

August 24, 2021

The Wythe County Board of Supervisors held its regularly scheduled meeting at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 24, 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

Martha Collins, Administrative Assistant/Clerk

Don Crisp, Water/Wastewater Director

Scot Farthing, County Attorney

Matthew C. Hankins, Assistant County Administrator

OTHERS PRESENT:

Barry Ayers

Kim Ayers

Brittany Childress (and two others)

Roger Crigger

John Crowgey

Jim & Dee Ennis

Charlie Foster

Gus Kincer

David Manley

Linda Meyer

Brenda Thomas

Kathy Vaught

Zach Wright

Three other citizens

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pastor Roger Crigger, Rural Retreat Pentecostal Holiness Church, provided the invocation and Supervisor Cook led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Vaught took a moment to appreciate Pastor Crigger and to thank him for raising such a fine daughter with a strong work ethic. He said the County is quite fortunate to have Mrs. Collins.

August 24, 2021

Pastor Crigger announced his retirement from RRPHC, but he will continue in an advisory role.

PUBLIC HEARING – STAFF STREET TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT ORDINANCE

Chair Vaught announced that The Wythe County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, August 24, 2021, at 6:05 p.m. in the Board Room of the County Administration Building, 340 South Sixth Street, Wytheville, Virginia for the creation of the Staff Street Transportation Service District of Wythe County for the consideration of street improvements to serve landowners pursuant to Section 15.2-2400 of the Code of Virginia.

The purpose of the public hearing will be to hear from residents and property owners in the proposed district. A copy of the proposed district is available in the County Administrator's Office for review.

With no citizens wishing to speak, and no public comments received, Chair Vaught closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Bear explained that this ordinance creates a transportation service district for Staff Street residents, similar to the one that was done for Grouse Ridge Road. While VDOT did approve Staff Street for revenue sharing, timing was pushed back a few years. That prompted the residents of Lead Mines Estates to move forward with construction themselves and request creation of the district. Mr. Bear said the County will pay for the construction costs (\$97,921) and recoup that money over the next 7 years through the tax district. The initial tax rate is \$1.48 per \$100.00 of assessed value.

Supervisor McRoberts visited Staff Street after construction was completed and remarked that it looked good and is a big improvement.

Supervisor McRoberts made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Smith, to adopt Ordinance 2021-4 Service District for Staff Street Area effective October 1, 2021.

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

PUBLIC HEARING – EXEMPTED FOOD SERVICE ACTIVITIES ORDINANCE

Chair Vaught announced that in compliance with the Code of Virginia and amendments thereto, the Wythe County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing to consider an ordinance entitled, "Exempted Food Service Activities Ordinance of Wythe County, Virginia". The Board of Supervisors will hear comments from citizens concerning the proposed ordinance.

The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, August 24, 2021, at 6:05 p.m. in the Board Room of the Wythe County Office Building, 340 South Sixth Street, Wytheville, Virginia.

With no citizens wishing to speak, and no public comments received, Chair Vaught closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Hankins stated that the Health Department suggested the County consider adopting an ordinance to exempt certain organizations and events (fairs and festivals) from inspection of kitchens for food preparation. While many non-profits are already exempt under State Code, a local ordinance is required to exempt other charitable entities.

Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, to adopt Ordinance 2021-5 for Exempted Food Service Activities.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

CITIZENS' TIME

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

1. Books and Prayer in Wythe County Schools – Ms. Linda Meyer appeared before the Board and stated "Good evening. Earlier this month, I got some material emailed to me and I proceeded to look into it. I was contacted by the Florida Parents' Alliance. They put out a list of sexually explicit books that they found within their school system; 44 to be exact. So, I was very curious about these books and so on, so I filed a FOIA request with our Wythe County Public School and then I got the information the other day. Well, lo and behold, we have 14 of

August 24, 2021

these books. I would call them smut, porn. They're extremely graphic with pictures condoning sex acts. They are absolutely awful. So, this is pornographic stuff and it's on a children's level all the way from kindergarten all the way up through high school. What I did was, I copied this for each of you. Here is a list of the books that are in our school system, these sexually explicit books, and also lists the page and some of the references. So, as I'm looking at this, there are so many good things and so many wonderful books that we could have, I don't feel that we need this trash here in our Wythe County School System. So, and if you remember, several years ago, the Freedom from Religion group went to our School Board because of the plaque that we had hanging at Spiller School that said *God bless this cafeteria and the food* and so on, and the school district caved and they took down our plaque that had been there for fifty some years. Well I'm asking you, on behalf of parents, kids in Wythe County, to also be against these particular books, 44 of them to date, that are sexually explicit and I'm asking you, on behalf of the parents in Wythe County, to contact the School Board with an official letter telling them that you are, in fact, against these books and would like them removed. The taxpayers are funding these things and there is no reason to have all these sexualized books in our school system. I don't want to have to read you some of the stuff but it's absolutely awful, and to find out that we, in fact, do have them in our school system, was very, very upsetting. So, that's what I'm here for on behalf of the parents, the school kids – we've got plenty of wonderful books out there that we could have in our system. We don't need smut and porn to be in our school system, in the classrooms and in the libraries. So, please check this out and I'm asking you to follow-up with the School Board and we will all be at the next School Board meeting and so on. I've given this information to them. They have it and, hopefully, they will also act on it, but it would be very good if you guys would stand behind us and also act on it. Thank you."

2. Water Exemption – Ms. Brittany Childress appeared before the Board and stated "I have filed an exemption on putting in a water line from Stroupe Mountain to my house on Stroupe Mountain. I have spoke with Mr. Terry and Mr. Horney on this. I've been in court several times with Mr. Farthing on this topic. So, I am here to ask for an exemption to not install the water at my property. I have pictures – the reason I'm asking for the exemption is I have a creek that runs the length of my property on Stroupe Mountain, that lines with the water line that was put in back in 2018. I talked to R&R Septic and they had mentioned that it was going to cost anywhere from \$5-6k estimate to dig under the creek, put a cement barrier around it, and then finish the line all the way to the house. The house has been there since 1900. It has a well. The well has worked fine and continues to work

August 24, 2021

great. I do have a rent-to-own contract on that land as well that does state that they are responsible for this matter, but I don't know if you guys would like to see the pictures that run the creek in this contract."

Mr. Bear interjected to say that this matter is on the agenda under Water Committee report if Mrs. Childress would like to speak at that time. She agreed.

3. Books in Wythe County Schools – Ms. Dee Ennis appeared before the Board and stated "Good evening. Eternal vigilance requires taking a stand. I'm going to speak about the topic regarding a list of books that Ms. Meyer just referred to in the Wythe County Public Schools. I will begin by reading an excerpt from a letter to the editor which was written by my husband printed in a local newspaper in 1992. Yes, that's 29 years ago (I don't want to tell you my age). The letter opposed the introduction of a child's book about immoral sexuality. The book was going to be assigned to the public library's children room. My husband wrote, *'I question the moral judgement of the unnamed children's Librarian and the Chairman of the Library Board of Trustees. They say they don't want to be censors. One said that we want our people informed.'* Now the next part is sarcasm so please understand. My husband wrote *'Perhaps then we should add a children's section of pornography. Include some good books on X-rated mindset. We want our kids to be smart.'* That was sarcasm. Twenty-nine years ago, my husband wrote those words to get people's attention by exaggerating with sarcasm. Thankfully, the people of the community rallied together and that children's book was not included in the library's children's room. So, here we are in 2021 again objecting to these sexual explicit books that are being held in the classrooms and in the library of kindergarten through 12th grade public schools. You've got to be kidding me. So, what can you do, the Board of Supervisors? Well, you can send a letter to the Wythe County School Board declaring these books must be removed from the K-12 public school libraries and classrooms. And remember, eternal vigilance requires taking a stand."

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 August 24, 2021, for the various departments of County government. The invoices were paid on General Warrants 30110381-30110470, and one wire transfer, as follows:

August 24, 2021

**EXPENDITURES BY DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
August 24, 2021**

CHECK #	ISSUE DATE	VENDOR	AMOUNT
30110381	08/17/2021	APPALACHIAN POWER	\$ 32,955.66
30110382	08/17/2021	CENTURYLINK	39.98
30110383	08/17/2021	CENTURYLINK	68.14
30110384	08/17/2021	CENTURYLINK	139.54
30110385	08/17/2021	CENTURYLINK	343.17
30110386	08/17/2021	CITIZENS TELEPHONE COOP	306.55
30110387	08/17/2021	TOWN OF WYTHEVILLE	7,528.45
30110388	08/17/2021	VERIZON WIRELESS	40.03
30110389	08/17/2021	VERIZON WIRELESS	1,475.45
TOTAL EXPENDITURES 08/17/2021			\$42,896.97

CHECK #	ISSUE DATE	VENDOR	AMOUNT
30110393	08/20/2021	APPALACHIAN JUVENILE COMM	\$ 2,100.00
30110394	08/20/2021	BARREN SPRINGS VOL FIRE D	14,789.83
30110395	08/20/2021	BKT UNIFORMS	8.99
30110396	08/20/2021	BLUE RIDGE ANALYTICAL, LL	2,400.00
30110397	08/20/2021	BRENTAG MID-SOUTH INC	2,620.32
30110398	08/20/2021	CARTER MACHINERY CO INC	671.02
30110399	08/20/2021	CAVALIER SUPPLY CO	896.75
30110400	08/20/2021	CENTURYLINK	98.97
30110401	08/20/2021	CENTURYLINK	269.50
30110402	08/20/2021	CINTAS CORP NO 2	1,167.00
30110403	08/20/2021	DANIEL LUKE KINCER	1,937.62
30110404	08/20/2021	DISTRICT THREE	3,890.00
30110405	08/20/2021	ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWA	5,249.99
30110406	08/20/2021	ENTERPRISE FM TRUST	6,385.85
30110407	08/20/2021	FERGUSON ENTERPRISES #5	3,561.95
30110408	08/20/2021	FIRE RESCUE AND TACTICAL	45.00
30110409	08/20/2021	FOOD COUNTRY	1.88
30110410	08/20/2021	FP MAILING SOLUTIONS	1,000.00
30110411	08/20/2021	GENUINE PARTS COMPANY	144.22
30110412	08/20/2021	WRANGLER HOLDCO CORP	536.80
30110413	08/20/2021	GREATAMERICA FINANCIAL SE	153.00
30110414	08/20/2021	HARPO'S HARDWARE & BLDG S	146.36

August 24, 2021

30110415	08/20/2021	HEDRICKS AUTO REPAIR INC	139.99
30110416	08/20/2021	HOME DEPOT PRO	351.60
30110417	08/20/2021	IVANHOE FIRE DEPT	12,411.83
30110418	08/20/2021	JOHNSON CONTROL FIRE PROT	475.01
30110419	08/20/2021	JOINT PUBLIC SERVICE AUTH	57.20
30110420	08/20/2021	KC AUTOMOTIVE	123.24
30110421	08/20/2021	KIRBYS KUTTIN EDGE	900.00
30110422	08/20/2021	LEAD MINES RESCUE SQUAD	1,641.58
30110423	08/20/2021	MAX MEADOWS FIRE DEPT	13,456.83
30110424	08/20/2021	MCI COMM SERVICE	34.64
30110425	08/20/2021	MCI COMM SERVICE	105.67
30110426	08/20/2021	MCI COMM SERVICE	867.45
30110427	08/20/2021	MEADE TRACTOR	50.53
30110428	08/20/2021	MEREDITH'S GARAGE	83.00
30110429	08/20/2021	MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS AME	108.00
30110430	08/20/2021	NATIONAL POOLS	1,755.70
30110431	08/20/2021	MAILFINANCE INC	474.00
30110432	08/20/2021	NEW RIVER VALLEY RESTAURA	354.64
30110433	08/20/2021	JESSICA PENNINGTON	20.00
30110434	08/20/2021	KEITH CELOZZI	150.00
30110435	08/20/2021	R. STEPHEN LEFLER	50.00
30110436	08/20/2021	R&R ENTERPRISES INC	700.00
30110437	08/20/2021	R&R SEPTIC	60.00
30110438	08/20/2021	R.E. MICHEL COMPANY, LLC	46.25
30110439	08/20/2021	RENTAL HUB INC	100.00
30110440	08/20/2021	RURAL RETREAT VOL EMERG S	13,230.83
30110441	08/20/2021	SIRCHIE FINGER PRINT LABO	260.50
30110442	08/20/2021	SOUTHWESTERN EQUIPMENT	30.00
30110443	08/20/2021	SPEEDWELL FIRE DEPT	12,411.83
30110444	08/20/2021	STATE ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO	74.30
30110445	08/20/2021	STONEMAN, RICK	14.98
30110446	08/20/2021	STREET, HAROLD P III	96.98
30110447	08/20/2021	SUBURBAN PROPANE-1241	72.00
30110448	08/20/2021	SURE-FLO INC	1,207.45
30110449	08/20/2021	TENCARVA MACHINERY CO	3,186.25
30110450	08/20/2021	THOMPSON TIRE	20.00
30110451	08/20/2021	THREE RIVERS MEDIA CORP	330.00
30110452	08/20/2021	TYLER TECHNOLOGIES INC	4,440.00
30110453	08/20/2021	UNIFIRST CORP	98.56

August 24, 2021

30110454	08/20/2021	VDH	10,335.00
30110455	08/20/2021	VERIZON WIRELESS	120.11
30110456	08/20/2021	VIRGINIA BUSINESS SYSTEMS	400.83
30110457	08/20/2021	PENITENTIARY INDUSTRIAL D	9,738.81
30110458	08/20/2021	VUPS	66.15
30110459	08/20/2021	WILSON BAIT & TACKLE INC	111.60
30110460	08/20/2021	WYTHE CO WATER & WASTEWAT	1,046.67
30110461	08/20/2021	WYTHE CO WATER & WASTEWAT	24.64
30110462	08/20/2021	WYTHE CO WATER & WASTEWAT	37.66
30110463	08/20/2021	WYTHE CO WATER & WASTEWAT	71.12
30110464	08/20/2021	WYTHE CO WATER & WASTEWAT	88.38
30110465	08/20/2021	WYTHE CO WATER & WASTEWAT	204.54
30110466	08/20/2021	WYTHE TIRE AND MUFFLER	564.65
30110467	08/20/2021	WYTHEVILLE FIRE DEPT	9,327.83
30110468	08/20/2021	WYTHEVILLE OFFICE SUPPLY	1,202.66
30110469	08/20/2021	WYTHEVILLE-WYTHE-BLAND	360.00
30110470	08/20/2021	XEROX	18.29
TOTAL EXPENDITURES 08/20/2021			\$151,784.83

CHECK #	ISSUE DATE	VENDOR	AMOUNT
30110390	08/24/2021	BOONE TRACTOR & IMPLEMENT	\$ 23.55
30110391	08/24/2021	GENUINE PARTS COMPANY	49.45
30110392	08/24/2021	THRASHER GROUP INC	11,000.00
(wire)	08/24/2021	SUNTRUST	\$ 36,881.92
TOTAL EXPENDITURES 08/24/2021			\$ 47,954.92

TOTAL EXPENDITURES APPROVED 08/24/2021 **\$242,636.72**

Supervisor Cook 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 August 10, 2021 minutes for approval.

August 24, 2021

Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Horney, to approve the August 10, 2021 minutes as presented.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Bear mentioned that Mrs. Guynn was unable to attend tonight but he is happy to refer to her any questions the Board may have.

WATER COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Barrett Mill Road Water Improvements Project – Supervisor Horney made a motion, as recommended by the Water Committee, to proceed with Alternate #2 for the Barrett Mill Road Water Improvements Project.

Mr. Bear referenced the map on page 66 of the board package. Water sampling was done in the Barrett Mill Road area and several wells had contamination issues. It is recommended to proceed with this proposal (Barrett Mill, Stone Meadow, Eden Wood, Whippoorwill, Blackberry areas) and the total estimated cost to service this area is 3.9M. The County Engineer is in contact with Rural Development. If all goes well, the County should be eligible for 30% grant coupled with a 70% loan for this project. As such, the Committee recommends proceeding with the application for Barrett Mill Road Water Improvements Project, Alternative #2.

Supervisor Cook believes we should move quickly in light of the possible contamination in peoples' water.

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
James D. "Jamie" Smith

Stacy A. Terry

NAYS: None

2. Water Hook-up Waiver Request – Supervisor Horney made a motion, as recommended by the Water Committee, to deny Brittany Green's request for a waiver to hook to County water.

Mr. Bear explained that the County had uncollected water fees that resulted in Mrs. Childress's court order. She presented to the Judge a County ordinance that allows for waiver requests from being required to connect to County water. Mr. Bear referenced the map on page 67 of the board package.

Mrs. Brittany (Green) Childress appeared before the Board and stated "What that map does not show you is the creek that runs through the entire length of the property, and that's where I'm asking for the exemption one for that is because of the creek that does run the whole length. I've got pictures if you would like to see. They're not the greatest pictures, I will admit, but you will see it's a rocky creek and like I said I did have R&R Septic come out and do an estimate to run the water line from the water meter on the side of Stroupe Mountain up to the house. He had mentioned anywhere from \$5-6k and that is just an estimate. That does not account for what they may run into while they are digging. He mentioned with the creek he would have to put a concrete barrier around the water line. I don't live at that property. I do have a rent-to-own contract with a lady that lives there now, and in the contract it does say that the buyer is responsible to – or shall comply with all laws, ordinances, regulations, or requirements of any governmental body applicable to the property. I have that there if you guys would like to see that as well. I own the property but I do have a rent-to-own contract that they are paying a monthly fee."

Supervisor McRoberts asked if the creek has any water in it, and Mrs. Childress responded yes.

Mrs. Childress continued "There is one picture there that shows some water. For the most part, it has water pretty much year-round except maybe the month of July when it's really hot. But for the most part it does continue to have water."

Supervisor McRoberts asked how far is the meter from the house.

Mrs. Childress responded "I think 100 and some feet."

Chair Vaught asked what the normal cost is for a house that's 102.3 feet from a meter.

Mr. Crisp said that it varies on the geology but typically \$5-10 per foot. In the area of Mrs. Childress' home, it is sandy and rocky. He also said that it's a wet weather creek and should not have to be concreted. It appears they could just dig through the creek.

Mrs. Childress added "That's what R&R Septic, is the concrete going under the creek, was where the majority of the cost was going to be."

The Chair asked if she had a quote from R&R.

Mrs. Childress replied "I don't. It was just over the phone. I should have got something from him but it was over the phone. I don't work locally so it's hard to meet up with somebody during the week. I did speak with Aaron from R&R Septic."

Mr. Bear said the ordinance presented to Judge Mabe indicates the County can grant a waiver to a connection if it is deemed unfeasible to run a line. But the County does not see any characteristics that would prohibit the installation of a water line to serve this property.

Chair Vaught said that if Mrs. Childress could come back with a written quote from R&R, it would carry more weight in her request for a waiver.

Vice Chair Lawson agreed and said that she would like to see more information before casting a vote.

The Chair doesn't believe that County water service should impose undue stress to any citizen that is not imposed upon every citizen. He would like to give Mrs. Childress 30 days to provide additional support for her waiver request.

Mr. Farthing mentioned that there is a court date in September after the next Board meeting, stressing the importance to vote on this at the next meeting. But the Board should be aware that the court proceeding is over the minimum

monthly non-user fee which is not being paid. Options are to install a line, connect, and use the water, but she doesn't have to. Mr. Farthing said all Mrs. Childress has to do is pay the minimum monthly non-user fee. The Ordinance states if you are within 300 feet, you can either hook up or pay the non-user fee. Mrs. Childress is not being forced to connect.

Mrs. Childress said "And I'm requesting an exemption under the Ordinance."

Mr. Bear added that if the Board exempts one, then they would likely have to exempt everyone else.

Supervisor Smith mentioned a couple people in his district (Lots Gap Road) in a similar situation. How do we normally address these situations?

Mr. Bear stated that no one in this type of situation, where fees had not been paid for several years, has asked for a waiver.

Mr. Crisp could not recall any waivers recently and said that if her well goes bad, that will end up costing her significantly more to dig a new well.

Mrs. Childress has owned the property since 2011 and the rent-to-own contract has been in place since 2015. She has not lived on the property since 2015. The water contract is 2018.

Mr. Bear clarified that the owner is responsible for the non-user fee unless she signs up the renter to pay the fee.

Mr. Farthing further clarified that the County bills the record landowner. If you have a contract with a third party, that's your responsibility to collect from that party. The County cannot go to a third party to collect because they don't own the property and the County is not a part of her contract with the tenant. The County has no right to go after her tenant.

Mr. Bear said he will provide the Board with more details of the billing history, etc. and allow Mrs. Childress to return in two weeks with a quote and any other supporting documentation.

Supervisor Cook doesn't believe a written quote is the issue. The issue is the non-user fee.

Supervisor Horney said originally, Mrs. Childress didn't believe she had a right-of-way to the water line. But the Committee was informed that she does have a 10' right-of-way. Her property adjoins the right of way.

Mrs. Childress said that is news to her if she has more than a 10' right-of-way. Information that was provided to her was that she only had 10' ROW. She says she does not adjoin Stroupe Mountain Road. She referenced the McAllister property between her property and Stroupe Mountain.

Mr. Farthing said that strip of land was dedicated in the subdivision to be a public way as part of the road (not shown on the tax map but it is shown on the plat). She said the plat indicates it is 10'.

Supervisor Horney made a motion, seconded by Supervisor McRoberts, to postpone any decision until the next board meeting on September 14th.

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	

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

1. PAYROLL – July 2021:

General County Fund	\$ 621,509.91
Police Activity Fund	58,783.11
Courthouse Security Fund	13,497.61
Water Department Fund	23,067.61
Wythe County Wastewater Fund	25,188.22
TOTAL	\$ 742,046.46

Check Numbers: 2001248-2001260; 2001231-2001243

Voucher Numbers: 17810-17990; 17626-17804

2. STATUS REPORTS:

- A. Animal Control – Arlan Dunford
- B. Building & Grounds – Billy Bowers
- C. Building Inspection – Kyle Taylor
- D. Emergency Services – Jimmy McCabe
- E. Engineering – Johnny Kincer
- F. Finance – Regina Williams
- G. Parks & Recreation – Kevin Williams

3. PERSONNEL:

- A. Goins, Breanna – Position Change, Full-time Commonwealth Attorney’s Office, Annual Salary \$34,360, Effective August 1, 2021
- B. Kincer, Rebecca – Transferred, Full-time Commonwealth Attorney’s Office, Annual Salary \$32,676, Effective August 1, 2021
- C. Bowers, Ricky – Transferred, Full-time Dispatch, Effective August 1, 2021
- D. Dunagan, Keith – Retired, Full-time Sheriff, Effective July 31, 2021
- E. Foster, Charlies – Appointed, Full-time Sheriff, Effective August 1, 2021

4. BUDGET AMENDMENT:

- A. \$8,127.58 (3103-412100) – Reimbursement from Schools for SRO Summer School Hours

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

(The Board took a 10-minute recess.)

August 24, 2021

MOUNT ROGERS HEALTH DISTRICT, DR. NOELLE BISSELL (Virtual)

Dr. Noelle Bissell, Interim Director of Mount Rogers Health District, appeared virtually before the Board.

Dr. Bissell reported that VDH is seeing an increase in cases now due to Delta variant which is making its way across the country. To make matters worse, many people throughout the pandemic put off their health care which, in many cases, exacerbated the problem, as they're coming into the hospitals even sicker than before. Hospitals are scrambling to find beds for these patients with the surge of COVID patients. Because the Delta variant is much more transmissible, cases are going up quickly and steeply. Southwest Virginia should peak in the next few weeks and, hopefully, decline shortly thereafter. Dr. Bissell said we are averaging 20-30 new cases daily, most among the unvaccinated, and among a younger demographic. There are breakthrough cases among the vaccinated, but most of those cases are mild. Hospitalized breakthrough cases are generally due to other underlying health conditions. The vaccines are definitely preventing severe illness and death. They hope this is the last big surge but don't expect that COVID will just go away. There will be other strains and other variants. She said that natural infection does provide good immunity, and as more people get vaccinated, the numbers will go down.

Dr. Bissell wanted to clarify the difference between a confirmed case and a probable case. The CDC presently defines a "confirmed" case as a laboratory-confirmed case, and the only lab test they recognize is the PCR test. More of the rapid tests (antigen tests) are being done and are counted as "probable" cases. She said another example of "probable" cases are people who have symptoms and we know they've been exposed. One last example of a probable case is if someone is in the hospital and passes away, and COVID gets listed on the death certificate as either the cause of death or contributing cause of death but no actual test was done, that would be a "probable" case as well. Only when a PCR test is done, is it listed as a "confirmed" case. But from a health department standpoint, they count both the confirmed and probable cases in their total COVID cases. But they also know that there are far more cases out there that are not being reported (i.e., people are not coming forward and/or not getting tested).

Dr. Bissell said they will continue to try and get more people vaccinated, and that Pfizer received full FDA approval yesterday and expect that Moderna is not far behind. She is unsure about the timing of J&J. Third doses are being offered to immunocompromised due to their inadequate response (immune suppressed) to the first two doses. She expects the FDA to act on booster shots in the coming weeks and they are already

planning on how effectively administer. They are also planning to do trials combining both the flu and COVID vaccines.

As for children in the 5-11 year old range, they expect FDA authorization for emergency use by October. Right now, 12-15 year olds are still under emergency use authorization. Most schools are now open in southwest Virginia and most are using some masking precautions. Once cases go down, they can review/revise their mitigation strategy. Dr. Bissell said that right now, vaccination is the best mitigation strategy for those who can be vaccinated. For those who can't, wearing masks, hand washing, being in open ventilated areas, etc. are highly recommended.

Chair Vaught asked if there's a primary age in the recent uptick of cases.

Dr. Bissell replied that it is spreading more among the unvaccinated, and approximately 35-40% of the cases are in the younger population. Those with other underlying health conditions, are more likely to be hospitalized with COVID.

Supervisor Smith asked how COVID can be listed on a death certificate without an actual test?

Dr. Bissell responded that while the PCR is the only confirmatory test, a positive antigen (rapid) test, when coupled with COVID characteristics/symptoms, is very reliable. Depending on the circumstances (i.e., exposure), a positive antigen test would be sufficient to conclude that COVID contributed to the cause of death. However, Dr. Bissell believes that most hospitals, after doing a rapid antigen test, will also do a PCR test.

Supervisor Terry mentioned inaccurate data from the Health Department and that last year the Assistant County Administrator spent a great deal of time sifting through and correcting the data. He feels the data is misleading and confusing to the public (referenced August 13 Facebook post charting probable and actual cases). He would much prefer to see the "actual" numbers as this chart portrays devastating results.

Dr. Bissell said the numbers she saw for this past week reflected 600 cases in one week (confirmed and probable). The New River District is around 350-400 per week now. Those numbers are not unrealistic given the present surge of the highly transmissible Delta variant. She has been trying to navigate the pandemic with reason and common sense. She too does not like the panic and fear, but said the numbers support a significant rise in COVID cases statewide (10-15,000 cases per week statewide). Dr. Bissell did say the numbers are not as high as they were in the winter surge but are still

significant. Probable cases will be greater than confirmed (PCR) just because the rapid (antigen) tests are more readily available.

Supervisor Terry asked about hydroxychloroquine. How much longer are doctors going to be restricted from using this to treat COVID patients, and can the Health Department help change that?

Dr. Bissell said that decision came from the State Medical Board based on restrictions from the FDA. She is not privy to information about when those restrictions might be lifted.

Supervisor Terry also asked where MRHD stands with respect to mandating vaccines?

Dr. Bissell replied that as a State Agency, their directives come from the Governor who presently has only mandated vaccines for State employees. Those employees who do not wish to be vaccinated, will have to be tested regularly. As far as mandating communities/schools to vaccinate, that would require General Assembly to make that determination. She added that a mandate for the general public isn't going to happen. However, more businesses may require their employees to be vaccinated.

Chair Vaught asked about the timing of a new Health Department Director. Doesn't feel it's fair with this hybrid funding by State and localities, that we should have to share our Director with localities all the way to Kentucky.

Dr. Bissell said that it is a high priority but there has been a lot of turnover in public health in general as well as in the hospitals. VDH is actively recruiting to fill the position.

The Board thanked Dr. Bissell for attending the meeting (virtually), for sharing useful information and answering all their questions.

ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Hankins updated the Board on the following:

1. Telephone System Outage – Mr. Hankins mentioned that during the recent phone outage, they were able to text to 911, so that system is up and running. A press release has gone out in that regard.
2. Comprehensive Plan Update – Mr. Hankins reported that public input meetings took place in Fort Chiswell, Speedwell and Rural Retreat. The consultant handled

those meetings, and they continue to work on the comprehensive plan. They would still like to receive more surveys, so Mr. Hankins asked that the Board continue to share the request for more input.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

1. VDOT Smart Scale - Connector Road Project Resolution – Mr. Bear explained that the Smart Scale resolution is for the Progress Park Connector Road and is requested by VDOT. As discussed at the public input meeting, VDOT had to shift the western portion of the road to the north and the west due to discovery of a cemetery. Approving this resolution will allow VDOT to continue design for future construction.

Vice Chair Lawson made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Smith, to approve Resolution 2021-29 for the Progress Park Connector Road.

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. Hicok, Brown & Company ("HBC") – Pre-Audit Engagement – Mr. Bear stated that HBC was selected to assist the County with its pre-audit work. It is, therefore, requested that the Board approve HBC's engagement letter.

Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Cook, to approve the engagement letter with Hicok, Brown & Company to provide pre-audit services.

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

SUPERVISORS' REPORTS

1. School Board Funding – Supervisor Terry asked if going forward the Board can separate certain entities for quarterly appropriations as he would like to vote separately on the School Board funding. He referenced the resolution passed last year that we would not support any kind of unconstitutional government mandates that infringe on our rights. The School Board has instituted a mask mandate for a virus he said does not work. Vaccines and masks should be a personal choice. In addition, Supervisor Terry said the School Board did not protect the kids with respect to the new model policy, as several surrounding counties did. There are other instances of the School Board being less than truthful and he is happy to share that information with anyone who is interested.

Mr. Bear confirmed that the Board can pull out any line items to vote on separately.

2. Jones Road – Supervisor Smith asked for an update on Jones Road and the Six-Year Plan.

Mr. Bear said that it's been submitted but he hasn't received any updates yet. Nothing can be added to the Plan until after a public hearing next April/May.

3. Progress Park Hunting – Supervisor Smith has received a lot of positive feedback on the hunting program and people are eagerly anticipating its start.
4. School Colors – Supervisor Smith and Chair Vaught exchanged a little banter about wearing their school colors and the upcoming football game. Whoever loses the game must wear the other school's colors at the next Board meeting.
5. Road Issues – Chair Vaught has a couple of road issues but did say that VDOT has been really good this past year with dirt roads. If any citizens have road concerns, please email your district's supervisor.
6. CarePortal – Chair Vaught announced that on August 31st at 9:30 a.m. at the Open Door Café, a great new program will be introduced. CarePortal is a one-stop shop (www.careportal.org) offering help in a more streamlined fashion and in conjunction with local churches and non-profits.

Any information that can be put out on our social media platforms, should be forwarded to Mr. Hankins.

CLOSED MEETING

Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Supervisor McRoberts, to enter into Closed Meeting under Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711-A.1, Performance Evaluation (Consolidated Dispatch Department Salary Review and Finance Department), Section 2.2-3711-A.5, Prospective New Business or Industry (Project Palm), and Section 2.2-3711-A.6/A.29, Contract Negotiation (Broadband Services).

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Cook, to return to open meeting.

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

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

**RESOLUTION
CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING**

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

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

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

as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered by the Wythe County Board of Supervisors.

The roll call vote on the motion was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to come before the Board of Supervisors, Chair Vaught adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:31 p.m.

Brian W. Vaught, Chair