

**January 12, 2021**

The Wythe County Board of Supervisors held its regularly scheduled meeting at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 12, 2021. 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  
 Matt Hankins, Assistant County Administrator  
 Martha Collins, Administrative Assistant/Clerk  
 Regina Williams, Finance Director

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Barry Ayers  
 Leon Ayers  
 Anthony Cline  
 Boyd Coffey  
 Jim & Dee Ennis  
 Lori Guynn  
 Gus Kincer

Linda Meyer  
 Rick Lindamood  
 Dicky Morgan  
 Ricky & Camden Skeens  
 Corbin Stone  
 and three other citizens

**CALL TO ORDER**

Stephen Bear, County Administrator, determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Pastor Rick Lindamood, West End United Methodist Church, provided the invocation and Supervisor Cook led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INTRODUCTION TO FINANCE DIRECTOR**

Mr. Bear introduced Ms. Regina Williams as the County's new Finance Director.

Ms. Williams is delighted to be back working for Wythe County and looks forward to working with everyone. She asked that the Board feel free to contact her with any questions or needs.

**ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR 2021**

Mr. Bear took a moment to thank both Chair Vaught and Vice Chair Lawson for their efforts this past year. He then opened the floor for nominations for the Wythe County Board of Supervisors Chair for calendar year 2021.

Supervisor Terry nominated Brian Vaught as Chair for 2021.

Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Smith, to elect Brian Vaught by proclamation as Chair for 2021.

The motion passed unanimously with Brian Vaught abstaining.

**ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR FOR 2021**

Chair Vaught opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair for calendar year 2021.

Supervisor Cook nominated Supervisor Ryan Lawson as Vice Chair for 2021.

Supervisor McRoberts made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Terry, to close the nomination and elect Ryan Lawson by proclamation as Vice Chair for 2021.

The motion passed unanimously with Ryan Lawson abstaining.

**RULES OF PROCEDURE & MEETING CALENDAR FOR 2021**

Mr. Bear advised the Board of one change to the second November meeting date. A conflict was anticipated with the VACo Conference but that is no longer an issue. As such, the November meetings will be at their regularly scheduled date/time.

Chair Vaught asked if the Electronic Meeting Policy in the Rules of Procedure can be changed to allow for more than two electronic participations per year in light of the pandemic.

Mr. Bear suggested adopting the Rules of Procedure tonight and they can consider updating it later on.

Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Cook, to adopt the Rules of Procedure and Meeting Calendar for 2021 as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:



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get on the stick and get us a First Amendment Sanctuary resolution here for Wythe County. Thank you.”

4. Cattle Issue – Mr. Boyd Coffey appeared before the Board and stated “I’m here for some of my neighbors down there where I’m at and we got a pretty bad cow problem. Some of y’all probably done heard about this. We’re wanting somebody in this County to do something about it. Cattle is out every day and they tore their yards all to pieces. It’s every day, and they’re underfed and it aint the cows’ fault. I don’t know what you can do but somebody’s got to do something. They’ve called the police. They’ve called Animal Control. I mean besides getting really ugly, it’s coming to that. Y’all know whose cattle we’re talking about?”

Chair Vaught replied that a few of them on the Board are aware of the issue and had planned to discuss it tonight.

5. Cattle Issue – Mr. Leon Ayers appeared before the Board and stated “I just wanted to say that ... you put yourself in my position, you get up every morning and there’s 75 cows in your yard. I mean it’s every day. You can’t keep them in. I mean, something needs to be done about it. I talked to Animal Control and they told me that I had to build a fence to keep his cows out. Now what’s wrong with that?”

Chair Vaught believes that in 2008, the fencing rules changed allowing localities to have a fence-in ordinance. But without that ordinance, the grievance reverts back to State law which is fence-out. The Chair would like this issue referred to the County Attorney as it’s becoming a regular occurrence at various locations.

Mr. Bear said he would work with Mr. Farthing to address the issue and he will also reach out to VDOT to see if there’s a way for them to help enforce, assuming the cattle access State roads to get to others’ properties.

Supervisor Smith suggested it’s time to consider an ordinance to address this issue.

Supervisor Horney believes that if there’s an existing fence, that both property owners are responsible for half of it.

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Supervisor Smith added that if the cattle cross a road, then that's an issue where the owner of the livestock can be held accountable. He also believes there's a real issue if the cattle are not being properly nourished, as Mr. Coffey stated.

Mr. Coffey added "I bought the land that some of the cows was on and it took me seven months to get this guy to get them off my land after I ... All he done is move them down there in front of his house, across the road from him where it's already open pasture. But last winter, I don't know if the County's involved or what, but somebody forced him to bury a bunch of dead cows down there on the land I bought. You can check to see but I think the County or somebody come down there and had to hire Rambo to bury a bunch of dead cows down there. That happened last year and I got a feeling the same thing's gonna come up again this year."

Chair Vaught responded that he would get with County Attorney for a solution and, if none, the Board will consider an ordinance.

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

### **PAYMENT OF COUNTY INVOICES**

Vice Chair Lawson made a motion to pay the invoices for approval on January 12, 2021, for the various departments of County government. The invoices were paid on General Warrants 30108488-30108597 as follows:

### **EXPENDITURES BY DEPARTMENT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS January 12, 2021**

<b>CHECK #</b>	<b>ISSUE DATE</b>	<b>VENDOR</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
30108488	12/30/2020	APPALACHIAN POWER	\$ 1,058.33
30108489	12/30/2020	ATMOS ENERGY	58.64
30108490	12/30/2020	BUSINESS CARD	3,153.21
30108491	12/30/2020	CDW GOVERNMENT INC	234.38
30108492	12/30/2020	CDW GOVERNMENT INC	1,063.52
30108493	12/30/2020	CENTURYLINK	49.99
30108494	12/30/2020	CENTURYLINK	52.76
30108495	12/30/2020	CENTURYLINK	64.44
30108496	12/30/2020	CENTURYLINK	93.97
30108497	12/30/2020	CENTURYLINK	123.15

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30108498	12/30/2020	CENTURYLINK	145.66
30108499	12/30/2020	CENTURYLINK	300.09
30108500	12/30/2020	CENTURYLINK	486.92
30108501	12/30/2020	CENTURYLINK	3,548.05
30108502	12/30/2020	DALY COMPUTERS	5,080.00
30108503	12/30/2020	HALEY BUICK GMC AIRPORT	28,716.18
30108504	12/30/2020	HIGHLANDS GLASS COMPANY	1,384.69
30108505	12/30/2020	KRANOS CORPORATION	3,523.00
30108506	12/30/2020	MCI COMM SERVICE	41.78
30108507	12/30/2020	MCI COMM SERVICE	76.34
30108508	12/30/2020	MCI COMM SERVICE	652.39
30108509	12/30/2020	JOAN B SMITH	54.21
30108510	12/30/2020	KENNETH N BEASLEY SR.	132.21
30108511	12/30/2020	SAMMA FOOD MART #3	6.79
30108512	12/30/2020	PITNEY BOWES	274.65
30108513	12/30/2020	SOUTHWESTERN VA GAS SERVI	721.24
30108514	12/30/2020	TOWN OF WYTHEVILLE	6,750.42
30108515	12/30/2020	VACORP	46,204.50
30108516	12/30/2020	VERIZON WIRELESS	120.13
30108517	12/30/2020	VITA	234.93
30108518	12/30/2020	WAMPLER EANES APPRAISAL G	9,146.25
30108519	12/30/2020	WYTHE CO DEPT OF SOCIAL S	2,175.52
30108520	12/30/2020	WYTHE CO WATER & WASTEWAT	319.25
30108521	12/30/2020	WYTHE-GRAYSON REGIONAL LI	1,553.16
30108522	12/30/2020	XEROX	26.35

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES 12/30/2020****\$117,627.10**

<b>CHECK #</b>	<b>ISSUE DATE</b>	<b>VENDOR</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
30108523	01/12/2021	AMAZON	\$ 25,452.63
30108524	01/12/2021	AMERICAN MINE RESEARCH IN	7,392.00
30108525	01/12/2021	APEX SOFTWARE	150.00
30108526	01/12/2021	APPALACHIAN POWER	1,317.47
30108527	01/12/2021	BLUE RIDGE ANALYTICAL, LL	1,265.00
30108528	01/12/2021	BUSINESS CARD	36.96
30108529	01/12/2021	BUSINESS CARD	918.15
30108530	01/12/2021	BUSINESS CARD	1,386.82
30108531	01/12/2021	BUSINESS CARD	1,942.74
30108532	01/12/2021	BUSINESS INFORMATION SYST	39.61
30108533	01/12/2021	CARILION HEALTHCARE CORP	183.00

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30108534	01/12/2021	CARTER MACHINERY CO INC	2,231.70
30108535	01/12/2021	CDW GOVERNMENT INC	266.05
30108536	01/12/2021	CENTURYLINK	4,960.50
30108537	01/12/2021	COM TEC	5,250.00
30108538	01/12/2021	CREATIVE GLASS INC	7,345.84
30108539	01/12/2021	DEPT OF MOTOR VEHICLES	3,100.00
30108540	01/12/2021	DIRECT DODGE	156,882.00
30108541	01/12/2021	DOMINION OF BEDFORD, INC	23,322.00
30108542	01/12/2021	FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER	2,812.00
30108543	01/12/2021	FERGUSON ENTERPRISES #5	377.88
30108544	01/12/2021	FIRE RESCUE AND TACTICAL	265.96
30108545	01/12/2021	FIRST DUE GEAR LLC	572.00
30108546	01/12/2021	FN WHOLESALE LIGHTING & S	640.80
30108547	01/12/2021	GALLS	29.74
30108548	01/12/2021	GENUINE PARTS COMPANY	68.93
30108549	01/12/2021	HORNEY, B GENE JR	108.68
30108550	01/12/2021	IVANHOE FIRE DEPT	3,647.43
30108551	01/12/2021	JASON'S AUTO SERVICE	128.99
30108552	01/12/2021	JOINT IDA OF WYTHE COUNTY	69,118.00
30108553	01/12/2021	JOINT PUBLIC SERVICE AUTH	44,129.68
30108554	01/12/2021	KING'S TIRE SERVICE INC	507.04
30108555	01/12/2021	KING-MOORE INC	1,417.00
30108556	01/12/2021	LACY, CAMPBELL & MUNIQUE	480.00
30108557	01/12/2021	MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY SERVI	101.00
30108558	01/12/2021	LEXISNEXIS	724.00
30108559	01/12/2021	LOWE'S	2,112.92
30108560	01/12/2021	MANSFIELD OIL CO	9,205.47
30108561	01/12/2021	MCROBERTS, COY L	128.80
30108562	01/12/2021	MEREDITH'S GARAGE	43.00
30108563	01/12/2021	MEREDITH, DAVID M	152.64
30108564	01/12/2021	QUADIENT FINANCE USA, INC	982.30
30108565	01/12/2021	NEW RIVER-HIGHLANDS RC&D	250.00
30108566	01/12/2021	PARTNERSHIP SCREENING INT	14.40
30108567	01/12/2021	R&R ENTERPRISES INC	950.00
30108568	01/12/2021	RENTAL HUB INC	8.07
30108569	01/12/2021	RURAL DEVELOPMENT	2,282.00
30108570	01/12/2021	RURAL DEVELOPMENT	2,514.00
30108571	01/12/2021	RURAL DEVELOPMENT	11,572.00
30108572	01/12/2021	RURAL RETREAT AUTO PARTS	16.97

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30108573	01/12/2021	SEGRA	31.25
30108574	01/12/2021	SMITH, JAMIE	28.64
30108575	01/12/2021	SMYTH WYTHE AIRPORT COMMI	13,430.00
30108576	01/12/2021	SOUTHWEST SOILS INC	1,025.00
30108577	01/12/2021	SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA EMS CO	1,750.00
30108578	01/12/2021	STRYKER SALES CORPORATION	4,579.20
30108579	01/12/2021	SUNTRUST	73,763.84
30108580	01/12/2021	TESSCO INC	409.15
30108581	01/12/2021	THOMPSON TIRE	1,903.24
30108582	01/12/2021	TOWN OF WYTHEVILLE	1,455.06
30108583	01/12/2021	TRANSUNION RISK & ALTERNA	50.00
30108584	01/12/2021	TWO WAY RADIO	19.00
30108585	01/12/2021	US CELLULAR	1,182.72
30108586	01/12/2021	V&M RECYCLING	68,085.52
30108587	01/12/2021	VACORP	33,894.00
30108588	01/12/2021	VAUGHT, BRIAN W	300.16
30108589	01/12/2021	VIRGINIA BUSINESS SYST	421.11
30108590	01/12/2021	VIRGINIA BUSINESS SYST	99.38
30108591	01/12/2021	VITA	145.26
30108592	01/12/2021	VITA	180.62
30108593	01/12/2021	WAMPLER EANES APPRAISAL G	6,707.25
30108594	01/12/2021	WYTHE CO HEALTH DEPT	91,541.50
30108595	01/12/2021	WYTHE TIRE AND MUFFLER	40.00
30108596	01/12/2021	WYTHE-GRAYSON REGIONAL LI	81,113.75
30108597	01/12/2021	WYTHEVILLE OFFICE SUPPLY	1,351.39
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES 01/12/2021</b>			<b>\$782,311.21</b>

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES APPROVED 01/12/2021** **\$899,938.31**

Supervisor Horney 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 MEETING**

The Board was presented with the December 22, 2020 minutes for approval.

Supervisor McRoberts made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Smith, to approve the December 22, 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

**AUDIT REPORT, CORBIN STONE**

Mr. Corbin Stone of Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates ("RFC"), appeared before the Board to present an overview of the FY20 Audit Report.

Wythe County received an unqualified opinion which means RFC feels the financial statements are materially correct. Mr. Stone feels the County is in pretty good shape, financially, especially in light of COVID when many other institutions are struggling.

A couple areas of improvement were noted but nothing crucial or uncommon. Some journal entries were recommended, and issues with internal controls were also noted.

Unrestricted Funds in the General Fund are \$38M at the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2020). At the end of FY19, the balance was \$39M. Mr. Stone said that this is the highest it's been over the past 10 years.

Long Term Obligations (pensions, bonds, etc.) is at \$53M.

Enterprise Fund (Water and Sewer) was just under \$25M.

School Board Long Term Obligations came in at \$44M.

The total Long-Term Obligations is \$123M.

The per capita basis is \$4,326 which is under the State average of \$5,814. In addition, the County's long-term liabilities are not as high as the average county in Virginia.

Mr. Stone added that the Water/Sewer Funds net position dropped to just under \$30M which has remained fairly stable since 2013.

Regarding revenue, Mr. Stone reported that general property taxes have grown well (going back to 2007) which helps make up for other local taxes that remain flat (sales tax, meals, lodging, etc.).

State Aid has not moved much since 2007; however, Mr. Stone said we can expect to see an increase next year in Federal Aid due to the CARES Act. Post-COVID, the Federal Aid will decrease.

Public Service Corporation Assessment has grown considerably (railroads, power companies, telecommunications, etc.).

State Aid to the School Fund spiked in 2009 then dropped after the recession. Mr. Stone said that we're just now getting back to 2009 levels (statewide). Federal Aid to the schools is still lagging behind 2007 levels.

No major recommendations on the audit are warranted; however, they do recommend allowing County Administrator to move appropriations between departments to allow for end-of-year purchases (received in one fiscal year but paid for in the next).

Mr. Stone commented that the County staff did a "wonderful job" to provide all the information necessary to complete this audit, most of which had to be provided electronically due to the pandemic. His firm was able to complete the audit early due, in part, to County staff responsiveness to document requests.

New accounting standards will be implemented in a few years as COVID delayed the implementation of those standards now.

Chair Vaught asked about unrestricted funds and if the decrease is typical with other localities?

Mr. Stone replied that he has seen significant drops from other localities.

## APPOINTMENTS

Hearing no objection from any Board member, Chair Vaught made the following appointments:

1. Budget Committee – Chair Vaught reappointed Supervisor Smith, Supervisor Terry and himself to the Budget Committee for 2021.
2. Building and Grounds Committee – Chair Vaught reappointed Supervisor McRoberts, Supervisor Cook and himself to the Building and Grounds Committee for 2021.
3. Economic Development Committee – Chair Vaught reappointed Supervisor Terry, Supervisor Smith and Supervisor Cook to the Economic Development Committee for 2021.
4. Fire and Rescue Committee – Chair Vaught reappointed Vice Chair Lawson, Supervisor McRoberts and Supervisor Terry to the Fire and Rescue Committee for 2021.
5. Liaison - Clerk of the Circuit Court – Chair Vaught reappointed Supervisor Terry to serve as Clerk of the Circuit Court Liaison for 2021.
6. Liaison – Commissioner of the Revenue – Chair Vaught reappointed Vice Chair Lawson to serve as Commissioner of the Revenue Liaison for 2021.
7. Liaison – Commonwealth Attorney – Chair Vaught reappointed himself to serve as Commonwealth Attorney Liaison for 2021.
8. Liaison – Commissioner of the Revenue – Chair Vaught reappointed Vice Chair Lawson to serve as Commissioner of the Revenue Liaison for 2021.
9. Liaison – Planning Commission – Chair Vaught reappointed Vice Chair Lawson to serve as Planning Commission Liaison for 2021.
10. Liaison – Recreation Commission – Chair Vaught reappointed Supervisor Smith to serve as Recreation Commission Liaison for 2021.
11. Liaison – School Board – Chair Vaught reappointed Supervisor Smith to serve as School Board Liaison for 2021.

12. Liaison – Sheriff – Chair Vaught reappointed Supervisor Smith to serve as Sheriff Liaison for 2021.
13. Liaison – Treasurer – Chair Vaught reappointed Supervisor McRoberts to serve as Treasurer Liaison for 2021.
14. Personnel Committee – Chair Vaught reappointed Vice Chair Lawson, Supervisor Smith and Supervisor Cook to the Personnel Committee for 2021.
15. Town/County Committee – Rural Retreat – Chair Vaught reappointed himself and Supervisor Horney to the Rural Retreat Town/County Committee for 2021.
16. Town/County Committee – Wytheville – Chair Vaught reappointed Vice Chair Lawson and Supervisor Cook to the Wytheville Town/County Committee for 2021.
17. Water and Wastewater Committee – Chair Vaught reappointed Supervisor Horney, Supervisor McRoberts and Supervisor Cook to the Water and Wastewater Committee for 2021.

Regarding all other Board appointments, motions were made and passed unanimously on the following:

1. Chief Local Elected Official Board – NR/MR Workforce Investment Board – Supervisor Smith made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, to reappoint Chair Vaught to the Chief Local Elected Official Board.
2. District III Governmental Cooperative - Supervisor Smith made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, to reappoint Chair Vaught to District III Governmental Cooperative.
3. District III Governmental Cooperative Alternate - Supervisor Smith made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, to reappoint Supervisor Cook to serve as District III Governmental Cooperative Alternate.
4. Insurance Committee – Supervisor Smith made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, to reappoint all Insurance Committee members.

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5. Joint Industrial Development Authority – Supervisor Smith made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, to reappoint Matt Clarke to the Joint Industrial Development Authority.
6. Joint Public Service Authority - Wythe & Bland Counties – Supervisor Smith made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, to reappoint Dickie Pack to the Joint Public Service Authority – Wythe & Bland Counties.
7. Mount Rogers Planning District Commission Transportation Technical Committee – Supervisor Smith made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, to reappoint Johnny Kincer to the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission Transportation Technical Committee.
8. Mountain Community Action Program – Supervisor Smith made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, to reappoint Supervisor Cook to the Mountain Community Action Program.
9. Mountain Community Action Program – Vice Chair Lawson made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Cook, to appoint Rachel Jones to the Mountain Community Action Program.
10. New River Community Corrections Board – Supervisor Smith made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, to reappoint Chair Vaught to the New River Community Corrections Board.
11. New River Highlands Resource Conservation and Development Council – Supervisor Horney made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Terry, to appoint Phyl Snapp to the New River Highlands Resource Conservation and Development Council and to reappoint John Huffard to serve as Alternate.
12. New River Valley Regional Jail Authority – Supervisor Smith made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, to reappoint Chair Vaught to the New River Valley Regional Jail Authority.
13. New River Valley Regional Jail Authority – Alternate – Supervisor Smith made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, to reappoint Stephen Bear to serve as Alternate to the New River Valley Regional Jail Authority.

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14. Ninth District Development Financing Inc. Board of Directors (People Incorporated) – Supervisor Smith made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, to reappoint Jennifer Atwell to the Ninth District Development Financing Inc. Board of Directors.

## BUDGET COMMITTEE

1. Water Utility Bills Bulk Mailing – Supervisor Smith made a motion, as recommended by the Budget Committee, to amend and appropriate \$11,978 to 4401-453010 to cover the outstanding amount owed to CSG Systems for the mailing of the bulk water utility bills.

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. CARES Non-Profit Assistance Grant – Supervisor Smith made a motion, as recommended by the Budget Committee, to approve the CARES Non-Profit Assistance Grants for Agape Food Pantry (\$12,000) and Wythe-Bland Young Professionals (\$7,500).

Vice Chair Lawson asked if the other non-profits are being deferred or declined?

Mr. Bear said that now we have additional time to provide CARES Act funding, others will be considered after it is determined how much money is left and how best to disburse it.

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

**FOUR FOR LIFE**

Mr. Hankins explained that this is an annual grant that traditionally has been split three ways between Lead Mines Rescue Squad ("LMRS"), Rural Retreat Volunteer Emergency Services ("RRVES") and Wythe County. But since Wythe County no longer has their own emergency services, this grant will be split between LMRS and RRVES. Mr. Hankins requests approval of the grant and the resolution to amend and appropriate accordingly.

Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Smith, to approve the annual grant funding, split between Lead Mines Rescue Squad and Rural Retreat Emergency Services, and to adopt the resolution to amend and appropriate.

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

**BARRETT MILL PER ENGINEERING AGREEMENT**

Mr. Bear stated that this is Peed & Bortz's proposed agreement which has been forwarded to Rural Development for review. Mr. Bear requests authorization to sign the agreement, contingent upon Rural Development's approval, in order to move this project along expeditiously.

Supervisor Cook made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Horney, to approve the Barrett Mill PER Engineering Agreement and authorize the County Administrator to execute.

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	

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NAYS: None

### **AUSTINVILLE SEWER PROJECT BOND COUNSEL**

Mr. Bear commented that this project is for the previously approved sewer rehabilitation project, and he is now requesting approval of Webster Day's proposal to provide bond counsel services.

Vice Chair Lawson made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Horney, to approve the proposal from Webster Day to provide bond counsel services for the Austinville Sewer Project.

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

### **BROADBAND STUDY**

Mr. Hankins explained that this is for the broadband study (paid by CARES Act funding) in order to increase access and provide better service (i.e. high-speed internet access). Over 1,800 surveys were received that provided very good information. A preliminary report has been issued which Mr. Hankins and Mr. Bear are reviewing. The report is very thorough with excellent recommendations and how best to move forward. Some citizens raised concern that their property taxes may go up as a result, or that a new Broadband Authority be created, but such is not the case here. Mr. Hankins recommends the Board set up a work session on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00 p.m. so the consultant can come in, present their findings, and solicit feedback/advice from the Board.

Chair Vaught said some people misunderstood and were concerned that the County was possibly interested in going into the internet business, but he made clear that is not happening. It is hoped that the County, through grant funding, can entice or help existing companies expand their services.

Mr. Hankins added that we hope to solicit new companies to offer new services that are not currently available to Wythe County residents.



## **SUPERVISORS' REPORTS**

1. Conners Valley Road – Supervisor Smith asked if there were any updates on Conners Valley Road. Mr. Fowler sent someone down to look at the affected area and it would be great if Mr. Bear could find out what transpired.
2. Lead Mines Rescue Squad – Supervisor Smith relayed Cody Jackson's thanks to everyone for the non-profit CARES Act funding which is greatly appreciated.

Mr. Bear added that Supervisor McRoberts had a concern regarding the type of tires put on the vehicle (drive tires on the rear). Mr. Hankins will reach out to the company tomorrow.

3. Water/Sewer at Exit 84 – Supervisor Smith is still receiving inquiries about getting water and sewer on the south side of I-81.

Mr. Bear spoke with one of the landowners and he also followed up with the company who had expressed interest. Mr. Bear said that the County could certainly get a residual benefit from water and sewer in that area, and that we will continue to try and come up with an economically feasible way to accomplish this.

4. Progress Park Bow Hunting – Supervisor Smith would prefer to have bow hunting only at Progress Park, and having it during the October-January time period. He suggested having a lottery that would allow people to hunt every two weeks. He would also like to have an Earn-A-Buck tag or process where you must kill a doe before killing a buck.

Chair Vaught suggested that this might be something Mr. Williams (Parks & Recreation) can work on since there aren't any recreation programs going on at this time.

Supervisor Smith said that Mr. Williams could work with Mr. Bill Bassinger of the Department of Game & Inland Fisheries, with whom Supervisor Smith has been speaking.

5. Vice Chair Thank You – Vice Chair Lawson thanked everyone for allowing her the opportunity to serve as Vice Chair. She can hardly believe that this is her fourth year on the Board of Supervisors.

6. Rescue Squad Board Meeting – Supervisor McRoberts attended the Rescue Squad board meeting last night and their main concern is personnel retention. People seem to be leaving for higher paid positions elsewhere. He said they can't afford to lose any more staff especially during this pandemic. Supervisor McRoberts mentioned that the ambulances are very nice.
7. Road Issue (Ongoing) – Supervisor Horney asked Mr. Bear to reach out to VDOT about the mud issue.
8. School Buses – Supervisor Horney received a call that during virtual school, buses weren't running due to bad roads. For those kids that don't have internet access at home, they are forced to go elsewhere to get it. If the roads are too bad for the buses to run, how can we put the kids out on those same roads? He understands this is a School Board issue but one that should be brought to their attention.
9. Trash – Supervisor Horney asked if there's an ordinance that requires people to cover their trash with netting or similar material when transporting it to prevent it from falling off all over the road.

Chair Vaught said there is a State law under "Failure to Secure Load". The problem is that someone has to see it to report it. Dump trucks, by law, need to have a tarp.

While it might be worth looking into, Mr. Bear is not sure we have the authority to establish an ordinance.

10. Chair Thank You – Chair Vaught echoed comments by the Vice Chair, and that he appreciates the confidence the Board has in him by re-electing him as Chair.
11. Rural Retreat Emergency Services Vehicle – Chair Vaught looked at the new vehicle for RRVES. He noted that a lot of money was saved by using CARES Act funding.

The Chair asked Mr. Hankins to check on the tires for that vehicle too. Regarding tags for the vehicle, RRVES asked how long it will take – and they asked about radio installation.

Mr. Bear responded that an appointment is scheduled with DMV for tags/registration.

Mr. Hankins responded that Mrs. Lang is pricing the radios now.

Chair Vaught also said that RRVES asked about getting an SUV from the Sheriff's Office (surplus).

Mr. Bear responded that he will work with them to determine which of the surplus vehicles suit them best and transfer accordingly.

12. Crawfish Road – Chair Vaught asked if there were any updates.

Mr. Bear said he tried contacting VDOT today but he hasn't heard back yet. He will follow-up again with Mr. Fowler.

13. Vehicle Maintenance – Supervisor McRoberts commented that LMRS has instituted an excellent way of servicing their vehicles on a regular basis.

Mr. Bear said that water matters and the closed session will be scheduled for the next meeting. He also added that our video computer has died so there won't be a video of tonight's meeting, but staff are working on getting the audio posted on our website.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business to come before the Board, Chair Vaught adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:02 p.m.

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Brian W. Vaught, Chair