

**February 9, 2021**

The Wythe County Board of Supervisors held its regularly scheduled meeting at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 9, 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  
 Stacy A. Terry

**ABSENT:**

James D. "Jamie" Smith

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Stephen D. Bear, County Administrator  
 Matthew C. Hankins, Assistant County Administrator  
 Don Martin, Assistant County Attorney  
 Martha Collins, Administrative Assistant/Clerk  
 Don Crisp, Water/Wastewater Director

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Barry Ayers  
 Kim Ayers  
 William & Katherine Conaway  
 Charlie Foster  
 Laura Heldreth  
 Crystal Holliday  
 Gus Kincer

Zach Lester  
 Linda Meyer  
 Dicky Morgan  
 Teresa Taylor  
 Brenda Thomas  
 Jack Weaver

**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**

Assistant County Administrator, Matt Hankins, provided the invocation and Supervisor Cook led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CITIZENS' TIME**

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

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1. Water – Mr. Jack Weaver appeared before the Board and stated “Thank you Mr. Chairman, members of the board, good to see y’all. I’m making my semi-annual trip down here. I came to talk to you as usual about water. I know the last time I was here you talked about a study underway or being made to determine the water needs up 11 and I take it that’s probably going on. I’ve gotten some things in the mail but I guess I would ask is that still ongoing; have we got a study made or any completion on it? For your consideration, I want to give you some numbers that are authentically correct. This was done at a cost, as I recall, of \$20k or more for the Town of Rural Retreat. Brian, you might remember that more, how much it cost the Town. I don’t know but I think it was in the \$20k range. In fact, it’s the same cost as the study that has been conducted twice before in reference in the past by other agencies. There’s not a need for a third study, in my opinion, but update this study. But if you still desire for a third study, then you should use these two studies to confirm and check the new study. In fact, I beg of you to please do so. Be informed because they are great studies, particularly, this last one that was made. That study acts as a 40-page study addressing concerns and solutions. The study was conducted to address the feasibility of adding rural water sources to the existing water system. The recommended project provides a new water treatment and already existing but inactive water source, which was used several years by the Town of Rural Retreat. I can remember when Staley’s was used. To update it, it can be done rather easily by bringing in a power-packaged water treatment plant at the existing site, plus add water to the vacant stretch of Wythe County not being served. And it’s sort of amazing that little stretch not being served, we came all the way from Pulaski to that point and we just can’t seem to get that other three miles and something. In addition to the project, it includes connection to the Smyth County waterline which is already into Wythe County, they have two or maybe three houses in Wythe County now that’s being served by the Smyth County waterline. Now this project will include the upgrading of the already in existence water source and the inter-connecting of the line. The project includes a 420k gallon per day membrane treatment facility plus 14,900 feet of 8” pipe. This addition will provide a drinking water source for Wythe County and eastern Smyth County for the next 40 years. Forty years, folks, for I’m giving you a plan on. The cost estimate is \$893k. The piping distribution system construction improvements estimate at \$434k. Another \$393k added for all other costs including legal, engineering and miscellaneous. All that is needed to put this plan in motion are inter-municipal agreements to identify facility costs sharing between Wythe County, Rural Retreat and Smyth County, and applying for funding from multiple sources. And there are several grants out there that are viable. In fact, last week, many millions were

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extended for improvements to sewer and water by the Appalachian Regional Commission. The time is right and now just takes willing minds to make it happen. I know in emails between Mr. Terry and myself, I think if Wythe County tries this alone, you're just going to be deeper in debt and deficit and probably cost three times that. It's just a no-win situation for you. But let me tell you why it works for 40 years. I think you're being led down a wrong path if thinking Smyth County is going to be the benefactor for your current water problem situation – it's not. Population projections for eastern Smyth County is from the year 2000-2040 is 572 net growth. That is projected people pulling power you have. The water usage projections from 2010-2050 will only be 151,290 gallon increase. That will be a no brainer from the figures given you previously. These are not Jack Weaver's figures. These are professional engineering figures, in fact, it's a very detailed report and if any of you need a copy sometime, I can make you a copy or you can get it probably from the County. I imagine Stephen has that. But this is it, and it goes into great detail; it tells you how you can pay for it. It also gives you four options. Now this is a much simpler plan than what I think you guys are working on. So, I'm encouraging you to take serious consideration of what I'm offering you. I'm offering you 40 years of solving water problems in these three areas. Thank you. If you have any questions, I'll be glad to try and answer them."

2. Speedwell Feed Lot – Ms. Linda Meyer appeared before the Board and stated "I'm here on the continuing saga of the Speedwell feed lot. We're getting into another Spring, we're all going to be choking. There is manure up to your knees on the entire top of that hill which is visible. I'd like you guys to please get in touch with DEQ. We need to get ground water samples. We need to be concerned about contamination to local drinking water, even though a great many people still are connected to a water system. There are people that do not have municipal water there. And then, of course, contamination of Cripple Creek that runs behind the feed lot area. That's a recreational stream for fishing and so on and so forth that goes down to Cripple Creek and goes through Ravens Cliff and ends up in the New River. So, I'm asking you guys to once again call, contact DEQ and get some ground water studies going on the area so we can keep track of what's happening or what is not happening and what is going on with our feed lot issue because the last paperwork I have was 2014. All of a sudden it's 2021. We have seen nothing really happen. So, it's about time and I've created a paper trail and I'd like you guys to also create a paper trail with DEQ and copy me on all of that so I can keep track of it. And we really need to step up to the plate. Speedwell is over 240 years old and there's no reason why the local Speedwell hamlet should have to suffer the extensive damage from this feed lot operation that we, in fact,

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are not getting any positive revenues or whatever from. Okay, that's number one."

3. Dominion Voting Machines – Mrs. Meyer continued "The second thing, on behalf of all voters in Southwest Virginia, I'd like to ask you guys to voice your displeasure with the Dominion Voting apparatus. We're all aware of all the anomalies and all the things that have been happening. Virginia can do a better job. I would ask all of you to contact your state legislators and our federal legislators and ask them to look into and do a forensic study of all the Dominion stuff. And you guys are into – or – let's say what - you're members of the Association of Counties and this is something that the Association of Counties should also be taking up to make sure that all the votes from people in Virginia are counted accurately, and we don't have to put up with people that are not from here, perhaps causing problems in our voting system. And I'd also like to urge you to have a paper trail of that so we can ask whomever whether it be the Board of Elections or the Association of Counties, the congressmen, senators, state reps and so on and get a paper trail going about that and everything that's happening with Dominion. Thank you so much."

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

### **PAYMENT OF COUNTY INVOICES**

Supervisor McRoberts made a motion to pay the invoices for approval on February 9, 2021, for the various departments of County government. The invoices were paid on General Warrants 30108675-30108776 as follows:

### **EXPENDITURES BY DEPARTMENT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS February 9, 2021**

<b>CHECK #</b>	<b>ISSUE DATE</b>	<b>VENDOR</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
30108675	02/09/2021	AMAZON	\$ 1,261.46
30108676	02/09/2021	APPALACHIAN POWER	2,077.35
30108677	02/09/2021	ATMOS ENERGY	85.31
30108678	02/09/2021	AXON ENTERPRISE INC	7,863.00
30108679	02/09/2021	BARREN SPRINGS VOL FIRE D	8,593.48
30108680	02/09/2021	BLUE RIDGE ANALYTICAL, LL	1,310.00
30108681	02/09/2021	BLUEFIELD GLASS & INTERIO	5,572.32
30108682	02/09/2021	BROWN EXTERMINATING CO	375.00

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30108683	02/09/2021	BUSINESS CARD	3,092.99
30108684	02/09/2021	BUSINESS INFORMATION SYST	49.37
30108685	02/09/2021	CARILION HEALTHCARE CORP	187.00
30108686	02/09/2021	CAVALIER SUPPLY CO	1,519.05
30108687	02/09/2021	CDW GOVERNMENT INC	1,268.67
30108688	02/09/2021	CELLEBRITE	4,300.00
30108689	02/09/2021	CENTURYLINK	49.99
30108690	02/09/2021	CITIZENS TELEPHONE COOP	1,959.90
30108691	02/09/2021	CLAWA ENTERPRISE, INC.	100.00
30108692	02/09/2021	COM TEC	3,790.73
30108693	02/09/2021	CREATIVE GLASS INC	220.00
30108694	02/09/2021	CW WARTHEN	418.37
30108695	02/09/2021	DELL MARKETING LP	2,129.44
30108696	02/09/2021	DEPT OF MOTOR VEHICLES	3,050.00
30108697	02/09/2021	DESIGN NINE INC	12,916.67
30108698	02/09/2021	DIRECT DODGE	88.29
30108699	02/09/2021	DUKE'S PRINTING	224.19
30108700	02/09/2021	FIRE RESCUE AND TACTICAL	117.00
30108701	02/09/2021	GAYLORD BROS INC	352.40
30108702	02/09/2021	GENUINE PARTS COMPANY	159.99
30108703	02/09/2021	GRUBB FUNERAL HOME	918.97
30108704	02/09/2021	HEIDI D. LYALL	86.25
30108705	02/09/2021	INTERNATIONAL CITY/COUNTY	786.59
30108706	02/09/2021	IVANHOE FIRE DEPT	1,912.25
30108707	02/09/2021	JOHNSON CONTROL FIRE PROT	18,556.88
30108708	02/09/2021	JOINT PUBLIC SERVICE AUTH	38,789.92
30108709	02/09/2021	KING, CHRIS C	82.80
30108710	02/09/2021	KING-MOORE INC	468.00
30108711	02/09/2021	LANE GROUP	2,800.00
30108712	02/09/2021	MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY SERVI	19,098.00
30108713	02/09/2021	LEXISNEXIS	217.00
30108714	02/09/2021	LEXISNEXIS	724.00
30108715	02/09/2021	MATTHEW BENDER & CO INC	204.10
30108716	02/09/2021	MAX MEADOWS FIRE DEPT	6,926.48
30108717	02/09/2021	MEREDITH'S GARAGE	49.00
30108718	02/09/2021	MIDKIFF, DAVID P	103.50
30108719	02/09/2021	MAILFINANCE INC	474.00
30108720	02/09/2021	NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL	185,164.95
30108721	02/09/2021	OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDIC	20.00

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30108722	02/09/2021	BOBBY EPPERSON	97.29
30108723	02/09/2021	CHARLENE FOWLER	30.00
30108724	02/09/2021	CHUCK NIXON	30.00
30108725	02/09/2021	DANIEL ARNOLD	30.00
30108726	02/09/2021	EDNA PARKS	30.00
30108727	02/09/2021	JOSH CARTER	62.86
30108728	02/09/2021	STEPHEN FOLEY	30.00
30108729	02/09/2021	OWEN G DUNN CO	535.00
30108730	02/09/2021	PAPER CLIP	1,404.00
30108731	02/09/2021	PITNEY BOWES INC	128.97
30108732	02/09/2021	R&C TOWING & REPAIR CO	125.00
30108733	02/09/2021	REGION I VBCOA	60.00
30108734	02/09/2021	RURAL DEVELOPMENT	2,282.00
30108735	02/09/2021	RURAL DEVELOPMENT	2,514.00
30108736	02/09/2021	RURAL DEVELOPMENT	11,572.00
30108737	02/09/2021	RURAL RETREAT AUTO PARTS	64.06
30108738	02/09/2021	SEGRA	31.25
30108739	02/09/2021	SIRCHIE FINGER PRINT LABO	188.50
30108740	02/09/2021	SOUTHWESTERN VA GAS SERVI	3,580.93
30108741	02/09/2021	SPATIAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS,	450.00
30108742	02/09/2021	SPEEDWELL FIRE DEPT	1,365.89
30108743	02/09/2021	SUNTRUST	36,881.92
30108744	02/09/2021	SURE-FLO INC	689.08
30108745	02/09/2021	TESLA ELECTRIC SERV	2,869.37
30108746	02/09/2021	TESSCO INC	7,010.19
30108747	02/09/2021	THOMPSON TIRE	233.42
30108748	02/09/2021	THOMPSON TIRE	364.92
30108749	02/09/2021	THREE RIVERS MEDIA CORP	990.00
30108750	02/09/2021	TIDEWATER FLEET SUPPLY LL	9,688.05
30108751	02/09/2021	TREASURER OF WYTHE COUNTY	13.38
30108752	02/09/2021	TYLER TECHNOLOGIES INC	55,051.25
30108753	02/09/2021	UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA	25.00
30108754	02/09/2021	US CELLULAR	1,182.72
30108755	02/09/2021	USA BLUE BOOK	961.11
30108756	02/09/2021	V&M RECYCLING	73,670.64
30108757	02/09/2021	VERIZON WIRELESS	1,519.09
30108758	02/09/2021	VIRGINIA BUSINESS SYST	19.70
30108759	02/09/2021	VISION GOVERNMENT SOLUTIO	29,987.20
30108760	02/09/2021	VITA	145.26

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30108761	02/09/2021	VITA	184.87
30108762	02/09/2021	VITA	204.26
30108763	02/09/2021	VRAV	200.00
30108764	02/09/2021	WALK, ROBERT H	92.00
30108765	02/09/2021	WAMPLER EANES APPRAISAL G	8,536.50
30108766	02/09/2021	WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERAT	185.00
30108767	02/09/2021	WILSON, DOUGLAS E	65.55
30108768	02/09/2021	WORDSPRINT	49.00
30108769	02/09/2021	WYTHE CO WATER & WASTEWAT	331.63
30108770	02/09/2021	WYTHE TIRE AND MUFFLER	447.95
30108771	02/09/2021	WYTHEVILLE COMMUNITY COLL	5.99
30108772	02/09/2021	WYTHEVILLE COMMUNITY COLL	11,410.00
30108773	02/09/2021	WYTHEVILLE ENTERPRISE	81.95
30108774	02/09/2021	WYTHEVILLE OFFICE SUPPLY	1,339.69
30108775	02/09/2021	WYTHEVILLE-WYTHE-BLAND	925.00
30108776	02/09/2021	XEROX	186.67
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES 02/09/2021</b>			<b>\$610,674.77</b>

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES APPROVED 02/09/2021** **\$610,674.77**

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: James D. "Jamie" Smith

### MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Board was presented with the January 26, 2021 minutes for approval.

Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Cook, to approve the January 26, 2021 minutes as presented.

The roll call vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Brian W. Vaught	Coy L. McRoberts
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Rolland R. Cook  
Ryan M. Lawson

B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.  
Stacy A. Terry

NAYS: None

ABSENT: James D. "Jamie" Smith

### **DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES REPORT – KIMBERLY AYERS**

Ms. Kimberly Ayers appeared before the Board to provide an update on the Department of Social Services.

Ms. Ayers began by stating they are a State-supervised, locally-administered entity in Wythe County, which basically means they report to both the State and County, which includes several State partners. Presently, they have 50 employees, and currently have contract services for IT and legal. Of the 26 years Ms. Ayers has been in Virginia (with a couple years in WV), 18 of those years have been in Wythe County and she is very proud to be part of Wythe County.

Ms. Ayers said that most people have no idea of all the services DSS provides to the community from medical assistance, job loss, elder care and so much more. While Wythe County enjoys a lower poverty and unemployment rate than our neighbors, approximately 1/3 of our population receives some type of assistance from DSS. At the onset of the pandemic, they saw a 150% increase in SNAP applications (former food stamp program). They also saw a significant increase from 2019-2020 in Medicaid applications and even more so since the pandemic.

DSS also provides temporary assistance for needy families, as well as the VIEW program (education and work assistance), child care program, energy assistance, VJCCA assistance, foster care, child and adult protective services. During the pandemic, while their case load has remained relatively the same, the cases got more intense and complex. They have prevention and in-home services to prevent kids from entering the foster care system. DSS also has a fraud program, and the Shop-With-A-Cop program has been great thanks to Chairman Vaught. Shop-With-A-Cop served over 100 kids this past Christmas.

Ms. Ayers added that DSS operates emergency shelters, per Code, and that they are very happy to have Mr. McCabe on board to provide a set of "fresh eyes" to this operation.



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The Department of Social Services has 84.5% reimbursement on administrative overhead with some programs being 100% reimbursement from the County. Ms. Ayers' board has devised ways to maximize the return back to the locality.

Ms. Ayers reported that during FY20, the Board of Supervisors invested just over \$1.7M into the DSS budget. The return revenue to the locality was estimated to be over \$80.3M (SNAP, Medicaid, child care, adoption assistance, etc.). the Federal government (due to COVID) provided a maximum allotment during the pandemic and relaxed some of their eligibility rules.

Ms. Ayers extended her thanks to the Board of Supervisors for the CARES Act funding which has allowed them to continue to operate, albeit in a different fashion. She and her staff are very grateful to be fully vaccinated, and she said the Health Department has been very good to work with throughout the vaccine process. DSS is also very appreciative of the vehicle they received through CARES Act funding. The vehicle has additional space allowing passengers to sit further apart. The mitigation procedures they're utilizing with PPE, supplies and other barriers, are very much appreciated.

Ms. Ayers announced that, sadly, they are losing their CSA Coordinator, Ms. Sonya Ramsey. CSA (Children Services Act) is another program they operate. DSS coordinates staffing and manages the CSA program for at-risk youth. They serve 64 kids presently in our community. She also touched upon the CPMT and FAPT programs and what they encompass. In closing, Ms. Ayers thanked Mr. Bear and the Board of Supervisors for all their support.

Vice Chair Lawson extended her thanks to DSS for all they do.

Chair Vaught mentioned that he was at Circuit Court one day and learned the DSS fraud investigator had brought in \$14k from a fraud case. The Chairman stated the investigator does a great job getting money from fraudulent claims.

Ms. Ayers responded that the last recoupment numbers were about \$77k thanks to their robust fraud program and the efforts of their investigator.

Ms. Brenda Thomas, Fiscal Manager for DSS, provided the Board with a rundown of their budget and local spending. She explained that DSS actually runs three different budgets. To date, they have spent about 55% of local funding and expect to have an overage of approximately \$55-56k this year. For CSA, they've spent about 54% and expect to have around \$47k left of local funding (based on straight-line projection).

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They spend around \$1.9M in CSA. Ms. Thomas invited the Board to come over anytime to learn and see more of what they do.

Mr. Bear added that DSS does a good job of managing their budgets, which can be pretty convoluted with State and Federal and local funding all mixed in. They do very well keeping their costs under control. He noted there is no way of controlling or managing the CSA budget as it is solely based on historical activity. Mr. Bear appreciates the hard work of Ms. Thomas and DSS as a whole.

Chair Vaught singled out Ms. Laura Heldreth and congratulated her on her son's remarkable recognition placing 3rd in the nation to receive the 2021 AFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers Achievement Award.

### **WATER DEPARTMENT AND COVID-19 MUNICIPAL UTILITY RELIEF PROGRAM**

Mr. Don Crisp, Director of the Water/Wastewater Department, appeared before the Board to provide an update on his department and to explain the COVID-19 Municipal Utility Relief program.

Mr. Crisp reported that they applied for a grant through the Department of Housing & Community Development to assist customers who had fallen behind with their utility payments due to COVID-19. Money is allocated to the County and the Board of Supervisors can accept and apply it to customers' accounts that are in arrears for 30 days or more. Mr. Crisp said customers must first submit an application to determine whether or not they are eligible to receive this relief.

Mr. Bear has reviewed the documentation and recommends acceptance. He said while the concept appears simple, it's actually a complicated process.

Supervisor Cook made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Horney, to accept the COVID-19 Municipal Utility Relief Grant and to authorize the County Administrator and Water/Wastewater Director to execute necessary paperwork.

The Chair asked if this relief is available to businesses as well as individuals.

Mr. Crisp replied that it is open to businesses and it would be up to the County to administer.

The roll call vote on the motion was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: James D. "Jamie" Smith

Mr. Crisp added that the State disconnection moratorium prohibits disconnection of utility service until such time as the moratorium is lifted. The Water/Wastewater Department is working out the details to notify affected customers. It also requires the Water Department to set up a payment plan for those customers who can't pay due to COVID-related issues. This is separate from the Municipal Utility Relief program.

Chair Vaught asked about the water study that Mr. Weaver spoke about.

Mr. Crisp explained that Smyth County initiated the process of a potential interconnect with Wythe County. He believes that some funding was received from Mount Rogers to pay for the PER. Smyth County wanted to see what it would take to get water from Wythe County to Smyth and determine the related costs. Apparently, those cost estimates have been narrowed down and they are now establishing water rates.

Mr. Bear added that the engineer doing the study met with the Town of Rural Retreat recently to further discussions about their involvement.

#### **WYTHE OPPORTUNITY FUND PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT – KLOCKNER**

Mr. Bear stated that this Board approved a performance agreement for Klockner back in November but Klockner came back with a few revisions. The County Attorney has reviewed the changes (nothing substantial) that were added under the "Miscellaneous" section of agreement.

Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Cook, to authorize the County Administrator to sign the Wythe Opportunity Fund Performance Agreement for Klockner Pentaplast 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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: James D. "Jamie" Smith

**WYTHE COUNTY RULES OF PROCEDURE AMENDMENT**

Mr. Bear explained that the Rules of Procedure did not address the Board meeting electronically, by quorum, during emergencies in order to maintain the continuity of government. The proposed amendment was reviewed by the County Attorney.

Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, to consider the proposed amendment at the next Board of Supervisors' meeting.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: James D. "Jamie" Smith

**VACATION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY REQUEST**

Ms. Wanda Hillenberg Smith submitted a request to vacate a portion of the alleyway in the Max Meadows community.

Supervisor McRoberts made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Terry, to set a Public Hearing on March 9, 2021 at 6:05 p.m. to consider the Right-of-Way request from Wanda Hillenberg Smith.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: James D. "Jamie" Smith

**FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT EXTENSION**

Mr. Bear reported that the COVID-related, paid sick leave expired on December 31, 2020 and it is requested that the Board approve an extension. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act allows for companies/businesses to extend paid sick leave through March 31, 2021.

Supervisor Horney made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Terry, to approve extending the Families First Coronavirus Response Act until March 31, 2021.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: James D. "Jamie" Smith

**VDH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT**

Mr. Bear explained that this is the annual agreement for FY21, stipulating the total amount for Wythe County in the amount of \$366,166. That amount was included in the current year's budget and he, therefore, recommends approval of the agreement.

Supervisor McRoberts made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, to approve the Virginia Department of Health Local Government Agreement.

Chair Vaught said he thought the General Assembly or the Governor had proposed a different funding formula that would lessen the financial burden on localities.

Mr. Bear confirmed there is a revised funding formula and, as proposed, most counties would see a reduction in their financial contribution.

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.





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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: James D. "Jamie" Smith

3. Lead Mines Rescue Squad Ambulance – Supervisor Terry made a motion, as recommended by the Budget Committee, to amend and appropriate \$40,000 to 9000-470234 (Capital Projects) as a match to the Rescue Squad Assistance Fund 80/20 grant to purchase a new ambulance for Lead Mines Rescue Squad. This amount was previously budgeted for this purpose.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: James D. "Jamie" Smith

4. Wytheville Fire Department Annual Payment – Supervisor Terry made a motion, as recommended by the Budget Committee, to amend and appropriate \$104,246 to 32026-461400 (Wytheville Fire Department) for the annual payment as agreed to in the February 2020 Emergency Services Agreement.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: James D. "Jamie" Smith



## **SUPERVISORS' REPORTS**

1. Convenience Centers PPE – Supervisor Cook asked about providing PPE (gloves) to employees at the Convenience Centers.

Mr. Bear responded that the workers are employees of V&M Recycling but we do try and assist them as needed. Mr. Bear will contact Mr. Bowers and ask that he work with V&M to ensure employees are protected.

2. Cruise-In – Vice Chair Lawson said that Downtown Wytheville is looking for a different location to have their two Cruise-In events. Two of their sponsors, Tommy Hundley (State Farm) and 7 Dogs, are asking permission to use County complex parking lots for these events, rather than shut down Main Street for the events. It would be on a Saturday and they would provide clean-up afterwards.

Mr. Bear will confirm with the judges that this is feasible. No one on the Board had any objection.

3. Various – Supervisor McRoberts had a few issues that he has already turned over to Mr. Bear.
4. Town of Wytheville – Supervisor Terry commented on the events the Vice Chair spoke about. He said elections have consequences and this is the result. He went on to say the Town leadership has no consideration for its citizens by not hosting a couple of events to support the community. Supervisor Terry stated that this is just sad.
5. Convenience Centers Gravel – Chair Vaught has received a few complaints about gravel at the centers but believes it was addressed.

## **BUDGET FOCUS/PRIORITIES**

Mr. Bear said that if anyone has additional items they want included in the budget, to please let him know. Priority items include: Lead Mines Rescue Squad Building, Barren Springs Community Center, Personnel, Playground, and Blueways. He said the Revenue Committee meets next week to set projections.

Chair Vaught mentioned the Broadband work session they had and he thanked Mr. Hankins for making it come together so quickly. He said Wythe County has opportunity to set the bar in SWVA for affordable and reliable broadband. Not only is this imperative

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for the schools and virtual learning, but he said we have many businesses in need and people working out of their homes. This should definitely be a budget priority with the hopes of securing grant and/or Federal funding.

Mr. Bear updated the Board about the cigarette tax legislation and our desire to go with a regional approach. VACO is assisting with setting up the region, and they want an attorney to help MRPDC be the lead organization. Mr. Bear said this will cost money upfront but this will be the most economical way to handle it going forward.

Supervisor Cook asked about the regional board not being mandatory anymore.

Mr. Hankins said the regional requirement of at least 10 localities was removed thanks to Senator Pillion and his staff. The Department of Taxation will figure out how to modernize the cigarette taxing structure. Mr. Hankins believes it's in our best interest to be in a region rather than go it alone.

Mr. Bear made clear that the revenue will not be shared among the counties in the region.

#### **CLOSED MEETING**

Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, to enter into Closed Meeting under Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711-A.1, Discussion of Personnel Matters (PIO).

The vote on the motion was unanimous with one absent.

Supervisor Horney made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, to return to open meeting.

The vote on the motion was unanimous with one absent.

Upon returning to open meeting, Supervisor McRoberts made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Cook, 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:	Brian W. Vaught	Coy L. McRoberts
	Rolland R. Cook	B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
	Ryan M. Lawson	Stacy A. Terry

NAYS: None

ABSENT: James D. "Jamie" Smith

### **RECESS**

Supervisor Cook made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, to recess until Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. for a Joint Work Session with the Appalachian Regional Exposition Center Authority.

The vote on the motion was unanimous with one absent.

### **WORK SESSION / ADJOURNMENT**

Due to inclement weather, the February 18<sup>th</sup> work session was cancelled.

Chair Vaught declared the February 9, 2021 meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m. on February 23, 2021.

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Brian W. Vaught, Chair