

June 9, 2020

The Wythe County Board of Supervisors held its regularly scheduled meeting at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 9, 2020. The location of the meeting was in the Boardroom of the County Administration Building, 340 South Sixth Street, Wytheville, Virginia.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brian W. Vaught, Chair
 Ryan M. Lawson, Vice Chair
 Rolland R. Cook
 B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.

Coy L. McRoberts
 James D. "Jamie" Smith
 Stacy A. Terry

STAFF PRESENT:

Stephen D. Bear, County Administrator
 Donald Martin - County Attorney's Office
 Martha Collins, Administrative Assistant/Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT:

Barry Ayers
 William & Catherine Conaway
 Jim & Dee Ennis
 Charlie Foster

Michael Hoback
 Gus Kincer
 Linda Meyer
 Zachary Wright

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Vaught determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pastor Michael Hoback, Wytheville First Assembly of God, provided the invocation and Supervisor Cook led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS' TIME

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

1. House Bill 421 – Mr. Gus Kincer appeared before the Board and stated "Sorry I haven't been here for so long. I thought we were not allowed to come but I just wanted to see if y'all done anything with the thing I was talking about before all the COVID hit with the House Bill 421 that was passed. I think I brought up a bunch of stuff to y'all about it and just wanted to see if y'all had took any action or decided not to do anything. It has passed and it will be signed; it will take effect July 1st. It will be where y'all can make a decision to ban guns from any

public event or any park or anything and I was asking if y'all would do an ordinance that you would not do that. I know this Board will not do that but it will protect from years down the road another Board of doing that. They would have to have a public hearing before they could act on that law. Just curious if y'all considered or done anything."

Chair Vaught responded that because Wythe County adopted the 2nd Amendment Sanctuary Ordinance, he believes it covers HB 421 in so much as the County will not expend any resources to provide signage or the like associated with or in support of HB 421.

2. The Thrasher Group – Mr. Zachary Wright of The Thrasher Group appeared before the Board and stated "I am Zack Wright. I'm with The Thrasher Group. We were recently selected for general engineering services for Wythe County, and I just wanted to come down and introduce myself and thank the Board and members of the selection committee. You guys will probably see me from time to time so I just wanted to come down and introduce myself to everybody, so I appreciate it. I met some of you a time or two, but some of you I haven't met yet so I just come to say hi. Thank you."

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

PUBLIC HEARING – AMENDMENT NO. 2, COURTHOUSE SECURITY FEE ORDINANCE

Chair Vaught announced that in compliance with Section 53.1-120 of the Code of Virginia and amendments thereto, the Wythe County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing to consider Amendment 2 to Ordinance No. 2002-2 entitled, "Courthouse Security Fee Ordinance of Wythe County, Virginia". The Board of Supervisors will hear comments from citizens concerning the proposed amendment.

The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, June 9, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Wythe County Office Building, 340 South Sixth Street, Wytheville, Virginia.

A copy of the proposed amendment is on file in the County Administrator's Office, located at 340 South Sixth Street, Wytheville, Virginia or online at www.wytheco.org for the public review.

The Chairman opened the public hearing for comments and asked Mr. Bear to summarize the proposed amendment.

Mr. Bear explained that this ordinance was originally adopted back in the early 2000's and was amended once to increase the fee to \$10. The fees collected help cover some of the costs relating to bailiffs and other courthouse security items, which sometimes put a strain on the budget. The General Assembly this year has allowed counties to increase the fee from \$10 to \$20. If approved, this amendment will be effective July 1, 2020.

Hearing no comments from citizens, the Chairman closed the public hearing.

Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Smith, to adopt Amendment No. 2 to Courthouse Security Fee Ordinance No. 2002-2.

The roll call vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Rolland R. Cook	Coy L. McRoberts
	Ryan M. Lawson	B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
	James D. "Jamie" Smith	Stacy A. Terry

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Brian W. Vaught

PUBLIC HEARING – EMERGENCY CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS ORDINANCE

Chair Vaught announced that in compliance with the Code of Virginia and amendments thereto, the Wythe County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing to hear public comment regarding an ordinance entitled, "EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO EFFECTUATE TEMPORARY CHANGES IN CERTAIN DEADLINES AND TO MODIFY PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES TO ADDRESS CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH PANDEMIC DISASTER".

The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, June 9, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Wythe County Office Building, 340 South Sixth Street, Wytheville, Virginia.

A copy of the ordinance is on file in the County Administrator's Office, located at 340 South Sixth Street, Wytheville, Virginia for public review or online at www.wytheco.org.

The Chairman opened the public hearing for comments and asked Mr. Bear to summarize the ordinance.

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Mr. Bear explained that on April 14, 2020, the Board of Supervisors adopted this emergency ordinance. Under the emergency provisions, a public hearing is required within 60 days to ratify the action. Pending no comments, Mr. Bear recommends the Board take action to approve the Ordinance adopted April 14, 2020.

Hearing no comments from citizens, the Chairman closed the public hearing.

Supervisor McRoberts made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, to adopt the Continuity of Governance Ordinance 2020-01.

The roll call vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Brian W. Vaught	Coy L. McRoberts
	Rolland R. Cook	B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
	Ryan M. Lawson	Stacy A. Terry
	James D. "Jamie" Smith	

NAYS: None

PAYMENT OF COUNTY INVOICES

Supervisor Horney made a motion to pay the invoices for approval on June 9, 2020, for the various departments of County government. The invoices were paid on General Warrants 30106829-30106922 as follows:

**EXPENDITURES BY DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
June 9, 2020**

CHECK #	ISSUE DATE	VENDOR	AMOUNT
30106829	06/09/2020	AKERS, KAREN L.	\$ 38.34
30106830	06/09/2020	ALL RECREATION OF VA, INC	3,624.05
30106831	06/09/2020	AMERICAN MINE RESEARCH IN	1,120.00
30106832	06/09/2020	APPALACHIAN POWER	736.68
30106833	06/09/2020	APPLIED INDUSTRIAL TECH	3,025.77
30106834	06/09/2020	ATMOS ENERGY	36.97
30106835	06/09/2020	BARREN SPRINGS VOL FIRE D	2,006.65
30106836	06/09/2020	BIG WALKER SWCD	4,000.00
30106837	06/09/2020	BKT UNIFORMS	117.99
30106838	06/09/2020	BLUE RIDGE AUTO PARTS INC	78.05

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30106839	06/09/2020	BOXLEY	437.50
30106840	06/09/2020	BRENNTAG MID-SOUTH INC	1,834.69
30106841	06/09/2020	BROWN EXTERMINATING CO	81.93
30106842	06/09/2020	BUSINESS CARD	407.17
30106843	06/09/2020	BUSINESS INFORMATION SYST	58.00
30106844	06/09/2020	CAROLINA RECORDING SYSTEM	3,920.00
30106845	06/09/2020	CAVALIER SUPPLY CO	283.55
30106846	06/09/2020	CDW GOVERNMENT INC	10.00
30106847	06/09/2020	CDW GOVERNMENT INC	418.89
30106848	06/09/2020	CENTURYLINK	60.76
30106849	06/09/2020	CENTURYLINK	120.17
30106850	06/09/2020	CENTURYLINK	323.11
30106851	06/09/2020	CENTURYLINK	4,785.49
30106852	06/09/2020	CENTURYLINK	6,966.00
30106853	06/09/2020	CHALMERS & KUBECK - SOUTH	99.53
30106854	06/09/2020	CITIZENS TELEPHONE COOP	741.56
30106855	06/09/2020	PAUL WIDENER	2,274.88
30106856	06/09/2020	COUNTY OF WYTHE	4,250.01
30106857	06/09/2020	CREATIVE GLASS INC	1,100.00
30106858	06/09/2020	DALY COMPUTERS	440.50
30106859	06/09/2020	DELL MARKETING LP	154.34
30106860	06/09/2020	DISTRICT THREE	3,890.00
30106861	06/09/2020	DUNAGAN, KEITH	189.49
30106862	06/09/2020	ECS MID ATLANTIC LLC	2,401.00
30106863	06/09/2020	FERGUSON ENTERPRISES #5	5,820.29
30106864	06/09/2020	FIRE RESCUE AND TACTICAL	684.89
30106865	06/09/2020	GALLS	130.43
30106866	06/09/2020	GOINS, JACOB K	89.56
30106867	06/09/2020	GRANT, BRUCE M	4,343.59
30106868	06/09/2020	HARPO'S HARDWARE & BLDG S	19.47
30106869	06/09/2020	HUNTER, GARY C	234.00
30106870	06/09/2020	INTERACTIVEGIS INC	4,500.00
30106871	06/09/2020	IRVIN CONSTRUCTION SERVIC	26,550.00
30106872	06/09/2020	IVANHOE FIRE DEPT	4,883.03
30106873	06/09/2020	J. KEITH GOINES	153.70
30106874	06/09/2020	JOINT PUBLIC SERVICE AUTH	48,454.64
30106875	06/09/2020	KC AUTOMOTIVE	191.62
30106876	06/09/2020	KING-MOORE INC	988.00
30106877	06/09/2020	LOWE'S	622.83

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30106878	06/09/2020	MANSFIELD OIL CO	3,650.64
30106879	06/09/2020	MATTHEW BENDER & CO INC	73.80
30106880	06/09/2020	MEADE TRACTOR	84.20
30106881	06/09/2020	JD POWER	3,911.74
30106882	06/09/2020	OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDIC	20.00
30106883	06/09/2020	MABE, TANNER C	9.40
30106884	06/09/2020	MENDOZA, JAMIE L	28.53
30106885	06/09/2020	RHOADES, GARY D	54.21
30106886	06/09/2020	SMITH, DUSTINA M	54.21
30106887	06/09/2020	OWEN G DUNN CO	856.47
30106888	06/09/2020	PAPER CLIP	573.72
30106889	06/09/2020	PARTNERSHIP SCREENING INT	28.80
30106890	06/09/2020	PITNEY BOWES	151.17
30106891	06/09/2020	PITNEY BOWES INC	80.74
30106892	06/09/2020	PROFESSIONAL COMM SYSTEMS	13,633.75
30106893	06/09/2020	PROTECT YOUTH SPORTS	15.95
30106894	06/09/2020	R&R ENTERPRISES INC	275.00
30106895	06/09/2020	RADIO COMMUNICATIONS OF V	124.50
30106896	06/09/2020	RURAL DEVELOPMENT	2,282.00
30106897	06/09/2020	RURAL DEVELOPMENT	2,514.00
30106898	06/09/2020	RURAL DEVELOPMENT	11,572.00
30106899	06/09/2020	S&W FERTILIZER	39.90
30106900	06/09/2020	SEGRA	31.25
30106901	06/09/2020	STATE ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO	1,525.48
30106902	06/09/2020	SUNTRUST	36,881.92
30106903	06/09/2020	T&J TRANSMISSIONS	397.00
30106904	06/09/2020	TACS	384.00
30106905	06/09/2020	THOMPSON TIRE	1,413.22
30106906	06/09/2020	TOWN OF WYTHEVILLE	5,856.83
30106907	06/09/2020	TOWN OF WYTHEVILLE	3,000.00
30106908	06/09/2020	TRANSUNION RISK & ALTERNA	52.20
30106909	06/09/2020	TREASURER OF VIRGINIA	7,648.00
30106910	06/09/2020	TREASURER OF WYTHE COUNTY	27.39
30106911	06/09/2020	TYLER TECHNOLOGIES INC	11,775.00
30106912	06/09/2020	UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA	75.00
30106913	06/09/2020	US CELLULAR	1,014.35
30106914	06/09/2020	USA BLUE BOOK	114.56
30106915	06/09/2020	V&M RECYCLING	61,977.49
30106916	06/09/2020	VML/VACO AEP STEERING COM	1,201.00

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30106917	06/09/2020	VUPS	89.25
30106918	06/09/2020	WORDSPRINT	324.12
30106919	06/09/2020	WYTHE CO HEALTH DEPT	40.00
30106920	06/09/2020	WYTHE CO WATER & WASTEWAT	236.67
30106921	06/09/2020	WYTHE TIRE AND MUFFLER	2,408.29
30106922	06/09/2020	WYTHEVILLE OFFICE SUPPLY	2,009.01
TOTAL EXPENDITURES 06/09/2020			\$326,215.88

TOTAL EXPENDITURES APPROVED 06/09/2020 **\$326,215.88**

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

AYES:	Brian W. Vaught	Coy L. McRoberts
	Rolland R. Cook	B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
	Ryan M. Lawson	Stacy A. Terry
	James D. "Jamie" Smith	

NAYS: None

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Board was presented with the May 26, 2020, minutes for approval.

Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Horney, to approve the May 26, 2020, minutes as presented.

The roll call vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Brian W. Vaught	Coy L. McRoberts
	Rolland R. Cook	B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
	Ryan M. Lawson	Stacy A. Terry
	James D. "Jamie" Smith	

NAYS: None

APPOINTMENTS

1. Recreation Commission – Supervisor McRoberts made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Terry, to reappoint Melanie Jefferson to the Recreation Commission, effective July 1, 2020.

The roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Brian W. Vaught	Coy L. McRoberts
	Rolland R. Cook	B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
	Ryan M. Lawson	Stacy A. Terry
	James D. "Jamie" Smith	

NAYS: None

2. Social Services Board – Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, to reappoint Jonathan Hamman to the Social Services Board, effective July 1, 2020.

The roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Brian W. Vaught	Coy L. McRoberts
	Rolland R. Cook	B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
	Ryan M. Lawson	Stacy A. Terry
	James D. "Jamie" Smith	

NAYS: None

3. Social Services Board – Mr. Bear stated that Joel Hash, unfortunately, is not available for reappointment. His efforts have been appreciated and he will be sorely missed on the DSS Board.

Vice Chair Lawson made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Terry, to appoint Maggie Harless to the Social Services Board, effective July 1, 2020.

The roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Brian W. Vaught	Coy L. McRoberts
	Rolland R. Cook	B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
	Ryan M. Lawson	Stacy A. Terry
	James D. "Jamie" Smith	

NAYS: None

4. Wythe Grayson Regional Library Board – Supervisor Horney made a motion, seconded by Supervisor McRoberts, to appoint Kimberly Ayers to the Wythe Grayson Regional Library Board, effective July 1, 2020.

The roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Brian W. Vaught	Coy L. McRoberts
	Rolland R. Cook	B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
	Ryan M. Lawson	Stacy A. Terry
	James D. "Jamie" Smith	

NAYS: None

5. New River Regional Water Authority – Mr. Bear explained that Supervisor Horney's appointment expires on June 30th and the Town of Wytheville, not the County, will appoint someone for the next four years (rotating appointments). However, Supervisor Terry, who was recently appointed, will remain on the board.

No one had any appointment recommendations for Mount Rogers Planning District Commission, Mountain Community Action Program, or New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Development Board.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Mr. Bear stated that Mr. Crawford has been providing the Board with regular updates and that more recently we have experienced a slight increase in the number of positive cases.

CORONAVIRUS AID RELIEF & ECONOMIC SECURITY (CARES) ACT

Mr. Bear reported that Wythe County expects to receive \$2,502,568 in CARES Act funding from the federal government. This amount includes both towns so approximately 1/3 will be distributed between the two, pending any adjustments for schools, fire and rescue, etc. Mr. Bear will be meeting with the town managers to further discuss and come to agreement. He added that the towns are aware of the necessary conditions to comply with the Act.

Chair Vaught asked if the towns are not in compliance with the funding conditions, is the County responsible?

Mr. Bear replied that the towns have to sign off on agreement that they will adhere to the federal guidelines. But he would like to add a clause stating that if any expenditure is deemed unacceptable, the town(s) will reimburse the County for those costs.

Of the \$2.5M in aid, the Town of Wytheville will get about 28% and the Town of Rural Retreat will get between 4-5%. These percentages are based on population. That leaves approximately \$1.6M for the rest of Wythe County.

The County is trying to make certain that, if there's a resurgence, the County has the necessary tools for staff to work from home should a shut down occur. Mr. Bear has communicated with other County Administrators regarding utilization of these funds. He anticipates several requests from organizations for financial assistance, and it's crucial those requests are within the federal guidelines.

Mr. Bear was advised by the auditors that the aid will have to be included in the budget. Therefore, he recommends the Board amend and appropriate the funding into the FY21 Budget (CARES Act line item) at the June 30th public hearing.

WYTHEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT AMEND & APPROPRIATE REQUEST

Mr. Bear explained that per the agreement reached earlier this year, this represents the County's final payment for this fiscal year. Next year's budget reflects \$125k for the entire year.

Supervisor McRoberts made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Horney, to amend and appropriate \$9,294 to 32026-461400.

The roll call vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Brian W. Vaught	Coy L. McRoberts
	Rolland R. Cook	B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
	Ryan M. Lawson	Stacy A. Terry
	James D. "Jamie" Smith	

NAYS: None

2020 GRADUATION CLASS

Mr. Bear referenced the draft resolution for the Board's review which, pending any comments, can be adopted and presented (via video) toward the end of this meeting.

SUPERVISORS' REPORTS

1. Fleming Road – Supervisor Horney received a complaint regarding Fleming Road and asked Mr. Bear to have VDOT look into it.
2. Road Issues – Supervisor McRoberts has already passed his concerns along to Mr. Bear.
3. FY21 Budget – Supervisor Cook asked if there is another budget work session prior to June 11th public hearing.

Mr. Bear explained that his previous email to the Board was to determine if another work session was needed or address any open issues at this meeting, since he was away all last week.

Supervisor Smith asked if Mr. Bear's handout, specifically the amount with an asterisk, covers all six deputies plus benefits?

Mr. Bear replied yes. The handout he provided is the expenditure budget broken out by funding sources (total estimated PAF is \$774,516). Salaries/benefits for six deputies and one IT position, come out of the PAF and funded by the General Fund ("GF"). Not budgeted for last year, but added to the GF this year, was a total of \$336,525. Mr. Bear said the PAF projected revenue budget is \$722,500 which would require \$52k to come out of PAF reserves. The GF reserve required to balance the budget this year is \$1.8M and that accounts for about 8 cents of real estate tax. The County hopes that the school system returns a significant amount of money to help soften that impact. Mr. Bear asked the Board to keep in mind that we did not revise our revenue projections downward so we are still anticipating the full \$1M in meals/lodging and \$3.7M in sale and use tax. If and when those numbers are negatively impacted, more money will likely come out of reserves.

Supervisor Smith asked about the vehicles for the Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Bear said initially they requested six vehicles then they lowered that request to three. That money is not coming out of the GF. But Mr. Bear said if you want to pull that out of GF, then you move another \$90k out of PAF and put it into GF.

Supervisor Cook voiced concern about previous discussion of taking \$4.5M from the GF to use for a water project and its impact on our credit rating. He supports it if we're providing a service to our citizens but he is against spending \$8M for a County office building that we already have. Residents still don't have water. He indicated it was said by staff that those residents understood that when they moved to their location, but Supervisor Cook responded that County employees are hired at a specific salary (i.e. no promise of a salary increase).

Mr. Bear clarified that in the budget there is a \$2M proposal (not \$8M) for the extension of the County office building. The first floor of the proposed addition would house the Commissioner of Revenue and Treasurer, in turn freeing up room in the courthouse for the Commonwealth Attorney (currently in the Circuit Court basement). The second floor of the proposed new building would be either for County Administration or DSS expansion or Health Department expansion.

Mr. Bear acknowledged that this Board has made clear that water projects are a priority and money has been budgeted to study those next projects. The Board has also discussed using GF money to help fund those projects. Understand that the PAF is having challenges because revenue is down; hence the \$336k out of the GF to help cover costs. That \$336k would provide annual debt service for a large water/sewer project if you wanted to pull from the GF.

Mr. Bear wanted to make clear that the County Administrator's responsibility is to provide and recommend a balanced budget but it's up to the Board of Supervisors to make other recommendations and changes before it's finalized.

Supervisor Smith commented that when other departments have come in to present their budgets, the atmosphere has seemed pretty open. But when the Sheriff's Office makes their requests, there seems to be a whole shift in attitude and he doesn't understand why.

Mr. Bear responded that he treats all departments in the same manner. He has enjoyed an open dialogue with the Sheriff as they discuss the current state of the budget. Mr. Bear has been as transparent as possible but the Sheriff's budget is a very complicated and confusing one. He said one challenge with the PAF is the tracking of what is PAF funded and what is GF funded. If you choose to do away with that tracking and used just one line item (3102), it would certainly save the Finance Department and Sheriff's Office a lot of time.

Supervisor Smith said they need to support the Sheriff's Office especially in light of what's going on in the world today. He fully supports, and always will, the Sheriff's Office, Town Police, and Virginia State Police. Supervisor Smith added that recent talks about defunding police departments is ludicrous and will never happen as long as he's here. Supervisor Terry agreed.

4. Flooding – Chair Vaught has already passed his concerns along to Mr. Bear.
5. COVID-19 – Chair Vaught was asked by a few citizens about the coronavirus numbers. Are we doing contact tracing, and how are they counting? Apparently, you can now get an antibody test, and if you test positive for the antibody, is that number added to the total positive cases? He'd like to better understand how they arrive at the numbers.
6. Custodial Staff – Chair Vaught said the County has just three custodians for all the County buildings and that they have done a tremendous job. The Chairman understands Supervisor Cook's stance on salary increases but stated the custodial staff are not well paid. They are very much appreciated and he hopes they know that.

Mr. Bear commented that we may have to consider adding personnel for cleaning/sanitizing as courts open up. We could possibly get CARES Act funding at least through December.

RECESS

The Board called a brief recess at 6:46 p.m.

RECONVENE

The Board of Supervisors reconvened at 6:49 p.m. to recognize Wythe County's Graduating Class of 2020.

Chair Vaught read the following Resolution honoring all our graduates:

WYTHE COUNTY RESOLUTION 2020-21 GRADUATING CLASS OF 2020

WHEREAS, safety measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 resulted in the early closing of all schools in the Commonwealth of Virginia during the 2019-2020 school year; and,

WHEREAS, the Graduating Class of 2020 were denied the opportunity to enjoy a traditional senior year; and,

WHEREAS, there were no proms, senior trips, or conventional graduation ceremonies held in their honor; and,

WHEREAS, the Graduating Class of 2020 face a future that is unique from previous classes; and,

WHEREAS, the Graduating Class of 2020 will enter the workforce, pursue higher education, and serve in our nation's armed forces in the coming months;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wythe County Board of Supervisors, assembled in regular session on this 9th day of June 2020, doth hereby express its warmest congratulations and well wishes to the 2020 Graduates of Fort Chiswell High School, George Wythe High School and Rural Retreat High School, their families and friends; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wythe County Board of Supervisors, doth wish them unbridled success and happiness in the decades that follow; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be entered into the official minutes of the Wythe County Board of Supervisors.

Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Horney, to adopt Resolution 2020-21 Honoring the Graduating Class of 2020.

The vote was unanimous.

Chair Vaught wished the graduates the absolute best. He understands they missed out on a lot this past year and he hopes they will always consider Wythe County their home.

Supervisor Smith congratulated the Pioneer seniors. The year started out strong but ended pretty tough. He said not to let this define your future, and he encouraged them to keep their heads up and continue toward their goals.

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Supervisor Cook congratulated all three high schools on their upcoming graduations, and congratulated them for having the longest skip day ever. He said he looks forward to seeing everyone at the graduations.

Vice Chair Lawson congratulated all Wythe County graduating classes. She is very proud of them and hopes they never stop growing, exploring, learning, and challenging themselves.

Supervisor McRoberts congratulated all the graduating seniors, and said it was a shame they had to miss out on a lot of key events. But he hopes they'll get to enjoy those activities when they graduate from college. He encouraged everyone to look forward, not backward.

Supervisor Horney congratulated the graduating seniors from all three high schools as well as the Wytheville Technology Center. He acknowledged it's been a trying time for everyone. He too enjoyed the longest skip day ever, as he didn't have to drive a school bus every day. Great opportunities lie ahead for all of you.

Supervisor Terry extended his sincere congratulations to all three high schools and said to always keep your head up and keep moving forward. You can't change the past but you can control your future, so always look forward to what's ahead. He hopes everyone will continue to call Wythe County home as they establish great families and careers here.

RECESS

The Board recessed until Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. for a Budget Public Hearing.

RECONVENE

The Board reconvened on Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brian W. Vaught, Chair

Ryan M. Lawson, Vice Chair

Rolland R. Cook

B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.

Coy L. McRoberts

James D. "Jamie" Smith

Stacy A. Terry

STAFF PRESENT:

Stephen D. Bear, County Administrator

Martha Collins, Administrative Assistant/Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT:

Charlie Foster

Wes Poole

Scott Jefferies

A.J. & Stephanie Whitlow

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING FISCAL YEAR 2021

Chair Vaught announced that pursuant to Section 15.2-2506 of the Code of Virginia and amendments thereto, the Wythe County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing. The purpose of the public hearing is to give the citizens of Wythe County an opportunity to comment on the proposed County Budget (which includes the School Board Budget) for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

The public hearing will be held on Thursday, June 11, 2020, in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 340 South Sixth Street, Wytheville, Virginia, at 6:00 p.m.

The budget synopsis is prepared and published for information and fiscal planning purposes ONLY. The inclusion in the budget of any item or items DOES NOT constitute an obligation on the part of the Board of Supervisors of Wythe County to appropriate any funds for that item or purpose. There is no allocation or designation of any funds of the County for any purpose until there has been an appropriation for that purpose by the Wythe County Board of Supervisors.

The budget has been prepared on the basis of estimates and requests submitted to the Board of Supervisors by the Constitutional officers, intergovernmental agencies, non-governmental agencies and department heads of Wythe County and review and amendments to those requests by the Board of Supervisors and staff.

Mr. Bear provided the following highlights of the FY21 Budget:

- The total advertised budget is \$85.8M, the School Board budget is \$49.6M, and there is no increase to the current tax rates.

Due to the effects of COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of Supervisors considered many different scenarios in their budget work sessions. Mr. Bear explained the proposed revenue budget assumes minimal impact from COVID-19, and that the Board acknowledges that reserve funds are necessary in order to balance the budget. The Board understands the potential for requiring additional reserves later in the year, should it become necessary.

- Capital projects include \$1.6M for wastewater projects. Since 1997, the County has borrowed over \$12M for wastewater projects and the current balance owed is \$7.2M. The proposed budget also includes \$300k for water projects. Since the mid-90's, the County has invested heavily in water projects and currently owes \$18.5M in outstanding debt on those projects.
- The FY21 Budget includes \$2.9M in County capital projects including \$2M for the County Office Building project. That project would allow the relocation of the Commissioner of Revenue's office and the Treasurer's office and will free up their space for the Commonwealth Attorney's office (currently housed in the basement). That project would also provide office space for DSS, Health Department, Dispatch and County Administration employees.
- Additional capital expenditures include \$180k for rescue squads, \$250k for continued centralized accounting system, and \$300k for proposed Barren Springs Community Center.
- Personnel changes affecting the General Fund in the proposed budget include funding for Assistant County Administrator position (unfunded for the past three years), funding for a staff accountant position, and funding for six deputies, historically funded through PAF.
- The total Expenditure Budget is slightly less than 2019 and a little more than what was budgeted in 2020.
- The three largest pieces making up the County budget are Education at 66.5%, Health & Welfare (DSS, Health Dept., Mount Rogers) at 12.4%, and Public Safety (Sheriff, Fire & Rescue) at 10.5%.
- Primary Local Revenue (real estate, personal property, local sales, machinery and tools, public services, meals and lodging) is estimated at \$25.7M. The revenue from meals and lodging as well as local sales are most susceptible to a decrease related to the effects of COVID-19.
- The following reserve funds are required in order to balance the budget:

Water Reserve Funds	\$ 564,653
Wastewater Funds	\$ 403,807

Police Activity Funds	\$ 52,016
General Funds	\$1,812,089

- School Board Budget of \$49,651,487 does not include an increase in local funds. Due to the COVID-19 shutdown, it is anticipated that the school system may have approximately \$1.5M in unspent funds that could be returned to the General Fund.
- CARES Act – The County is receiving \$2.5M in federal funding. These funds can only be used for costs directly related to COVID-19 in accordance with federal guidelines. This amount also needs to be added to the upcoming budget.

Ms. Linda Meyer submitted the following, "Dear Mr. Bear and Board of Supervisors: After review, I feel it would be in the best interest to delay the proposed \$2M+ for switching around the Treasurer's Office, the Commissioner of Revenue and Attorneys from basement due to current reductions in sales taxes and other reduced incomes. I feel this is not a necessity and should be put on the back burner at this time. I also feel the current spaces have served Wythe County favorably and that we do not need to do this at all. Thank you."

With no one wishing to address the Board, Chair Vaught closed the public hearing.

Supervisor Terry stated that he would like the \$90k for Sheriff's Office vehicles to come out of the General Fund and not the PAF. Supervisor Smith agreed.

Supervisor Horney asked where the money has traditionally come from.

Mr. Bear replied that the money has always come out of the PAF except when they purchased the SRO vehicles because that was a County-funded project. He also stated that two SRO vehicles are in the budget this year for funding.

Chair Vaught announced that he and the Vice Chair are conflicted out of discussions relating to the Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Bear commented that the money for the vehicles is already in the budget, so it's just a matter of what funding source it comes from.

Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Smith, to purchase three vehicles for the Sheriff's Office using money in the General Fund.

The roll call vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES: Rolland R. Cook Coy L. McRoberts
 James D. "Jamie" Smith Stacy A. Terry

NAYS: B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.

ABSTAIN: Brian W. Vaught Ryan M. Lawson

Mr. Bear asked if the Board has a need for another budget work session to address any open concerns or unanswered questions.

Chair Vaught asked if the budget is being adopted on June 19th or June 30th, as he prefers the latter.

Mr. Bear said they had discussed adopting on June 19th, seven days after the public hearing. Once adopted, they would have to do appropriations for the quarter as well as all the carryovers. It won't really matter much if it's adopted on the 19th or the 30th.

Supervisor Horney asked about the CARES Act and whether the fire departments can apply for aid due to their inability to host fundraisers (i.e. loss of income)?

Mr. Bear responded that there is a stipulation that the aid cannot be used to offset loss of revenue. Rather, it is for expenditures directly related to COVID-19.

Supervisor Smith asked can it be used to repair equipment, such as an ambulance?

Mr. Bear replied it must be COVID-related (i.e. special cleaning after COVID transport). It has to be tied directly to COVID-related expenditures.

Supervisor Horney stated that the Speedwell Fire Department is talking to Pierce about a fire truck which, if they sign a contract today, would take 12-18 months to deliver. The truck they're replacing is an '88 model. Can the Board of Supervisors authorize and include this in the budget, even though it won't be paid for in FY21? Supervisor Horney is concerned with the extreme delay in receiving a truck.

Mr. Bear said it would have to go in this budget even if it's not paid until the next fiscal year (it would be a carryover). He said we can't sign a contract unless it's in our budget to do so.

Vice Chair Lawson asked what it would hurt if it goes in the budget now since they've already agreed it's needed? Why prolong the inevitable especially when the turnaround time is so long?

Mr. Bear responded that the County could find themselves way down in tax collections this year and probably shouldn't commit just yet.

Chair Vaught would feel more comfortable waiting a quarter or two to see where the County stands financially. He understands the need and said this Board is committed to getting them a new truck but not yet.

Mr. Bear mentioned that it could be added later to the budget (amend and appropriate) and that the budget is a "living" document.

Chair Vaught asked Dr. Poole approximately how much money the school system anticipates giving back to the County.

Dr. Poole said their CARES aid was \$840k and they must set aside 10% for private schools. The aid will be additional money in next year's budget. To answer the Chair's question, Dr. Poole estimates a carryover/return this year of ~\$1.5M. With schools being closed for nearly a quarter, costs across the board were significantly reduced/eliminated. And because of the mild winter we experienced, heating costs were much lower. All those factors go into the ~\$1.5M return to the County.

Dr. Poole asked the Board to keep in mind that the school system is funded based on ADM, which they cut back to 3,800. However, CARES aid should make up for the loss in ADM. The State may change the funding formulas, but nothing has been set in stone.

Mr. Bear appreciates the efforts of the School Board, how well they've always worked with the Board of Supervisors, and how both groups manage and respect each other's fiscal responsibilities. Mr. Bear said the County is grateful for this close working relationship especially in times like these.

Mr. Bear will update the numbers to reflect the \$2.5M the County is receiving in CARES Act funding, along with a few minor tweaks, and will share with Board asap so they can adopt on June 30th.

Vice Chair Lawson voiced concern about postponing adoption until the last day of the fiscal year.

But Chair Vaught's concern is with the potential for governmental action just prior to June 30th. For that reason, he prefers to wait.

Mr. Bear said the only thing that would concern him is the time of the meeting (6:00 p.m.). If changes need to be made, the Board may want to consider a 9:00 a.m. meeting instead of 6:00 p.m.

Supervisor Cook made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Smith, to adopt FY21 Budget on June 30th at 9:00 a.m., instead of June 19th.

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

APPOINTMENTS

Supervisor McRoberts made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Smith, to appoint Sondra Anders and William Watts to the Lead Mines Rescue Squad Board of Directors, filling unexpired terms of two former members.

The roll call vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Brian W. Vaught	Coy L. McRoberts
	Rolland R. Cook	B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
	Ryan M. Lawson	Stacy A. Terry
	James D. "Jamie" Smith	

NAYS: None

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Mr. Bear commented that Building & Grounds Committee and Water Committee are meeting next week and he would also like the Budget Committee to meet as well.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to come before the Board, Chair Vaught adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:56 p.m.

Brian W. Vaught, Chair