

July 28, 2020

The Wythe County Board of Supervisors held its regularly scheduled meeting at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 28, 2020. The location of the meeting was in the Boardroom of the County Administration Building, 340 South Sixth Street, Wytheville, Virginia.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Brian W. Vaught, Chair

STAFF PRESENT:

Stephen D. Bear, County Administrator
 Scot Farthing, County Attorney
 Curtis Crawford, Emergency Services Coordinator
 Colleen Cummings, Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Charlie Foster
 Lori Guynn
 Delisa Hammons
 Becky Harrison
 Gus Kincer
 David Manley

C. J. Patel
 Dave Patel
 Mehul Patel
 Nimesh Patel
 and approximately 17 others

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Lawson determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pastor Delisa Hammons, Fort Chiswell United Methodist Church, provided the invocation and Supervisor Cook led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS' TIME

Vice Chair Lawson inquired if anyone present wished to address the Board.

1. Second Amendment Resolution - Ms. Linda Meyer appeared before the Board and stated "Good evening. I would just like to reiterate the importance of the

July 28, 2020

resolution I proposed at the last meeting and gave everybody copies of, and I'm hoping, I see it is on your new business agenda and I'm hoping that you will take it into consideration and pass this. It's to protect the rights of the citizens of Wythe County. Pittsylvania County has already passed this and it is on the agenda for many other counties that also did their sanctuary counties throughout Virginia. So, it is really really important that we do that. And also, here's some information I'm going to give to the Sheriff. Culpepper County's Sheriff's Department, they're prepared to turn citizens into reserve deputies if the gun bills pass in Virginia and so this is kind of interesting and he's putting together a committee that will, in fact, deputize conceal carry people and other people within his county in Culpepper to get them as reserve deputies so this will circumvent the laws that are esteemed governor is trying to pass. So, I will get this information to our Sheriff's Department and hopefully they will also get it to you and it is an option for us. So please consider the resolution to strengthen our gun rights here in Wythe County. Thank you."

2. COVID-19 Pandemic – Mr. Jim Ennis appeared before the Board and stated "My name is Jim Ennis. I live over in Connors Valley and I want to speak to you all about this idea about masks being unnecessary and not very helpful. I know you're all going to be talking about and everybody's controversy about what to do about schools and should we let the kids in, don't let the kids in, and go to the stores, we're not sure what we can and can't do. We can't be sure if we're safe or not. It's really getting to be quite mad. Like I said, we have mandatory masks going on in the stores now and the problem is, you know, this will never end. This will never end because someday you'll go into a store and see somebody without a mask and my mom got sick because you let somebody in the store, there's going to be lawsuits going on for the rest of our lives because of all the panic and worry and fear and hysteria going on about this virus. So, the fear and the worry it is, you know, of getting sick and being sued now is getting really ridiculous and out of hand. The good news is, what I wanted to bring to you today, maybe you've already heard it but for instance there's this doctor in Texas, Dr. Richard Bartlett who's been working in hospitals helping people and he's been promoting a known solution to treat those that are sick, those that are really at risk of getting sick from this disease. He has this treatment, it's called, it's a steroid, Budesonide, with a neutralizer you inhale this stuff and it works. And it's an easy simple treatment. It's been around for a long, long time. And you treat people before they get seriously ill and they all get better. It's no big deal. And the way the guy talks about it, he explains the whole thing and it's very, very encouraging. You know you don't hear stories about people in Taiwan, Japan,

July 28, 2020

Iceland, Singapore, they have very very few deaths, very few issues because they treat people with these things. They know about it. It's been around for a long, long time. You would never know it though because of the conflicting reports when you listen to TV, you listen to CBS, ABC, CNN, MSNBC, PBS, they're all telling the same story. We're all in trouble. We all got to wear masks. We can't go out. Stay home. If you go to the store, you can't go near anybody. It's ridiculous. It's not necessary. It's not helpful. But frankly, for weeks, months, I've been reading stories contradicting the mainstream medias message. For instance, states are misreporting their results, intentionally. Virus is more widespread and less deadly than predicted. I go what, hu, what is that? You know the death toll drops after officials change how they report. The data is conflicting and confusing. It changes every few weeks. Fauci is being challenged by many in the health industry. The New England Journal of Medicine reported that school closures are being based on politics and not science. There's so many articles that are conflicting with the mainstream message about the pandemic fear. The Department of Health exposed massive overreporting of the pandemic viruses; way overreporting. There was a story, I don't know if you heard about it, in Florida, talk about the really bad results in Florida, everybody's getting sick in Florida, right? There was a story about somebody who died in a motorcycle accident and guess what? They reported that as a COVID-19 death. Because they said 'well, we don't know why he had the accident. We don't know if he was choking or whatever, there was no excuse, no reason, so we'll just count it ...' so that's what they're doing. They're falsifying the records just to make it look worse than it really really is. And the good news is though there is a solution. There's lots of solutions that don't require all this virus, all these vaccines that you hear about so much that are – there's some issues with that too but we won't talk about that. But anyway, I have references to some of these articles if you're interested in seeing them, I'll just give them to you so you're aware if you want to look them up. This is something that people need to know because they're hearing so much of this, if you'll pass these around. Thanks a lot."

3. Second Amendment Resolution – Mr. Gus Kincer appeared before the Board and stated "Thank you all for having me again today. I just wanted to reiterate what Linda said on the 2A resolution I believe that Stacy is going to present. That's what I've been trying to get y'all to do for several months. I just want to reiterate that I would appreciate your input and support on this resolution, hopefully we can get it passed and protect the citizens of the county. Thank you."

July 28, 2020

4. Hampton Inn – Financial Difficulties – Mr. Mehul Patel appeared before the Board and stated “Good evening everyone and thank you for allowing us to speak on behalf of our hoteliers. I’m from Hampton Inn in Fort Chiswell/Max Meadows, VA which comes under Wythe County’s county limits and the only reason I am here is we all know, due to COVID-19, we are going through this pandemic and it is very tough on the hoteliers as well. Our businesses are struggling tremendously and we’ve been in Wythe County doing this business for over 20 years. This hotel, our ownership group, we’ve been owning this hotel and operating for over 20 years. We are trying to keep our door open even though the pandemic has hurt us so immensely like, if I give an example, for the month of April, normally if we do about 75% occupancy, last April we did 10% in occupancy. So, you guys can understand how much bad and heavily. Now the banks are working with us, all the utility companies are working with us to help us any way they can. For example, Citizens Cable has given us a break. Also, the AEP, they have provided us enough guidelines and they also worked on our reduced rates and everything. Now with the water bills, it’s a little bit different so this is the reason I am here today. Because our water bill it did show a good decline in the months of April and May but if you compare the months of April and May versus revenue, our revenue did get double from April to May and May to June. However, if you look at the percentage wise, the only improvement really came in after the lockdown had been lifted, it was about 30% improvement. We are barely making our bills and right now with the way Wythe County, I mean yes there is a great thing has been done that you know we don’t get disconnected for non-payment. However, I would like to request the Board to at least give us a little extra time to pay our bills. So, like it’s due on the 15th, Department of Treasury has extended our lodging tax to pay all the way to the end of the month which they are also due around the same time and also they are not penalizing us versus with the water bill, there is a late fee and penalty still continue to occur even though we are not, I mean most of the time we make an effort to pay our bills on time, and plus the rates are enough high that it’s not really supporting us to even pay those bills. So, my request is, waive the late fees and also allow us to have a little extension and lower rates for our water bill so that if we can help each other and definitely we will be able to get out of this pandemic. And we wanted to keep the jobs for our local citizens alive and we want to keep our doors open as well. So, I’d really appreciate it if you guys can give consideration. Thank you.”
5. Hampton Inn – Financial Difficulties – Mr. C.J. Patel appeared before the Board and stated “I want to say about the same thing too. We’ve been in this town since 1993. We own and operate five properties here but we as a group, we have about

July 28, 2020

27 properties together. All of our businesses are down just like Mehul said. It's started March 11th and we're at 10%, 20, 30, 35 now and it seems to be going backwards because everybody's in a panic again so it seems to be going down. Friday's are good but otherwise, we're in the same problem with the water bill. You know the Town's working with us on some other things, but franchise fees they also like helping us, AEP things like that as well. So, we are paying our bills. We paid our business license. We paid all this stuff but we do need some sort of fee waiver or some sort of late fees where some of my guys have been penalized and if we can pay the bills, if we can make them in payments or something, we're willing to do that but there's got to be something done and if not, just like Mehul said, I have 68 employees. So, I did not let any of them go. We are still paying them actually we're giving some of them raises so we do our best but right now there is a lot of issues and that's one about the water/sewer bill. Can you guys tell me did anybody raise the rates on the water last month or two months ago, or has it been the same as far as the water bill?"

Mr. Bear replied that the water rates were increased several months ago.

Mr. Patel continued "Is there any way that they're thinking for a few months they would even cut it back for a little bit or, I mean . . ."

Vice Chair Lawson commented that their concerns will be considered by this Board and that during Citizen's Time, the Board does not engage in conversation. Rather, this is time solely for citizens to voice their concern(s).

"I went to a Town Council meeting last night too and I had to address the Mayor about setting up a board for tourism as well so we're willing to help whichever way we can but we need help. My four properties alone are down almost \$800k and when you guys add that up, it's a lot of money and we're still keeping our employees, that's the thing. We're trying to support everybody that we can. Thank you."

6. Hampton Inn – Financial Difficulties – Mr. Dave Patel appeared before the Board and stated "Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you for your time. I'm just going to basically repeat what my colleagues are saying. A lot of us, we have stayed open throughout the entire pandemic. We've tried to keep as many people employed as possible but one of the biggest impacts for our business has been trying to pay the bills, and the water bills are a substantial amount of our total expenses and we just want to know if there's any way that we can get some assistance if it

July 28, 2020

be lower the fees or give us more time to pay, some sort of payment plan, anything like that. We don't want this to be the driving factor for us having to close our doors permanently and any little sort of help would make a huge difference. All combined, we make up, the hotels in Wytheville make up a substantial amount of the employment in the area and we don't want to have to reduce that and have to layoff hundreds of people just because we weren't able to pay our bills. That's basically I was just reiterating on the points my colleagues made. They pretty much drove the statement home so that's pretty much all I have to say. Thank you."

7. Hampton Inn – Financial Difficulties – Mr. Nimesh Patel appeared before the Board and stated "Hello, good evening, my name is Nimesh Patel. I'm from Comfort Inn, located at 2594 E. Lee Highway. We have the same problem that they are saying but my situation is different. They are owning the property since, some of them like 10 years, 20 years, but I'm owning the property since December the 19th. So, I put my own money all in the property. Right now I don't have any money to put like paying bills right now, you know. The banks aren't working, I'm trying to get some more time to pay my water bills and my utility bills from you guys, you know. And down the road, you know the property tax is coming up so I don't know how I'm going to manage it. So, I thought you should give us the time to pay our bills, you know. I don't know how the Town is going to work out and the County's going to work out. Just consider giving us more time. Thank you."

Mr. Bear understands the concerns and said commercial customers are a huge part of our business. As it specifically relates to an increase in the County water rates, it was essential that the County raise those rates after operating in the red for far too long. However, Mr. Bear explained that with funding from the CARES Act, the County is looking at providing business grants to help those affected by the pandemic. The guidelines allow for that money to be used toward utility bills. The County is working with Mr. Manley (JIDA) and Revitalize Virginia to provide assistance and hope the process and grant applications will be approved soon.

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

RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS RESOLUTION

Supervisor Terry heard from Chair Vaught today who indicated he is fully supportive of 2nd Amendment rights and this resolution. The resolution is as follows:

RESOLUTION 2020-23

WHEREAS, in acknowledgement of its deep commitment to the rights of all citizens of, and visitors to, Wythe County to keep and bear arms, Wythe County Board of Supervisors previously declared Wythe County to be a 'Second Amendment Sanctuary', and,

WHEREAS, certain legislation has been passed in the Virginia General Assembly that allows localities to, by ordinance, ban otherwise lawfully possessed and transported firearms from certain public spaces, causing law-abiding citizens to be exposed to a patchwork of local ordinances they travel throughout the Commonwealth, and,

WHEREAS, the Wythe County Board of Supervisors acknowledges the significant economic contribution made to our community by tourist and visitors and does not wish to discourage travel to Wythe County, and,

WHEREAS, Wythe County wishes to welcome all law-abiding citizens who wish to live in, visit, or otherwise participate in the economy of our community, including those citizens and visitors who choose to legally carry a firearm for personal protection, and

WHEREAS, Wythe County Board of Supervisors does not wish to infringe on the rights of the citizens of, or visitors to, Wythe County to keep and bear arms, and,

WHEREAS, the Wythe County Board of Supervisors wishes to express its continued opposition to any law that would unconstitutionally restrict the rights of the citizens of, and visitors to, Wythe County to keep and bear arms.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of Wythe County, Virginia:

That the Wythe County Board of Supervisors hereby declares Wythe County, Virginia shall not exercise any authority granted to it by §15.2-915(E) of the Code of Virginia to regulate or prohibit the otherwise legal purchase, possession, or transfer of firearms or ammunition.

Supervisor Smith made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Cook, to adopt Resolution 2020-23 Right to Keep and Bear Arms as presented.

The roll call vote 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

ABSENT: Brian W. Vaught

PAYMENT OF COUNTY INVOICES

Supervisor Horney made a motion to pay the invoices for approval on July 28, 2020, for the various departments of County government. The invoices were paid on General Warrants 30107208-30107329 and 310107167-310107208 as follows:

**EXPENDITURES BY DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
July 28, 2020**

CHECK #	ISSUE DATE	VENDOR	AMOUNT
30107208	07/28/2020	AKER, COREY A	\$ 198.64
30107209	07/28/2020	AKER, TERESA B	182.40
30107210	07/28/2020	AMERICAN MINE RESEARCH IN	1,050.00
30107211	07/28/2020	APPALACHIAN POWER	1,555.28
30107212	07/28/2020	ATKINSON, BARBARA R	135.00
30107213	07/28/2020	BLUE RIDGE ANALYTICAL, LL	1,320.00
30107214	07/28/2020	BOWERS, ASHLEY	157.04
30107215	07/28/2020	BUSINESS CARD	2,316.61
30107216	07/28/2020	CASSELL, MARY B	165.00
30107217	07/28/2020	CAVALIER SUPPLY CO	241.70
30107218	07/28/2020	CENTURYLINK	622.86
30107219	07/28/2020	CLINE, DEBRA B	135.00
30107220	07/28/2020	COMM OF REV ASSOC OF VA	50.00
30107221	07/28/2020	COMM OF THE REV ASSOC OF	380.00
30107222	07/28/2020	COPENHAVER, JANET F	192.84
30107223	07/28/2020	DATAWATCH CORP	6,384.00
30107224	07/28/2020	DEPT OF MOTOR VEHICLES	8,325.00
30107225	07/28/2020	DIGITAL MEMORIES LINK	4,000.00
30107226	07/28/2020	DISHON, PATRICIA TICKLE	135.00
30107227	07/28/2020	DIVERSIFIED INTEGRATION I	332.50
30107228	07/28/2020	EDMONDS, BETTY F	197.48
30107229	07/28/2020	EVERGREEN ACTIVITY CENTER	110.00
30107230	07/28/2020	FERGUSON ENTERPRISES #5	452.01

July 28, 2020

30107231	07/28/2020	GEARHART, JAMES D	125.00
30107232	07/28/2020	GORDON, BETTY	165.00
30107233	07/28/2020	GRANT, BRUCE M	4,343.59
30107234	07/28/2020	HALL, PATTY U	165.00
30107235	07/28/2020	HARPO'S HARDWARE & BLDG S	251.41
30107236	07/28/2020	HARRIS, KAREN G	135.00
30107237	07/28/2020	HASH, JOEL L JR	165.00
30107238	07/28/2020	HERSHEY CREAMERY CO	306.06
30107239	07/28/2020	HOME DEPOT PRO	98.12
30107240	07/28/2020	HORTON, ELIZABETH	135.00
30107241	07/28/2020	JOINT IDA OF WYTHE COUNTY	64,792.75
30107242	07/28/2020	JONES, SANDRA V	135.00
30107243	07/28/2020	MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY SERVI	287.48
30107244	07/28/2020	LINDSEY, PATSY D	178.92
30107245	07/28/2020	MEADE TRACTOR	713.86
30107246	07/28/2020	MILLER, JERRY G	155.00
30107247	07/28/2020	MOUNT ROGERS COMMUNITY SE	4,682.78
30107248	07/28/2020	NEWBERRY, ALBERT L	135.00
30107249	07/28/2020	ALLISON D. KIRBY	30.00
30107250	07/28/2020	ALLISON G. SHAW	30.00
30107251	07/28/2020	AMANDA D. LEWIS	30.00
30107252	07/28/2020	AMANDA MOFFITT	30.00
30107253	07/28/2020	ANNABELLE HAMMON	135.00
30107254	07/28/2020	ARVILLE BENTLEY	18.00
30107255	07/28/2020	BARBARA A. FOX	30.00
30107256	07/28/2020	BEVERLY A. WALKER	30.00
30107257	07/28/2020	BRYAN LATINKA	32.02
30107258	07/28/2020	CATHERINE BUCK	30.00
30107259	07/28/2020	CATHY MORRIS	135.00
30107260	07/28/2020	CHARLES R. PATTON IV	30.00
30107261	07/28/2020	CHARLIE JONES	135.00
30107262	07/28/2020	CHRISTOPHER GOODSON	36.00
30107263	07/28/2020	CYNTHIA ;/ QUESENBERRY	30.00
30107264	07/28/2020	DEBBIE COEBURN	401.60
30107265	07/28/2020	DEBORAH J. SPRAKER	30.00
30107266	07/28/2020	DIANA TRIVITTE	135.00
30107267	07/28/2020	EDWARD E. MULKEY	30.00
30107268	07/28/2020	FRANK E. SMITH JR.	30.00
30107269	07/28/2020	HARLOE BREWSTER	36.00

30107270	07/28/2020	IZZY HOLLARS	135.00
30107271	07/28/2020	JANIE J. DEAN	30.00
30107272	07/28/2020	JANNIE JONES	135.00
30107273	07/28/2020	JERI L. CLEMENTS	30.00
30107274	07/28/2020	JERRY R. CALDWELL	30.00
30107275	07/28/2020	JESSICA WINEBARGER	25.20
30107276	07/28/2020	JIMMY A. CREGGER	30.00
30107277	07/28/2020	JOSEPH C. VIARS	30.00
30107278	07/28/2020	JOSEPH S. WORRELL	30.00
30107279	07/28/2020	JOSH FLOYD	135.00
30107280	07/28/2020	JOSHUA R. TAYLOR	30.00
30107281	07/28/2020	JUDY E. CREGGER	30.00
30107282	07/28/2020	JUSTIN A MABREY	89.52
30107283	07/28/2020	KATHY H. STUART	30.00
30107284	07/28/2020	KERRINGTON CROCKETT-EANS	135.00
30107285	07/28/2020	LEISA R. RICHMOND	30.00
30107286	07/28/2020	LUCAS H. CARTER	30.00
30107287	07/28/2020	MATTHEW S. CRAWFORD	30.00
30107288	07/28/2020	MELISSA KOHL	8.00
30107289	07/28/2020	NANCY B. PHILLIPPI	30.00
30107290	07/28/2020	RICHARD P. HAFLEY	30.00
30107291	07/28/2020	SANDRA A. HALSEY	30.00
30107292	07/28/2020	SHELIA C. BROWN	44.95
30107293	07/28/2020	STEVEN A. SHUPE	30.00
30107294	07/28/2020	TERESA M. YORK	30.00
30107295	07/28/2020	TERESAS V. ALLEY	30.00
30107296	07/28/2020	TERRI WOLFE	56.00
30107297	07/28/2020	THOMAS J. KOTSCH	30.00
30107298	07/28/2020	TYRONE C. MERILIC	30.00
30107299	07/28/2020	ZACHARY G. MUNCY	102.24
30107300	07/28/2020	R&R ENTERPRISES INC	60.00
30107301	07/28/2020	REEVES, DEBRA R	125.00
30107302	07/28/2020	RURAL RETREAT MILLS INC	60.00
30107303	07/28/2020	SAWYERS, MARTHA A	188.20
30107304	07/28/2020	SEGRA	31.25
30107305	07/28/2020	SHEFFEY, SANDRA M	135.00
30107306	07/28/2020	SLEMP BRANT SAUNDERS & AS	5,810.00
30107307	07/28/2020	SMYTH WYTHE AIRPORT COMMI	13,430.00
30107308	07/28/2020	SMYTHERS-STITT, ANNA E	135.00

July 28, 2020

30107309	07/28/2020	SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CRIMIN	24,150.00
30107310	07/28/2020	STRICKLAND, CAITLEN	135.00
30107311	07/28/2020	SVAM	250.00
30107312	07/28/2020	TOWN OF RURAL RETREAT	2,165.31
30107313	07/28/2020	TOWN OF WYTHEVILLE	104,256.00
30107314	07/28/2020	UMBERGER, KIMBERLY	135.00
30107315	07/28/2020	UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA	225.00
30107316	07/28/2020	VA ASSOC OF CLERKS OF DIS	100.00
30107317	07/28/2020	VACA	350.00
30107318	07/28/2020	VERIZON WIRELESS	1,779.76
30107319	07/28/2020	VIARS, DAVID G	192.84
30107320	07/28/2020	VIRGINIA BUSINESS SYST	175.96
30107321	07/28/2020	VIRGINIA BUSINESS SYST	575.32
30107322	07/28/2020	VIRGINIA ELECTRIC SUPPLY,	463.32
30107323	07/28/2020	VIRGINIA STATE BAR	1,450.00
30107324	07/28/2020	VLGMA	303.53
30107325	07/28/2020	WEAVER, ROSEDITH S	135.00
30107326	07/28/2020	WILLIAMS, MARY ANN	135.00
30107327	07/28/2020	WILSON BAIT & TACKLE INC	80.70
30107328	07/28/2020	WYTHEVILLE OFFICE SUPPLY	30.10
30107329	07/28/2020	XTERIOR PLUS INC	185.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURES 07/28/2020**\$265,745.15**

CHECK #	ISSUE DATE	VENDOR	AMOUNT
310107167	07/28/2020	APPALACHIAN JUVENILE COMM	\$ 16,800.00
310107168	07/28/2020	CARROLL COUNTY PSA	2,951.32
310107169	07/28/2020	CARZ R US LLC	94.00
310107170	07/28/2020	COLT W. SIMMONS CONSTRUCT	106,887.50
310107171	07/28/2020	DEPT OF GENERAL SERVICES	800.00
310107172	07/28/2020	EVERBRIDGE INC	9,224.05
310107173	07/28/2020	F&R ELECTRIC INC	2,120.00
310107174	07/28/2020	FARTHING, SCOT S	4,940.00
310107175	07/28/2020	GALLS	80.79
310107176	07/28/2020	GFL ENVIROMENTAL	343.99
310107177	07/28/2020	HARPO'S HARDWARE & BLDG S	327.01
310107178	07/28/2020	J. KEITH GOINES	87.89
310107179	07/28/2020	JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	127.99
310107180	07/28/2020	JOINT PUBLIC SERVICE AUTH	52.00
310107181	07/28/2020	JONES, ZAC	121.00

July 28, 2020

310107182	07/28/2020	LEXISNEXIS	217.00
310107183	07/28/2020	LOWE'S	3,072.25
310107184	07/28/2020	NEW RIVER REGIONAL WATER	18,039.10
310107185	07/28/2020	NEW RIVER VALLEY JUVENILE	5,925.00
310107186	07/28/2020	NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL	128,609.85
310107187	07/28/2020	OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDIC	40.00
310107188	07/28/2020	PAPER CLIP	44.29
310107189	07/28/2020	RENTAL HUB INC	370.00
310107190	07/28/2020	ROBINSON FARMER COX ASSOC	4,000.00
310107191	07/28/2020	RURAL RETREAT AUTO PARTS	2.99
310107192	07/28/2020	STATE ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO	1,816.77
310107193	07/28/2020	SUBURBAN PROPANE-1241	86.80
310107194	07/28/2020	THREE RIVERS MEDIA CORP	660.00
310107195	07/28/2020	TRACTOR SUPPLY COMPANY	271.03
310107196	07/28/2020	TREASURERS' ASSOC OF VA	400.00
310107197	07/28/2020	TRI CITIES/SW VA REGIONAL	727.80
310107198	07/28/2020	TRIPLE J TREE SERVICE LLC	250.00
310107199	07/28/2020	VERIZON WIRELESS	40.01
310107200	07/28/2020	VIRGINIA BUSINESS SYST	99.56
310107201	07/28/2020	VIRGINIA LOGOS LLC	16,019.90
310107202	07/28/2020	VITA	256.31
310107203	07/28/2020	VUPS	94.50
310107204	07/28/2020	WILSON BAIT & TACKLE INC	531.70
310107205	07/28/2020	WYTHEVILLE ENTERPRISE	81.95
310107206	07/28/2020	WYTHEVILLE OFFICE SUPPLY	201.27
310107207	07/28/2020	XEROX	698.69
310107208	07/28/2020	EXTERIOR PLUS INC	2,670.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES 07/28/2020			\$330,184.31

TOTAL EXPENDITURES APPROVED 07/28/2020 **\$595,929.46**

Supervisor Terry seconded the motion and the roll call vote 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

ABSENT: Brian W. Vaught

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Board was presented with the July 14, 2020, minutes for approval.

Supervisor McRoberts made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Horney, to approve the July 14, 2020, minutes as presented.

The roll call vote on the motion was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Ryan M. Lawson

ABSENT: Brian W. Vaught

SAVION ENERGY SOLAR PROJECT – MATT HOOPER

Mr. Bear reminded the Board that, at their last meeting, they voted against granting a waiver of the review that this project is in substantial accord with the comprehensive plan. Accordingly, this project is on the Planning Commission's August 3rd agenda.

Mr. Matt Hooper, Senior Development Manager, stated that Savion is headquartered in Kansas City, MO and he is based out of Charlotte, NC.

Savion began development of this project in December 2016 and the primary appeal of this project is the 45-acre AEP substation in the southwest part of Wythe County. This means they would not have to build new transmission lines. The vacant land adjacent to the AEP substation provides a 675-acre footprint, with 858 acres under land agreements. Mr. Hooper said this project, when complete, would provide power to approximately 14,000 homes. The site is one mile from any major road, over a half mile from New River Trail State Park, and over a mile from the Shot Tower State Park.

Savion has spent over \$750k in the last five years (i.e. environmental studies etc.). Results of those studies indicated little to no adverse impact and that this project is a good use of land. Mr. Hooper reported that the DEQ Permit By Rule is currently in

process. Permits for stormwater, land disturbance and building are done right before construction begins. Savion will need approval from the Planning Commission that the project is in accordance with the plan. Also, a public meeting was held on July 7th in Wythe County as well as an on-line virtual meeting.

Mr. Hooper explained that this technology has been around since the 1950's and that the first solar facility was built approximately 35 years ago. The PV panels used have passed the EPA toxicity test and are not considered hazardous, and the solar facilities produce no emissions. Once constructed, the facility produces no offsite noise and generates minimal traffic. There are currently three solar projects in Virginia; one completed in 2019, one under construction and one about to begin construction.

Regarding the economic impact, Mr. Hooper said this project should result in an \$85k annual tax increase per year to the County. It was noted that no additional infrastructure is necessary (roads, schools, etc.). Mr. Manley is supportive of the project as it should help attract new businesses to Wythe County. The construction phase (approximately one year) will require 250-300 workers. They hope to employ local workers as well as local companies (landscaping, etc.). This will also provide increased local revenue (hotels, restaurants, gas and local businesses).

Mr. Hooper briefly described the comprehensive plan goals as it relates to land and government, population and economy.

Supervisor Cook asked if the life of the project is 35 years, who is responsible for the clean-up afterwards?

Mr. Hooper said the project owner will remove the facility and restore the land. This is part of the State permitting process.

Supervisor Smith asked about the tax revenue increase and what percentage can we expect to see?

Mr. Hooper replied that it would be approximately an \$85k tax increase over the current amount but he does not know the actual percentage.

Supervisor Horney asked about toxicity of the materials used.

Mr. Hooper said there may be a small portion in the manufacturing of some components, but the bulk of the solar panels is mostly glass (silicone) and aluminum.

The EPA has done extensive studies (Leach Test) where they grind up the panels, and they determined it is not hazardous/toxic. He distributed to the Board a handout from North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center about the various safety aspects of solar panels.

Supervisor McRoberts commented that this proposed facility would be in his district and he wants to learn more about this because he has received a lot of push back from the residents.

Mr. Hooper said they initially approached some of the neighboring land owners to participate in the project. Some thought about it, but elected not to. But he is happy to work with them to alleviate their concerns. He believes this solar facility will be a long-term asset for Wythe County.

Supervisor Terry said that several people spoke out against this at the last Board meeting. Those people would like to sit down and discuss this with Savion as they seem not to have had the opportunity to do so.

Mr. Hooper responded that those individuals who spoke out against this project were at the public meeting. Savion also conducted a virtual public meeting, and they have a project website where the public can post comments. He said the people who came to the public meeting were given several ways to provide input for the PBR process and none of them responded. Mr. Hooper said the only person who commented on their website was a person in support of the project.

VDOT SECONDARY SIX-YEAR PLAN RESOLUTION

Mr. Bear explained that at the June 30th meeting, the Board of Supervisors approved the Six-Year Plan and VDOT requests adoption of the following:

WYTHE COUNTY RESOLUTION 2020-24

WHEREAS, Sections 33.1-23 and 33.1-23.4 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, provide the opportunity for each county to work with the Virginia Department of Transportation in developing a Secondary Six-Year Road Plan; and

WHEREAS, this Board had previously agreed to assist in the preparation of this Plan, in accordance with the Virginia Department of Transportation policies and procedures, and participated in a public hearing on the proposed

Plan (2020/21 through 2025/26), as well as the Construction Priority List (2020/21) on June 30, 2020, after duly advertised so that all citizens of the County had the opportunity to participate in said hearing and to make comments and recommendations concerning the proposed Plan and Priority List; and

WHEREAS, Andy Fowler of the Virginia Department of Transportation, participated via telephone with the Board and recommended approval of the Six-Year Plan for Secondary Roads (2020/21 through 2025/26) and the Construction Priority List (2020/21) for Wythe County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors voted on June 30, 2020 to approve Six-Year Plan for Secondary Roads and Priority List as attached;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that since said Plan appears to be in the best interest of the Secondary Road System in Wythe County and of the citizens residing on the Secondary System, said Secondary Six-Year Plan (2020/21 through 2025/26) and Construction Priority List (2020/21) are hereby approved as presented at the June 30, 2020 Board of Supervisors' meeting.

Supervisor Cook made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Smith, to adopt Resolution 2020-24, VDOT Secondary Six-Year Road Plan as presented.

The roll call vote 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

ABSENT: Brian W. Vaught

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Lori Guynn appeared before the Board and before she presented her report, she expressed her full support of the Patels, many of whom have contacted her for assistance. Her office has been working with businesses, relating to the lodging tax, and has given them some leeway to pay without penalty. Regarding other taxes coming due later this year, she advised that we wait and see how much the industry comes back between now and then. She has spoken to Mr. Bear and would like to work together to

try and help these businesses. Mrs. Guynn said they contribute a tremendous amount to the County and have taken a very hard hit from the pandemic.

Mrs. Guynn presented the Treasurer's Report as follows:

1. Revenue Statement – Mrs. Guynn reported that the Consolidated Account was comprised of \$61,157,176 of which \$34,236,825 was in the General Fund at the end of June.

Mr. Bear commented that we are down approximately \$2M from where we were one year ago. However, in a typical year, we would be down about \$3.5M and in the previous 3 years, we've actually come in above \$1-2M in revenue.

2. Sales & Lodging Tax – Mrs. Guynn said that they're starting to see a decrease in the sales tax figures received this month (for the month of May). She said the large increase in March and April was likely due to people buying up PPE, paper products, etc.

Mr. Bear added that lodging tax for May was 24% of what it was a year ago. June lodging tax was 35% of what it was the previous June.

Mrs. Guynn wanted to thank the Board for funding the new phone system which is in dire need of replacement. Previously, if it was raining, people would have to call several times before getting a decent connection. She also wanted to say how great it is that the Board will be hiring an Assistant County Administrator. There is a lot that goes on and it's really too much for one person. While it is an additional salary, she feels it will pay off in the long run.

FIRE & RESCUE COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Lead Mines Rescue Squad By-Laws – Supervisor McRoberts made a motion, as recommended by the Fire & Rescue Committee, to accept the updated Organization By-Laws for the Lead Mines Rescue Squad as presented.

Mr. Bear explained that these by-laws were put in place by the Board of Supervisors and any amendments thereto must be approved by Lead Mines Rescue Squad and the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Bear, Mr. Crawford and Mr. Farthing have reviewed the amendments and recommend approval.

The roll call vote 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

ABSENT: Brian W. Vaught

CONSENT CALENDAR

Supervisor Horney made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar as follows:

1. PAYROLL – June 2020:

General County Fund	\$	571,518.93
Police Activity Fund		60,024.68
Courthouse Security Fund		12,812.48
Water Department Fund		21,129.60
Wythe County Wastewater Fund		22,290.08
TOTAL	\$	687,775.77

Check Numbers: 20000798-20000820

Voucher Numbers: 12551-12913

2. STATUS REPORTS:

- A. Animal Control – Arlan Dunford
- B. Building & Grounds/Refuse – Billy Bowers
- C. Building Inspection – Kyle Taylor
- D. Central 911 – Darlene Lang
- E. Emergency Services – Curtis Crawford
- F. Finance – Bruce Grant
- G. Parks & Recreation – Kevin Williams
- H. Public Information – Jeremy Farley

3. PERSONNEL:

- A. Riggins, Trevor – Resigned, Full-time Facilities Maintenance, Effective July 3, 2020

Supervisor Terry seconded the motion and the roll call vote 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

ABSENT: Brian W. Vaught

COVID-19 UPDATE

Mr. Curtis Crawford, Emergency Services Coordinator, provided the Board with a handout detailing the number of cases by month, per day, percentage growth, etc. He reported that Wythe County has experienced the greatest increase this month (48%).

Five regions in Virginia are currently stable but the Hampton Roads area is concerning, which is why the Governor has imposed further restrictions. Mr. Crawford reported that statewide, positive tests are 7.3%, and 6% without the eastern shore. He said that Southwest Virginia is at 7.1%, which is currently the second highest region. The numbers reveal that younger people (20 and under) are now the largest group testing positive, a trend that we're seeing in Wythe County.

Mr. Crawford stated that additional funding is becoming available through the CARES Act, there's also the Governor's program for Virginia, and we are putting local programs together. He said the County is trying to support local businesses as much as possible with our CARES Act funding. In particular, he mentioned Oak Hall who makes caps and gowns. They are now making masks for the school board and Mr. Crawford said the County's ordered masks from them too. By helping our local businesses with these funds, it keeps the money in Wythe County and helps the local economy.

The total number of cases for Wythe County right now is at 99 (52 active, 44 recovered, 3 deaths).

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

County Administrator Stephen Bear addressed the Board regarding the following matters:

1. Branch Botanicals Grant Repayment – Mr. Bear stated that he, Mr. Farthing, Mr. Manley and Mr. Matthews met last week with Dan Tolley of Branch Botanicals along with their counsel. Branch Botanicals had not met their performance goals and guidelines. At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Tolley presented a check for \$287,500 of which \$200,000 will be returned to the Tobacco Commission and \$87,500 returned to us (Wythe Opportunity Fund Grant).

Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Horney, to acknowledge receipt of \$287,500 in grant repayment and authorize the return of \$200,000 to the Tobacco Commission.

The roll call vote 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

ABSENT: Brian W. Vaught

2. Wythe County Meals Tax – Mr. Bear explained that currently, Wythe County's meal tax is 4%. The Code of Virginia was amended to allow for localities to increase that tax to 6%. Mr. Bear said that we collect just under \$800k annually in meals tax, and an increase to 6% would mean an additional \$400k a year. While this will affect our residents, it will also affect all the tourists passing through. Staff have drafted an amendment for the County Attorney's review, and the Board should set a public hearing to consider the amendment.

Supervisor Cook made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Horney, to set a public hearing on August 25, 2020 to consider amending the ordinance.

The roll call vote 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

ABSENT: Brian W. Vaught

3. Water & Wastewater Comprehensive Study – Mr. Bear provided each Board member with a map of Wythe County as well as a map of their district showing the water and sewer line locations. Peed & Bortz is conducting a comprehensive study and they request that the Board mark up the maps to include any information on areas for future water or sewer, or any issues with muddy/bad water, or no water. If there is any supporting documentation available, Mr. Bear asks they bring it to the next meeting. This will also be put out on social media to encourage residents to relay their concerns.

4. Davenport & Company – Potential Refunding – Mr. Bear and Mr. Grant met with Davenport & Company to discuss potential refunding candidates. Roughly speaking, County loans total \$25.5M with interest rates ranging from 2.36% to 6.5%. A couple of loans have reset dates in 2023, 2028 and 2033. Now may be a good time to refinance given the strong market. As such, Davenport can go out on behalf of the County and seek the best possible opportunities for refinancing through various banks. Another option would be to apply for VRA pooled financing program. The County is in great financial shape to be approved by VRA and to qualify, and the estimated rates could be under 2%, resulting in significant savings.

Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Smith, granting staff authority to advise Davenport & Company to proceed with pursuing potential bond refinancing through direct bank loans, VA Resources Authority (VRA) pooled financing program or a combination of both.

The roll call vote 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

ABSENT: Brian W. Vaught

Mr. Bear added that Davenport & Company will be here on September 22nd to present those options.

5. Satellite Voting Location / Absentee Voting – Mr. Bear has been working with the Registrar's office and reviewing options for satellite voting for the 45-day, no excuse absentee voting. The General District Court is being considered and they will meet with Judge Showalter soon to further discuss. This would not require an amendment to the ordinance because the location would be in the same complex. The Electoral Board has asked to consider the Town's former Parks & Recreation Center as another option, but we would have to rent the space, it would require internet connectivity, and we'd have to advertise and amend the ordinance showing this satellite location.

On an unrelated matter, Supervisor Cook asked about the sinkhole that was repaired at the APEX noted in the Building & Grounds report (Consent Calendar).

Mr. Bear responded that this was at the corner of the barn area where trenching was done. A small sinkhole opened up and the Building & Grounds staff repaired it accordingly.

SUPERVISORS' REPORTS

1. Grouse Ridge Road – Supervisor Smith asked for an update on the drainage project as residents are concerned it won't be complete by the end of summer as projected.

Mr. Bear will reach out to Mr. Fowler (VDOT) for an update. Per their discussion last week, they were in the process of putting in drainage pipes and culverts where necessary. He is not aware of any significant delay but will see if he can get an estimated date of completion.

2. Hotels - Financial Struggle – Supervisor Cook would like to see relief given expeditiously to the hotels as they are a very important asset to both the Town and the County.
3. Dunford Road – Supervisor McRoberts received a call from Evelyn Crockett about pipes under Dunford Road. Apparently, VDOT told her they'd come back and put another pipe under the road but it hasn't yet been done.

Mr. Bear will follow-up with Mr. Fowler and see if he can attend or call in to the next Board meeting.

4. Route 94 - Hazardous S-Curve – Supervisor McRoberts indicated that there have been two wrecks on the S-curve in front of Ralph Ogle’s property and one of them ended in a fatality. It’s very dangerous.
5. Cody Lane – Supervisor Horney received a call about a drainage issue that keeps washing the gravel down into a resident’s field. Mr. Bear will check with VDOT about the matter.
6. Hotels – Financial Struggle – Supervisor Terry reiterated what Supervisor Cook said about helping hotels and other businesses in the County that are having financial difficulties. He does not want to see this sit on the back burner and would like to meet/discuss how the County can help.

CLOSED MEETING

Supervisor Smith made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Cook, to enter into Closed Meeting under Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711-A.1, Discussion of Personnel Matters (IT Coordinator) and Section 2.2-3711-A.5, Discussion of Prospective Industry (Project Skyscraper, Project Groove and others).

The roll call vote 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

ABSENT: Brian W. Vaught

Supervisor Horney made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Terry, to return to open meeting. The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Upon returning to open meeting, Supervisor Smith made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Terry, 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 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

ABSENT: Brian W. Vaught

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to come before the Board, Vice Chair Lawson adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:28 p.m.

Ryan M. Lawson, Vice Chair