to full employment for our area. We are not that far behind the State's unemployment, which is one of the lowest in the Country. There are some uncertainties in the GO Political sphere, which has led to a little bit of a slowdown in foreign direct investment. If you look at the vast majority of our projects, I would say more than half are foreign direct investment. Finally, Virginia is a low tax State in lots of ways, but it is not low tax when it comes to capital and intensive manufacturing. I think the General Assembly is looking for some solutions to help ameliorate that. We do have some positive things working in our favor. The speed to market that we offer is excellent. We have strong infrastructure and excellent prepared sites. Lot 24 is still considered one of, if not the best ready site in Virginia. Increased marketing money is being considered by the General Assembly for VEDP, the State agency. Last year for example, Virginia Beach's marketing budget exceeded that for the whole State. There are some efforts out there to address that. There is a concerted effort at the State level to increase our national profile, our reputation, and our rankings. Finally, there is a significant push for a turnkey, one stop, workforce solution that offers customized training on fast track basis. That has been based on the Georgia and Louisiana model, which have pushed those into the top few states in the Country for business. Virginia's system, I don't have

to tell you all especially those who have worked with the Workforce Investment Board and some of the other agencies, our system is very disjointed. There are dozens of State, local, and Federal workforce partners and programs. Businesses don't know where to start. We barely know where to start sometimes because there are just so many conflicting opportunities out there. Business ready sites program is proceeding. We participated last year and continued funding is expected. GO Virginia projects could work in our favor, but marketing is not allowed and site development is not a priority. It is yet unclear as to what types of projects will be successful in funding and we don't know if funding is going to continue for that. We are monitoring that at a regular pace. Josh Lewis and Dean Sprinkle, both from Wythe County, serve on the GO Virginia Regional Council. Southwest Virginia has representation on the Statewide Board as well. There are some dangers we face that we are aware of and that includes the demographics mentioned earlier. Permitting, DEQ timelines and delays are a problem all over the Commonwealth and everyone knows about that. We hope that that will be addressed at some point for some of the permitting issues.

Why we lost recent projects? Financial incentives. We have been outdone by some other states. We know that Virginia doesn't always write the big checks and we have lost projects because of that. That is not a suggestion that Virginia should begin to write the big checks because if folks want to be here, they will typically be here. Geographic interest has skewed farther south with major projects as you all have seen recently. Access to major air traffic and international flights has been a challenge for us specifically here. Finally, a lack of perceived population or rooftops that we have here. We try to inform people that just because the rooftops don't appear, that we can certainly meet their workforce needs. These aren't opinions of mine. These are reports that we have gotten back from site selection consultants and from businesses that have opted to be elsewhere. We don't know how the end of the year is going to proceed except we are optimistic. We thing that we are working on and I know you are working on, the Towns are working on is to make our community as appealing as possible. That is one thing that we can do to battle back against these negative trends.

We are taking some new initiatives for the coming year. We have a strength in business retention expansion program with the State, region, and local partners. We are maintaining dialog between our manufacturers council and K-12, and community college education apprenticeship programs that we are working on. We are also following the Work Ready Communities initiative and participating in that. We did have one company here locally that participated in Virginia's First Economic Gardening Pilot Program and we are going to continue with that. We will begin to look at revising our strategic plan, which will be four years old this spring. That in a nutshell was my report on the activities for the last several months and what we sort of foresee coming. If you all have any questions for open session, I am certainly happy to answer them."

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CLOSED MEETING – DISCUSSION OF A PROSPECTIVE BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY OR EXPANSION OF AN EXISTING BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY

Supervisor Hale made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Lester to enter into Closed Meeting under Section 2.2-3711-A.5 (Discussion of a Prospective Business or Industry or the Expansion of an Existing Business or Industry) of the Code of Virginia.

The motion passed unanimously with six ayes and one absent.

Supervisor Vaught made a motion, seconded by Supervisor McRoberts to return to open meeting.

The motion passed unanimously with six ayes and one absent.

Upon returning to open meeting, Supervisor Lester made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Horney to adopt the following Resolution certifying the business conducted in closed meeting as follows:

**RESOLUTION
CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING**

WHEREAS, the Wythe County Board of Supervisors has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and,

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Wythe County Board of Supervisors that such meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wythe County Board of Supervisors hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered by the Wythe County Board of Supervisors.

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.
	Joe F. Hale	Timothy A. Reeves, Sr.

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Ryan M. Lawson

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

County Administrator Stephen Bear appeared before the Board and reported the following:

1. Long Meadows Lane – Mr. Bear reviewed with the Board the Virginia Department of Transportation report of changes to the State Highway system for the Wythe County area. He noted that Long Meadows Lane has been added to the State system of highways.
2. Legislative Update – Mr. Bear updated the Board on the status of Legislation before the General Assembly.
 - a. Admissions Tax – Mr. Bear reported that the Senate passed the proposed admissions tax bill and it has moved forward.
 - b. Cigarette Tax – Mr. Bear advised that the Cigarette Tax by referendum was carried over to 2019 for consideration.
 - c. House Bill 222 – Mr. Bear noted that Delegate Morefield's House Bill 222 is still in the House of Delegates Finance Committee. He explained that he has e-mailed Delegate Morefield and requested that he provide the updated Bill once the language is revised to include Wythe County.
3. Rural Caucus/Legislative Days – Mr. Bear reviewed with the Board registration forms for the annual Rural Caucus and Legislative days scheduled for February 7 and 8 in Richmond. He noted that three Board members plan to attend.
4. Stormwater Management Legislation – Chair Reeves requested an update on Senator Carrico's Stormwater Management Legislation.

Mr. Bear explained that the Stormwater Management Regulations Outside of Chesapeake Bay Legislation remains in the Agricultural Conservation and Natural Resources Committee.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

County Attorney Scot Farthing appeared before the Board and reported the following:

1. Opioid Epidemic – Mr. Farthing reported that he met with several attorneys from eastern Virginia concerning a potential lawsuit against drug companies related to the opioid epidemic. He explained that their theory is that if they can demonstrate how much they have spent to combat the problem, they may have a claim to recover some of those funds. Mr. Farthing noted that he would present additional information to the Board once it is provided to him.

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SUPERVISORS' REPORTS

1. Noise Ordinance – Supervisor Vaught reported that he has been contacted by an individual concerning the Noise Ordinance. He explained that one particular individual is using the Noise Ordinance as a way to harass another person. Supervisor Vaught noted that he had requested additional information from Ms. Lang, which he received last night. He added that he plans to research the situation and would readdress with the Board at the next day meeting.
2. Visitor Parking – Supervisor Hale requested that Mr. Bear work to ensure Department of Social Services and Health Department employees do not park in the County Administration Building visitor parking spaces.

Mr. Bear noted that the Health Department has notified their employees of the issue and have copied the notification to his e-mail. He explained that Lewis Lafon, Department of Social Services Director, has indicated that he is aware of the problem and is working to address it with his employees.

3. Fire Hydrants – Supervisor Hale requested that they proceed with a plan to repair out of service fire hydrants within the County. He explained that the hydrants need to be tested and painted to indicate the water volume and pressure. Supervisor Hale noted that painting the hydrants would also provide an indicator that the hydrant is operational and has not seized. He advised that several years ago the Water Department was directed to review all of the hydrants and hire a contractor to repair those that were out of service if they were unable to do so. Supervisor Hale added that to date, this has not been completed.

Supervisor Hale recommended that either the Water Department or Mr. Busick provide training to the fire department members on how to properly turn the hydrants on and off. He noted that the fire departments could then take the responsibility to open and inspect the hydrants in their service area.

4. Water Tank – Supervisor Hale requested that they work to improve the appearance of the water tank at the Max Meadows Fire Department. He noted that the appearance of the water tank negatively impacts visitor perception of the County.

Chair Reeves requested the inclusion of both topics on the next Water Committee meeting agenda.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Supervisor Horney made a motion to approve the consent calendar as presented for January 23, 2018, as follows:

1. PAYROLL – December 2017:

General County Fund	\$ 514,484.22
Police Activity Fund	56,382.19
Courthouse Security Fund	13,000.18
Water Department Fund	17,665.53
<u>Wythe County Wastewater Fund</u>	<u>18,720.28</u>
TOTAL	\$ 620,252.40

Check Numbers: 20000118-20000139

Voucher Numbers: 1791-2119

2. STATUS REPORTS:

- A. Animal Control – Arlan Dunford
- B. Building and Grounds/Refuse – Billy Bowers
- C. Building Inspection – Tim Spraker
- D. Engineering – Bill Vaughan
- E. Finance Department – Bruce Grant
- F. Parks and Recreation – Kevin Williams
- G. Planning Commission – Michelle Cassell

3. PERSONNEL:

- A. Houseman, Gary – Remove from Payroll, Board of Supervisors, Effective December 31, 2017
- B. Willis, Steve – Remove from Payroll, Board of Supervisors, Effective December 31, 2017
- C. Lawson, Ryan – Add to Payroll, Board of Supervisors, Effective January 1, 2018
- D. Vaught, Brian – Add to Payroll, Board of Supervisors, Effective January 1, 2018
- E. Walters, Emily – Hired, Full-time VAWA Grant Position, Annual Salary \$27,507, Effective December 16, 2017
- F. Hunley, Terri – Hired, Full-time Tele-communicator, Annual Salary \$26,000, Effective January 1, 2018
- G. Farley, Jeremy – Transfer to Part-time, Public Information Officer/Grants Coordinator, Effective January 3, 2018

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4. BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

A. \$1,137.00 (1101-461420) – Indigent Burial Costs

Supervisor Lester seconded the motion.

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.
	Joe F. Hale	Timothy A. Reeves, Sr.

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Ryan M. Lawson

NEW RIVER REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY FISCAL YEAR 17 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Board reviewed and discussed New River Regional Water Authority Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended on June 30, 2017.

Mr. Bear reported that the New River Regional Water Authority voted at their last meeting to accept the Fiscal Year 17 Financial Statements.

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL JAIL AUTHORITY FISCAL YEAR 17 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Board reviewed and discussed New River Valley Regional Jail Authority Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended on June 30, 2017.

Chair Reeves advised that the New River Valley Regional Jail Authority has accepted the Fiscal Year 17 Financial Statements.

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL EXPOSITION CENTER AUTHORITY

Supervisor Hale advised that a rumor is circulating throughout the region that Appalachian Regional Exposition Center Authority members are paid a salary. He requested that they work to quiet these rumors and inform the public that the Authority members are volunteers who do not receive any pay for their time and service. Supervisor Hale explained that the Authority has very limited resources to combat this negative misinformation. He recommended a regional good news campaign beginning now and building towards the project completion.

Mr. Bear noted that they could publish a press release or update about the Authority in which they could indicate that members are unpaid volunteers.

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Chair Reeves agreed that they should continue to work to inform the public of the project progress, but they cannot stop negative rumors. He noted that the best defense to combat these rumors is to provide accurate information to anyone who asks questions about the matter.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to come before the Board, Chair Reeves adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:24 p.m.

Timothy A. Reeves, Sr., Chair