

December 14, 2021

The Wythe County Board of Supervisors held its regularly scheduled meeting at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 14, 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

Matthew C. Hankins, Assistant County Administrator

Don Martin, Assistant County Attorney

Kevin Williams, Parks & Recreation Director

Regina Williams, Finance Director

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jesse Burnett

John DiYorio

Jim & Dee Ennis

Haley Faulkner & family

Charlie Foster

Gus Kincer

Zach Lester

Nate Montgomery

Linda Meyer

Butch & Tina Quesenberry

Kenny Quesenberry

Millie Rothrock

Tony Stroupe

Beth Taylor

Mary Thomas

Frances Watson

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 Kenny Quesenberry, Fort Chiswell Church of God, provided the invocation and Supervisor Cook led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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PRESENTATION OF SPORTS RESOLUTIONS

Supervisor Terry presented the following resolution honoring the George Wythe High School Girls Track & Field Team:

**WYTHE COUNTY RESOLUTION 2021-38
A RESOLUTION HONORING THE
GEORGE WYTHE HIGH SCHOOL
GIRLS TRACK & FIELD TEAM**

WHEREAS, the George Wythe High School Girls Track & Field Team completed a remarkable 2021 season; and,

WHEREAS, the George Wythe High School Girls Track & Field Team advanced to the Virginia High School League's Class 1A State Championship at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia on June 18, 2021; and,

WHEREAS, the following State Championship titles were captured:

200 Meter Dash

Haley Faulkner (27.34 time)

4x100 Relay

Peyten Thompson, Ava Fowler, McKenzie Tate, Haley Faulkner (52.13 time)

4x400 Relay

Morgan Dalton, Peyten Thompson, McKenzie Tate, Haley Faulkner (4:19.17 time)

WHEREAS, the Wythe County Board of Supervisors officially commends the 2021 George Wythe High School Girls Track & Field Team and coaches for their exemplary season and display of outstanding dedication and athletic ability.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wythe County Board of Supervisors presents this Resolution to the George Wythe High School Girls Track & Field Team state champions in recognition and appreciation of their achievements; and,

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

Adopted this 14th day of December, 2021.

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Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Cook, to adopt Resolution 2021-38 honoring the George Wythe High School Girls Track & Field Team.

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Supervisor Terry also presented the following resolution honoring the George Wythe High School Girls Cross Country Team:

**WYTHE COUNTY RESOLUTION 2021-41
A RESOLUTION HONORING THE
GEORGE WYTHE HIGH SCHOOL
GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM**

WHEREAS, the George Wythe High School Girls Cross Country Team completed a remarkable 2021 season; and,

WHEREAS, the George Wythe High School Girls Cross Country Team was the Mountain Empire District Champions and the Region 1C Champions; and,

WHEREAS, the George Wythe High School Girls Cross Country Team advanced to the Virginia High School League's Class 1 State Championship at Green Hill Park in Salem, Virginia on November 13, 2021; and,

WHEREAS, the George Wythe High School Girls Cross Country Team surpassed the competition earning the third Girls Cross Country State Championship title for George Wythe High School; and,

WHEREAS, the Wythe County Board of Supervisors officially commends the 2021 George Wythe High School Girls Cross Country Team comprised of Carrie-Sage Dalton, Morgan Dalton, Camryn Hardin, Emerson Hardin, Kaleigh Temple, Kara Temple, and coaches Steve Gollither and Julia Tomiak for their exemplary season and display of outstanding dedication and athletic ability.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wythe County Board of Supervisors presents this resolution to the George Wythe High School Girls Cross Country Team in recognition and appreciation of their achievements; and,

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

Adopted this 14th day of December, 2021.

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Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, to adopt Resolution 2021-41 honoring the George Wythe High School Girls Cross Country Team.

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Chair Vaught noted that although Davion Tillison of the George Wythe High School Outdoor Track & Field Team was unable to attend tonight, the Board would like to honor him with the following:

**WYTHE COUNTY RESOLUTION 2021-39
A RESOLUTION HONORING DAVION TILLISON
OF THE GEORGE WYTHE HIGH SCHOOL
OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD TEAM**

WHEREAS, the George Wythe High School Outdoor Track & Field Team completed a very successful 2021 season; and,

WHEREAS, Davion Tillison of the George Wythe High School Outdoor Track & Field Team advanced to compete in the Virginia High School League's Group 1A/2A State Championship on Friday, June 18, 2021, at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA; and,

WHEREAS, Davion defeated all other competitors to become the State Champion in the long jump with a distance of 21'2" and the triple jump with a distance of 44'04"; and,

WHEREAS, the Wythe County Board of Supervisors officially commends Davion for his outstanding dedication, athletic ability, and sportsmanship.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wythe County Board of Supervisors presents this resolution to Davion Tillison in recognition of his 2021 Outdoor Track & Field State Championship titles in the high jump and long jump; and,

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

Adopted this 14th day of December, 2021.

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Supervisor McRoberts made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Cook, to adopt Resolution 2021-39 honoring Davion Tillison of the George Wythe High School Outdoor Track & Field Team.

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Chair Vaught stated that although Benson Blevins of the George Wythe High School Golf Team was unable to attend tonight, the Board would like to honor him with the following:

**WYTHE COUNTY RESOLUTION 2021-40
A RESOLUTION HONORING
BENSON BLEVINS OF THE
GEORGE WYTHE HIGH SCHOOL GOLF TEAM**

WHEREAS, George Wythe High School junior Benson Blevins completed an outstanding 2021 golf season; and,

WHEREAS, Benson captured the individual Region 1C title on September 30, 2021, with a score of 69; and,

WHEREAS, Benson advanced to the 2021 Virginia High School League State Golf Tournament on Monday, October 11, 2021, at the Old Mill Golf Club in Laurel Fork, Virginia; and,

WHEREAS, Benson defeated the competition capturing the 2021 Class 1 individual State Championship title with a score of 71, surpassing second place by 5 strokes; and,

WHEREAS, the Wythe County Board of Supervisors officially commends Benson Blevins for his remarkable dedication, sportsmanship and athletic ability.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wythe County Board of Supervisors presents this resolution to Benson Blevins in recognition of his 2021 Individual State Golf Championship; and,

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

Adopted this 14th day of December, 2021.

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Supervisor Cook made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, to adopt Resolution 2021-40 honoring Benson Blevins of the George Wythe High School Golf Team.

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

CITIZENS' TIME

1. Future Growth of Wythe County – Mr. Nate Montgomery appeared before the Board and stated “I apologize for my décor tonight. I came straight from work and in no way is to diminish the meeting here tonight. Chairman Vaught had a post the other day and Ryan and I were kind of talking on it, and it got me to thinking and I was like ‘*You know what? I should just go to a Board of Supervisors meeting and just talk to the Board*’. Some of you I know personally; some of you I kind of know of; those of you that I know personally, some of you I know very well. We go to church in Rural Retreat, and so I’m very involved in the Rural Retreat community. Even though I live in Wytheville, I spend more of my time on that end of the county. I am good friends with David Manley and John Matthews; John’s my neighbor. You know, they’ve done an amazing job over there at JIDA. Big news came in, everybody’s excited, there’s lots of things happening, there’s lots of work to do. I genuinely encourage this Board, as I did when the Expo Center was first being discussed in this room, I genuinely encourage everyone in here to do as much forethought on what’s going to happen in this County in the next five years to ten years. It is going to dramatically reshape everything about this County. There are already rezoning requests in town. I’m also on the Board for HOPE Inc. My opinions there are mine; they are not of Rural Retreat United Methodist or the boards that I’m on. But I’ve gotten a lot of information regarding housing, regarding the median wage at the factory. If you go to factories similar to that around here, you will observe, and you can see in the factories that we’ve already got, a lot of these jobs are probably not going to be filled by people from here. People are going to be moving in to fill quite a few of these jobs. Housing is going to be a big issue; land development is going to be a big issue. It already is. The price of real estate is rising dramatically. I know a lot of people in the County don’t like to talk about zoning. I would encourage you to speak with your particular, the people that have asked you to represent them. People don’t want to talk about consolidation in the schools. I would encourage you to have difficult conversations with your constituents regarding all of these issues. Don’t let

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there be anything that you're like *'Well, that's off the table – we would never do that.'* I thank you for your time and I encourage all of you to please do a lot of forethought."

2. Fort Chiswell Library – Mr. Butch Quesenberry appeared before the Board and stated "I'm here tonight to speak on behalf of the Fort Chiswell Library that is trying to be established. This is not only a great opportunity for the members of our community, it's also going to be great for the students. Luckily, my kids, as they went through the Fort Chiswell school system, had access to internet and was able to perform their work and things like that, but that is not the case throughout some of the Fort Chiswell area. Where this library is being proposed, and where the building has already been purchased, is right beside the Fort Chiswell High School/Middle School area. It will allow kids to come there, to be able to do what they need to do after school because, as of right now, they have to leave the school premises at five o'clock. They go home, they got nowhere to go. Either their parents have to drive them here to Wytheville to the Library or they have to go to a friend's house that has internet. So, this would give them opportunity and a place to be able to go, to be able to do homework, research, help the community as a whole. I understand that funding was requested from this Board, and was told that it was not available at the amount that they need. So, I would like you to take a little bit and reconsider that because not only would it benefit that end of the County, it will also help anybody that comes in. It will help Wythe County as a whole have a better outlook from people from within, and that's all I have to say. Thank you."
3. Fort Chiswell Library – Mrs. Tina Quesenberry appeared before the Board and stated "I have taken on the project too as well and I am speaking on behalf of the library. And I'm also asking, please, to reconsider the \$400 amount that we were offered to propose. The reason is, as we went over at our library meeting, when the building was purchased, it was actually purchased by Joe Hale. The reason is, the bank kind of backed down on us a little bit due to a large pharmacy, I will leave it unnamed, that wanted the building. But we were determined to get this building, and during COVID, that kind of shut down a lot of our fundraising efforts. We're back on track. We've done a lot in light of COVID to get funding going but with this, if we can get the proposed amount that we need, that's going to show the banks that we have another income coming in, besides all of our fundraising efforts, and besides our bank helping us. But what it shows is, it establishes that we have money coming in so we

can get this refinanced in the Friends' name. That way, we're open for Federal grants and other grants. As long as it's in a private person's name, we can't get the grants and the funding we need to pay this thing off quickly, get it going, get it established. Because again, like he said, we got kids that don't have internet. We got kids that don't have access to anything. We've got people who need jobs that they don't have ways to get to Wytheville all the time to use the library computers up here for jobs. They can't do that on our end of the County. We need this on our end of the County. Our end of the County is growing, and it's just something that's going to benefit the citizens, the kids, everyone. But the reason we need this looked at again, because this is going to show income coming in so we can get refinanced, and that's going to show established income and open us up for the Federal grants that we need. Because we keep getting blocked for that. Every time we take a step, we get knocked down by another hurdle, and that's pretty much why I'm here. I'm begging for money. So again, and that way too, again it helps our fundraising efforts which we've put a lot in, and y'all can go to GoFundMe and fund, give us a donation if you'd like, because I have that established. But that's pretty much what I have to say as well. I'm just here – we need this reconsidered, please. Thank you."

4. Fort Chiswell Library – Mr. John DiYorio appeared before the Board and stated "Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I'd like to talk about the Fort Chiswell Library – I wrote that down. But I'd also like to talk a little bit about the vision. I came to this town, and County, in 1969. I don't think any one of you was born by then. I am a lover of libraries, and when I came here, our library, the Wythe County Library, was in what we used to call Kincer Miller Square. I don't know if you know where that is along Tazewell Street. Two stores, two little, tiny stores and that was it. I wasn't disappointed where I grew up in Charleston, South Carolina. I had to go to a bookmobile so no big deal. But we had some vision. Ruby Smith, Hopper Lazenby, and Brent Moore decided we needed a real library building, and then when after it but they had some help. We had what we called at that time, the Wythe County Library Board which is really what now is the Friends of the Library. We didn't have any authority over the library; we just tried to help. And we did build that library back in the '70s and since then, the people in Rural Retreat have put together some funds to build their Rural Retreat Library. Again, a vision. But there's been no library in the eastern end of our County. And that, outside of Wytheville, is the most densely populated area of the County, Fort Chiswell area on the eastern end. But then a friend, Joe Hale, and friends found a site

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and a building that could serve as a library for the people of that area. I think somebody has already mentioned that it really is the perfect site. You can't find a better site for a library. Now, going back to visit, I gotta go back to my good, old buddy, Benny Burkett, Rich Valley friend, and he and the Joint IDA and the Board back about 30 or so years ago, purchased a huge property for industry, and it sat empty for quite a while. And slowly began to attract industry. Also, another board with the Joint IDA's recommendation, spent quite a bit of money in flattening out some land and now we've reaped the benefits of that. Vision produced what I think is going to be the cusp of our growth here in the County. So, my point is, and I'm running out of my time and a lot of notes, but my point is let's have the vision. We have the site. We have a building. I think at some point 5-10 years down the road, if we don't have a library there, we're going to have to build one. That perfect site will not be there, and you have, and this Board has, and our Library Board has the opportunity to bring to our eastern end of the County, to the whole County, the fact that Wythe County cherishes education, and education is found in the libraries. I'd love to sit here for the rest of this meeting; I know you guys are going to have a great time but my daughter-in-law has a birthday dinner that started at six o'clock and I'm hungry, so I will be seeing you and I wish you the best."

5. Fort Chiswell Library – Mrs. Frances Watson appeared before the Board and stated "Well, I'm not going to be long. I just want to say I know all of you support children, youngsters, and senior citizens. I know Coy McRoberts brought tears to my eyes one night when you were talking about a place for the young people to go; keeping them away from drugs and all that, and I know Mr. Smith feels the same way. So, I'm just asking, please, we have a new industry coming in here. They're going to be building houses out in the Fort Chiswell area. They're going to have good jobs, good money coming in; they're going to expect a library, and we've got that opportunity, a perfect opportunity everybody has said, and thank you."
6. Water Disconnects – Mr. Zach Lester appeared before the Board and stated "Thank you all for being here, thank you Sheriff Foster, thank you Pastor for saying a little prayer for us earlier. Guys, I'm just going to talk about our water bill reconnection fee. It's a little bit much. I was at home sick last week, they cut my water off. I forgot to pay the bill. My fault. I accept full responsibility. But the bill for two months was \$74.60. The fee was \$70 so the fee was even higher than the bill for the two months usage. I was extremely sick and

ironically, my debit card, I lost my wallet two weeks ago so I had to go to the bank, get the money out of the bank, pay the bill. No big, big deal. But I had a good speech tonight kind of designed to make emphasis on how the system has been designed around a little nickel and dimes of the people. We've built this goliath of an unfunctional government but it really never does take care of the people. All it ever does is really kind of take every ounce of money that we have and fund wars in other countries and all this other stuff. So, I think that there's a lot of focus we need to put on our government how it maintains itself and stupid little details like this water bill thing is something that we can focus on and I'm offering up proposals tonight too to kind of resolve the issue here. The first, you know, for the reconnect/disconnection/reconnection, uh, usually what happens, 'cause I spoke with Mr. Crisp about this issue six months ago, I said *'Hey, I don't think that it's really helping our community to penalize people into submission the way that we're doing it.'* So, if we embrace our community, it would be a whole different turn, it would set a good example. So, the first proposal is I, out of pocket, will pay the gas bill if you all can provide a gas receipt and mileage for the truck that does the disconnections and reconnections for that month, I will cover all fuel costs for that month for doing that. And the reason is, I think that we can deduct that out of the \$75 fee and that would help our community out a lot. I don't have a lot of money but I am willing to give whatever I do have to try and build up our community because I love it. I'm very proud of what we have. It's the little details like that. The second proposal is if you all can legally find a way to get me access to the accounts, I don't want any money but I may have to get put on a salary as a part-time employee or something like that for zero dollars a year, whatever you all have to do to give me access. Two weeks in advance, if you can give me a list of all the disconnections coming up, the amount that needs to be paid, and the contact information, I will personally reach out to every homeowner and resolve that account myself. That is going to save our County a lot of money, it's going to save us a lot of time, and it's going to build the community to set the example. So, I'm also offering that all for free. I don't want anything in return. It's just a good deed to do for my community. And I think that within five years, I'm comfortable in saying within five years I can get our County down to zero water disconnections for the year. And would that not be something to be proud of instead of penalizing families who can't already afford a bill and tacking on a very substantial amount. Seventy-five bucks in today's world, I know it's not a lot to most people but, to a family that's struggling to pay their water, it is very important. There's only a few things in the world that are as important as water, and it's a very

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cheap thing we can have so I think the County should re-evaluate the situation, how we approach that part of our community and start to try and embrace people. Thank you all for everything you do and God bless you all."

With no one else signed up to speak, Chair Vaught closed Citizens' Time.

PAYMENT OF COUNTY INVOICES

Supervisor Horney made a motion to pay the invoices for approval on December 14, 2021, for the various departments of County government. The invoices were paid on General Warrants 30111230-30111383 and two wire transfers, as follows:

EXPENDITURES BY DEPARTMENT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS December 14, 2021

CHECK #	ISSUE DATE	VENDOR	AMOUNT
30111230	12/06/2021	APPALACHIAN POWER	\$ 2,706.16
30111231	12/06/2021	CENTURYLINK	51.62
30111232	12/06/2021	CENTURYLINK	52.76
30111233	12/06/2021	CENTURYLINK	98.97
30111234	12/06/2021	CENTURYLINK	125.33
30111235	12/06/2021	CENTURYLINK	146.47
30111236	12/06/2021	CENTURYLINK	248.18
30111237	12/06/2021	CENTURYLINK	280.80
30111238	12/06/2021	CENTURYLINK	310.40
30111239	12/06/2021	CENTURYLINK	3,548.05
30111240	12/06/2021	CENTURYLINK	4,934.52
30111241	12/06/2021	GREATAMERICA FINANCIAL SE	153.00
30111242	12/06/2021	MCI COMM SERVICE	34.57
30111243	12/06/2021	MCI COMM SERVICE	106.01
30111244	12/06/2021	MCI COMM SERVICE	857.71
30111245	12/06/2021	VERIZON WIRELESS	1,954.66
30111246	12/06/2021	WYTHE CO WATER & WASTEWAT	227.12
TOTAL EXPENDITURES 12/06/2021			\$15,836.33

CHECK #	ISSUE DATE	VENDOR	AMOUNT
30111247	12/09/2021	AMAZON	\$ 2,180.78
30111248	12/09/2021	AMERA-CHEM INC	106.90
30111249	12/09/2021	APPALACHIAN REGIONAL EXPO	50,000.00
30111250	12/09/2021	APPALACHIAN POWER	29,868.39

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30111251	12/09/2021	ATLANTIC EMERGENCY SOLUTI	4,710.86
30111252	12/09/2021	ATMOS ENERGY	54.37
30111253	12/09/2021	AYERS & SONS SEPTIC LLC	375.00
30111254	12/09/2021	BIG WALKER SWCD	2,000.00
30111255	12/09/2021	BKT UNIFORMS	1,769.53
30111256	12/09/2021	BLUE 360 MEDIA LLC	950.30
30111257	12/09/2021	BLUE RIDGE ANALYTICAL, LL	1,379.00
30111258	12/09/2021	BOB HUFF	73.97
30111259	12/09/2021	BRENNTAG MID-SOUTH INC	2,937.42
30111260	12/09/2021	BUSINESS CARD	5,667.63
30111261	12/09/2021	CARTER MACHINERY CO INC	3,128.80
30111262	12/09/2021	CARZ R US LLC	48.00
30111263	12/09/2021	CLINE'S BODY SHOP LLC	2,232.87
30111264	12/09/2021	COLT W. SIMMONS CONSTRUCT	19,124.80
30111265	12/09/2021	DISTRICT THREE	3,890.00
30111266	12/09/2021	DODSON BROS EXTERMINATING	65.00
30111267	12/09/2021	E. C. PACE COMPANY	273,663.42
30111268	12/09/2021	EAST COAST EMERGENCY VEHI	191.94
30111269	12/09/2021	ENTERPRISE FM TRUST	44,063.19
30111270	12/09/2021	F&R ELECTRIC INC	14,335.00
30111271	12/09/2021	FERGUSON ENTERPRISES #5	9,576.95
30111272	12/09/2021	FIRE RESCUE AND TACTICAL	859.07
30111273	12/09/2021	GALLS	385.28
30111274	12/09/2021	GENUINE PARTS COMPANY	95.48
30111275	12/09/2021	WRANGLER HOLDCO CORP	7.50
30111276	12/09/2021	HILL STUDIO PC	43,480.00
30111277	12/09/2021	INTERSTATE RESCUE LLC	329.93
30111278	12/09/2021	IVANHOE FIRE DEPT	3,358.31
30111279	12/09/2021	J. S. HAREN COMPANY	8,836.22
30111280	12/09/2021	JASON'S AUTO SERVICE	46.98
30111281	12/09/2021	JOINT PUBLIC SERVICE AUTH	45,303.44
30111282	12/09/2021	JONES, MICHAEL D	512.46
30111283	12/09/2021	KIRBY'S KUTTIN EDGE	900.00
30111284	12/09/2021	LANE GROUP	3,349.50
30111285	12/09/2021	MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY SERVI	95.25
30111286	12/09/2021	LEXISNEXIS	740.00
30111287	12/09/2021	LOWE'S	301.39
30111288	12/09/2021	MATTERN & CRAIG, INC	23,280.00
30111289	12/09/2021	JEFFERY LEE MILLER	45.00

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30111290	12/09/2021	MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS AME	589.00
30111291	12/09/2021	NEW RIVER REGIONAL WATER	41,972.77
30111292	12/09/2021	NRVLSA	15.00
30111293	12/09/2021	CHRIS DUNFORD	188.03
30111294	12/09/2021	CHRIS TERRY	84.23
30111295	12/09/2021	DALTON ROSE	110.38
30111296	12/09/2021	ETHAN ATWELL	75.10
30111297	12/09/2021	ETHAN ATWELL	90.75
30111298	12/09/2021	FRANK EVAN ATWELL	25.81
30111299	12/09/2021	GEORGE SEWELL	15.51
30111300	12/09/2021	WALTER BASS	45.91
30111301	12/09/2021	WILLIAM KYLE COUNTS	93.42
30111302	12/09/2021	WILLIAM KYLE COUNTS	39.06
30111303	12/09/2021	PAPER CLIP	84.88
30111304	12/09/2021	PARTNERSHIP SCREENING INT	14.40
30111305	12/09/2021	PITNEY BOWES	151.17
30111306	12/09/2021	PROTECT YOUTH SPORTS	207.30
30111307	12/09/2021	R&C TOWING & REPAIR CO	85.00
30111308	12/09/2021	R&R ENTERPRISES INC	135.00
30111309	12/09/2021	REGION I VBCOA	60.00
30111310	12/09/2021	ROANOKE PUMP SALES & SERV	1,737.43
30111311	12/09/2021	ROBINSON FARMER COX ASSOC	30,000.00
30111312	12/09/2021	S&S ENGINEERS INC	8,575.00
30111313	12/09/2021	SALTUS TECHNOLOGIES LLC	6,927.36
30111314	12/09/2021	SEGRA	30.35
30111315	12/09/2021	SOUTHWESTERN EQUIPMENT	4,758.49
30111316	12/09/2021	SOUTHWESTERN VA GAS SERVI	124.83
30111317	12/09/2021	STATE ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO	439.56
30111318	12/09/2021	SUPREME COURT OF VIRGINIA	8,026.96
30111319	12/09/2021	TACS	479.57
30111320	12/09/2021	THC ENTERPRISES, INC	39,788.11
30111321	12/09/2021	THOMPSON TIRE	96.66
30111322	12/09/2021	TOWN OF RURAL RETREAT	63.45
30111323	12/09/2021	TRANSUNION RISK & ALTERNA	75.00
30111324	12/09/2021	TRI CITIES/SW VA REGIONAL	857.51
30111325	12/09/2021	TRI COUNTY GLASS INC	382.95
30111326	12/09/2021	TYLER TECHNOLOGIES INC	2,220.00
30111327	12/09/2021	UNIFIRST CORP	110.43
30111328	12/09/2021	UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA	75.00

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30111329	12/09/2021	USA BLUE BOOK	171.78
30111330	12/09/2021	V&M RECYCLING	74,485.11
30111331	12/09/2021	VEBA	180.00
30111332	12/09/2021	VIRGINIA BUSINESS SYST	95.35
30111333	12/09/2021	VIRGINIA BUSINESS SYSTEMS	682.18
30111334	12/09/2021	VIRGINIA ELECTRIC SUPPLY,	518.63
30111335	12/09/2021	VIRGINIA LAWYERS WEEKLY	449.00
30111336	12/09/2021	VIRGINIA TECH	13,028.64
30111337	12/09/2021	VUPS	55.65
30111338	12/09/2021	W. S. DARLEY & CO	2,637.00
30111339	12/09/2021	WITMER PUBLIC SAFETY GROU	173.00
30111340	12/09/2021	WYTHE TIRE AND MUFFLER	634.24
30111341	12/09/2021	WYTHEVILLE OFFICE SUPPLY	473.46
30111342	12/09/2021	XEROX	19.20

TOTAL EXPENDITURES 12/09/2021**\$846,774.55**

CHECK #	ISSUE DATE	VENDOR	AMOUNT
30111343	12/14/2021	KING-MOORE INC	\$ 864.50
30111344	12/14/2021	ALDERMAN JOSEPHINE T	35.95
30111345	12/14/2021	ALDERMAN JOSEPHINE T	100.00
30111346	12/14/2021	AMBURN RONNIE L & LEIGH A	144.91
30111347	12/14/2021	CORVIN SHARON G	69.88
30111348	12/14/2021	CORVIN SHARON G	22.31
30111349	12/14/2021	DUNN LATASHA	23.24
30111350	12/14/2021	DUNN LATASHA	25.54
30111351	12/14/2021	EATON JAMES HOGE	72.08
30111352	12/14/2021	FERRITTO KIMBERLY F	9.51
30111353	12/14/2021	FRYE KERRY ONEAL	120.05
30111354	12/14/2021	HALL BARBARA ANN	11.29
30111355	12/14/2021	HALL FRED G & BARBARA ANN	14.24
30111356	12/14/2021	HALL PAMULA H	17.92
30111357	12/14/2021	HALL PAMULA H	120.00
30111358	12/14/2021	HASH JOEL L JR	56.95
30111359	12/14/2021	HASH JR JOEL LEE	3.50
30111360	12/14/2021	JONES BRANDI N	39.10
30111361	12/14/2021	KEEN TONY RAY	445.95
30111362	12/14/2021	KING RANDOLPH KELLY SR &	287.97
30111363	12/14/2021	KRUNICH ROBERT P	200.00
30111364	12/14/2021	KRUNICH ROBERT P	367.48

30111365	12/14/2021	MOREHEAD HALEY GOVIN	97.25
30111366	12/14/2021	NYE JR ROLLIE CLAYTON	3.64
30111367	12/14/2021	NYE JR ROLLIE CLAYTON	11.73
30111368	12/14/2021	OWENS TOMMY R	237.60
30111369	12/14/2021	PORTER ALMA C (FOR LIFE)	184.79
30111370	12/14/2021	SAWYERS ANDREW FRANKLIN	35.58
30111371	12/14/2021	SHOWALTER JR RICHARD R	2.32
30111372	12/14/2021	SHOWALTER JR RICHARD R	8.48
30111373	12/14/2021	SHOWALTER JR RICHARD R	12.95
30111374	12/14/2021	SHOWALTER JR RICHARD R	108.80
30111375	12/14/2021	SHOWALTER RICHARD R JR	31.50
30111376	12/14/2021	SPRAKER TIMOTHY BURTON	480.00
30111377	12/14/2021	SPRAKER TIMOTHY BURTON	9.76
30111378	12/14/2021	THOMPSON JOHN PATRICK	3.06
30111379	12/14/2021	THOMPSON JOHN PATRICK	511.42
30111380	12/14/2021	TURNING HEADS LLC	8.43
30111381	12/14/2021	WHITE CARLTON MICHAEL	61.64
30111382	12/14/2021	WOOD DARA LEIGH	15.76
30111383	12/14/2021	WRIGHT JEFF ALLEN	4.50

TOTAL EXPENDITURES 12/14/2021 **\$ 4,881.58**

CHECK #	ISSUE DATE	VENDOR	AMOUNT
wire	12/14/2021	VIRGINIA RESOURCES AUTHOR	\$ 3,418.77
wire	12/14/2021	SUNTRUST	36,881.92

TOTAL EXPENDITURES 12/14/2021 **\$40,300.69**

TOTAL EXPENDITURES APPROVED 12/14/2021 **\$907,793.15**

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

<p>AYES:</p> <p>Brian W. Vaught</p> <p>Rolland R. Cook</p> <p>Ryan M. Lawson</p> <p>James D. "Jamie" Smith</p>	<p>Coy L. McRoberts</p> <p>B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.</p> <p>Stacy A. Terry</p>
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NAYS: None

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Board was presented with the November 23, 2021 minutes for approval.

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Supervisor McRoberts made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Smith, to approve the November 23, 2021 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

PARKS & RECREATION, KEVIN WILLIAMS

1. Recognition Awards – Kevin Williams, Parks & Recreation Director, had intended to present recognition awards this evening but, unfortunately, the recipients were unavailable. Therefore, he will postpone the awards until next month.
2. Rural Retreat Lake Campground & Pool – Mr. Williams provided the Board a summary of the revenue/expense comparison for the past season. Campground had a successful season compared to previous two years. Revenue for this past season was about \$92,700 (campsites, shelter reservations, bait, ice cream, wood, ice sales). Rental fees were increased by about 10.5% resulting in an approximately revenue increase of 25%. Expenses (mostly labor) totaled around \$66k. Total profit is approximately \$26,600.

The pool, unfortunately, fell short this season by about \$6,000 due in part to the increase in minimum wage (certified lifeguards). Historically, we try to at least break even with revenue/expense. Labor costs were about \$21k and operational expenses around \$13k. Mr. Williams doesn't believe another increase in the daily admission will help much at least not until the pool gets resurfaced. They could, however, decrease costs in the long-run by considering to replace the filter system which would significantly decrease labor-related costs. Understandably, the County may not want to make this investment if the lease isn't going to be renewed.

Mr. Hankins added that legislators have been contacted to help push along signing of the lease agreement.

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Chair Vaught mentioned that last year the pool admission rate was raised from \$3 to \$4. The Town of Wytheville charges \$3 and the Rural Retreat Lake Campground Pool charges \$4. The Chair thanked Mr. Williams for all his efforts getting the pool opened this summer. Additionally, the bear-proof trash cans have certainly helped to keep the campground looking good.

Mr. Williams thanked the Board for their support addressing the staffing shortage and certification of lifeguards. And the County maintenance group did a great job with some of the larger projects, and having a good, solid manager has made the job easier.

Supervisor Smith also thanked Mr. Williams for his involvement in the Progress Park bow hunting which has been a big success.

FRIENDS OF THE FORT CHISWELL LIBRARY, TONY STROUPE

Mr. Tony Stroupe, President of the Friends of Fort Chiswell Library, appeared before the Board and stated "Good evening, everyone. Thanks everyone for letting us speak tonight. My name is Tony Stroupe. I'm President of the Friends of Fort Chiswell Library and we had our monthly meeting last Thursday. Mr. Smith and Mr. Terry both attended and wanted me to go over what we went over at that point with the full board. So, I gave you a packet here we can, we'll get through it as quick as we can 'cause I know I only got ten minutes. The group was formed so location could be purchased for use as a public library as requested by the informal assembly of Wythe County Board of Supervisors, Wythe-Grayson Regional Library Board of Trustees, and the citizens of Fort Chiswell and Lead Mines district. That meeting happened almost two years ago; February will be two years. The bank building located on the corner Highways 52 and 94 in Fort Chiswell was and still is seen as the perfect location. And y'all have heard from Tina and we know it's right there at the high school, it's right there at the intersection of the two highways, a lot of traffic through, a lot of people come through the area every day going to work whatever, going to the grocery store. At the start of this whole thing with the bank, they priced the building to us for \$375k and that's what was agreed on with them. Even with COVID we formed, we were incorporated, we started in May of 2020 with our incorporation. We received our 501(c)(3) non-profit status in March of 2021. We purchased the building, we signed the paperwork on 5th of May 2021 and, unfortunately, Joe Hale passed away the 6th of June, a month later. Joe Hale signed on as a co-signer to start with, he was going to co-sign with us. Well, the bank decided they couldn't do that. Joe needed protection as a co-signer and the bank's attorneys, Joe's attorney, got together and Joe actually bought the building and we have a lease agreement which you have a

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copy of there with Joe Hale, which is now his estate, that we would pay the payments, the taxes, that kind of thing. And that has kind of led to some problems too because there are grants that we won't qualify for because it's a privately-owned, even though we're leasing, it's a privately-owned building. We also, because we don't show a steady income at this point, we can't go to the bank and refinance and get Joe's estate out of this situation, and try to get the loan we want to refinance and get it in the Friends of the Fort Chiswell Library's name, that way there's a lot of grants and stuff that we can apply for. And we have six years according to the contact with Joe, Joe's estate, we have six years to pay the building off or refinance or they take control of the building again and we're out. They can take the building to do whatever they want to at that point. So, if we've got the building, the library established at that point, then we're back to negotiating some kind of deal with his estate to try to keep this building for the library. So, we want to try to, that's part of the reason we ask for the \$2,200 a month because our payment is going to run close to that and we, I know that Rural Retreat only gets \$400-500 a month but we're in a different situation here. We've got a more expensive piece of property, we've got a location that's right in the middle of the community, so we need, we were discussing this with Wythe-Grayson Regional Library, they returned a proposal and they are proposing \$400-500 a month. Well, if this piece of property, if the County was going to rent this piece of property or whoever was going to rent this piece of property as an individual or from an individual say for office buildings or whatever, you're going to pay \$2,000-3,000 a month. Those little strip malls at Fort Chiswell are \$1,200-2,500 a month just for a little section. We've got a whole complete building and a good location with a lot of property on the outside, a lot of room for expansion. When this process started, Earle Libby and myself, Earle is the Vice President, he had a little meeting with Mr. Bear, and I made the comment that the County could just buy the property and he said '*That could always be a possibility.*' So, we would be up for that too. We've got a piece of property that according to, it's my understanding that the tax value is over \$500k. This building could be purchased by the County for \$300k. I think that's a pretty good situation right there. So, I ask that you consider that possibility and, if that's not a possibility, we need to negotiate some type of lease agreement with Wythe-Grayson Regional Library and we do know from public records Whitetop gets \$1,000 a month. That's in Grayson County. And monetary contributions in the FY2021 from the two counties that were Grayson County at \$324,455 plus the Town of Independence kicked in \$3,500 which made a total of \$327,995. Wythe County \$324,455, Town of Rural Retreat \$3,111, Town of Wytheville \$3,500 which is \$331,066 from Wythe County. An additional note here, we went back through the public records, it's all in the minutes, WGRL had a \$418k unrestricted net position in 2019-2020 fiscal audit report and they had a profit, and there's a copy of

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this in here for you to look at, they had a profit of \$85k+ showing at the end of the 2020-2021 yearend. So, there's some money there. I don't know what it could be earmarked for but there's money there that could be used for this. Even if we make a deal with Wythe-Grayson and we get what we need from them to pay this off in six years, we're still going to have to come up with another couple thousand dollars a month or so, just to pay the building off and get out of, if we don't get enough loans or enough grants to pay it off in the six years, we're going to have to raise enough, double a month what we would get. Currently, we've got some local donations but currently most of our money has come from RCI-BEC which is a foundation, roofing consultant institute that Joe was involved with for forty years. He helped set the whole thing up; he was a director of their non-profit. They give us over \$100k at this point. We have been paying interest only as of this year, that was the agreement with the bank starting in June. And we also have a \$316/month escrow payment that goes to pay the taxes and our insurance. With that, we are paying almost \$1,300/month right now at interest only with the payment of the bank. We will go to almost or right at \$2,000 in June we're going to have to start paying off. So that's part of the reason we're looking, we're asking for that amount of money. And we feel that the building, like I said, is worth at least, it's probably worth more than that if it was rented out to an individual or to some company or whatever. I guess my main question here is, like I asked Mr. Smith and Mr. Terry, here we are, we got the perfect location, we've got a need, a big need, for that end of the County and that can't, at our end of the County, we contribute quite a bit of tax money, we got quite a bit of businesses that we've got all the trucks and bunch of truck stops on that end. I think my wife counted it the other day, we had 11 businesses serving food right there around Fort Chiswell so we get a lot of food tax and stuff from that end of the County. So, we feel that the money, we can find the money to do this for the citizens and for the citizens of that end of the County. We've got people that's right now if you live in Barren Springs, you're either driving to Pulaski, Hillsville or Wytheville to go to the library. That puts a lot of strain on some people trying to do whatever they want to do as far as educate their children or just to educate their selves. We appreciate you listening to us and we hope that we can get together. At this point, we feel like we need to get together with your Board, the Wythe-Grayson Regional Library Board, and our Board and maybe get together as a group some time and try to work this out between us to benefit not just the Friends; we're here to benefit the whole County. We're here to benefit everybody so thank you for your time and I hope we can work something out here. Thanks a lot."

Mr. Bear commented that they all understand the situation they are in and this is the first time a real issue has come before this Board. He believes this Board fully

supports a library in the Fort Chiswell area but, unfortunately, Mr. Hale's passing has put them in a difficult position where they bought more building than what they can financially afford. Nowhere in previous discussions was it ever stated that the Board of Supervisors would purchase such a building in the Fort Chiswell area or paying this much rent. Helping with operational costs is one thing but a \$250k-300k purchase of a building is another thing, one that the County could consider but Mr. Bear never advocated for this purchase. Mr. Bear said that staff will follow the lead of this Board.

Mr. Stroupe added "I know where we started at with trying to do like what Rural Retreat has been but with Joe's passing and other little things, this situation is not the same as it was two years ago. We're in a little bit different a situation right here now. And also, with all the bills and stuff that has come out of Washington lately, I feel like that Wythe County could probably get grants to pay for this building a lot easier and a lot faster than we could ever do on our own. There's a lot of money that's going out of Washington now for physical improvements and stuff like that. Wythe County has the staff and the people that know how to apply for grants and we're still working on that; we're a fledgling group. Most of us that got involved with this had no idea what it would take to do this, myself, personally. And we don't have the knowledge; we're working on it. We're working on getting information and knowledge that we need and we've got some people helping us. RCI-BEC is working with us on our budgets and our finances. HOPE Industries has been a big help to us. They're handling, through a grant with Wythe-Bland, they're handling our bookkeeping. RCI is going to try and help us with our budget and they're also helping us look for grants. But if we can come to some agreement, Mr. Bear did not tell me they would buy, but he just said it was a possibility. So, I just wanted to present that to everyone that if we can look in that direction, let's look in that direction also. Because then the building would be secured. If something happens and we can't pay for this building, and the bank takes it back, and we've already got that library established and it's up and running, where are we going from there? Are we going to move it across the street, build a building across the street, or try to buy a piece of property? So, I mean if we want to get this going, we've got the site, we just need to try to work together to try to get this up and going and financed, whatever we need to do and in whatever direction we need to do it."

Chair Vaught asked Mr. Stroupe about the Head Start building in Max Meadows that is owned by the School Board (aka Wythe County) and if they ever considered it?

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Mr. Stroupe replied "No, we did not because it is in Max Meadows. It is not centrally located and it's not near the high school. It's near the grade school but it's not near the high school and middle school. And that's one thing we're looking at too. When there's a ball game or something, it's kind of scary the way the kids come out of the high school and rush across the road to go over to Food Country or wherever to kill a little time before they have a ball game or whatever. So, it was mentioned before that maybe the County could put in a crosswalk there which would help. But the location of that building is just perfect for the library and for the area. It's right there at the corner of 94 and 52. There's thousands of people come through there every day. And we got an opportunity to purchase it, so we did. We had talked about that building from the beginning, that it was the perfect location."

Supervisor Smith said they all support a library in that end of the County but they're not in the market for a building. They need to get together with WGRL and discuss what options are available going forward. It will take four votes on each board to pass anything, which is why Supervisors Smith and Terry wanted FOFCL to present to the entire Board of Supervisors this evening.

Mr. Stroupe stated "We are presenting this as just an option. And I have talked to some of the people at RCI who have contributed all this money, and they have no problem, that they have donated this much money to this point, that the County was to buy the building for what we owe against it. They have no problem. Their only stipulation to the whole thing is that it stays the 'Joe Hale Public Library of Fort Chiswell'. They want to make sure that Joe's name is on the building. There won't be any problem with them if you decide to buy the building, like I said as long as Joe's name is on it. That is just another suggestion to try to get us somewhere where we can go ahead and get this thing going and not lose the building 'cause like said, say we agree to \$500/month, just hypothetically, we go ahead, we open the library, in six months or a year or two years down the road, we can't get enough grants because of the way the situation is, and the bank forecloses on it. Like I said before, what's going to happen to the library then? Is it going to close completely? Are we going to try and find another piece of property and build another building? I mean, we could have repercussions from that on down the road. And that's one of the things we're looking at. We're not here trying to make demands. We're not here saying 'You need to buy the building.' or 'You need to give us money.' We're here to negotiate and try to get this worked out where we can get this going for everybody."

Chair Vaught takes issue with the fact that they went ahead and bought the building without sitting down and discussing/negotiating first with the Board of Supervisors.

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He said to forward any grant information to Mr. Bear and he will have staff work on it.

Mr. Stroupe added "In our defense, I do want to say, we were told that we had to secure a building before we could go any farther with Wythe County or the Board. So that's what we have done. We were pretty much told that we had to do this on our own and get a site, then we could go from there. It just so happened this turned out to be the site and what it cost. We bought the building for way less than what the tax assessment is on it. I think we got a deal on it."

Supervisor Cook said that they were asked to get a building, and what they got was a payment, basically putting the cart before the horse.

Mr. Stroupe replied "That is the only way we could have got anything in that area."

Supervisor Cook referenced the Head Start building in Max Meadows and that there is nothing wrong with it.

Mr. Stroupe said "We were just told to ... I don't know what to say to that statement. That was mentioned but, you know, the train got to rolling and we went on with it so this is where we're at. And I know everybody here wants the library down there, we just, we need some help."

Chair Vaught asked Mr. Bear to share with the Board the libraries' operational budgets.

Mr. Stroup said in closing "Thanks a lot. I appreciate your attention. We appreciate you listening to us."

The Chair indicated the Board will consider the issue and see what they can do.

PEPPERS FERRY REGIONAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT AUTHORITY

Mr. Bear explained this is the Memorandum of Agreement authorizing Peppers Ferry Regional Wastewater Treatment Authority to provide domestic septage treatment services for which the County does not have the capacity to provide.

Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Horney, to approve the MOU with Peppers Ferry Regional Wastewater Treatment Authority as presented.

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

VDOT SURVEY – EXITS 77 & 80 IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. Bear asked that the Board consider the various scenarios for the subject improvements. He, Mr. Hankins and Mr. Kincer attended a VDOT presentation detailing these options, some of which are probably not financially feasible. Feedback is encouraged from the Board and their constituents which will be provided to VDOT. Mr. Bear also said he hopes to have VDOT attend one of the Board’s upcoming meetings to go over this in more detail.

STS PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT

Mr. Bear stated that this is the Commonwealth Development Opportunity Fund Performance Agreement for STS (Lot 1 of Progress Park) having no local match. The agreement has been reviewed by both JIDA and the County Attorney and Board approval is recommended.

Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, to approve the STS Performance Agreement as presented.

The roll call vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Brian W. Vaught Rolland R. Cook Ryan M. Lawson James D. "Jamie" Smith	Coy L. McRoberts B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr. Stacy A. Terry
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NAYS: None

PROPOSED OPIOID AGREEMENTS, DON MARTIN

Mr. Don Martin, Assistant County Attorney, said that last month this Board passed a resolution accepting the settlement agreements. A few minor changes were made by the attorneys. The agreements, once executed and settlement received, provide that we will not turn around and sue again. However, the escrow agreement stipulates that if 99% of the parties involved don’t agree to settle, then we have the right to further litigation. Mr. Martin said these agreements were drafted by our national opioid counsel and he recommends Board approval.

Supervisor Smith made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, to approve the opioid settlement agreements with Janssen and Distributors, as well as the escrow

agreement, and to authorize the County Administrator to execute on the Board's behalf.

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

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Bear would like the Board to think about appointments that will be expiring at the end of this year.

Chair Vaught asked that a copy of the appointment listing be provided to Mr. Burnett for his consideration, and that all Board members take time to review as well.

BLUE STAR ROAD NAME

Mr. Bear stated that with the new industries coming to Lots 24A and 24B, and in order to assign address numbers to the various buildings, it is recommended that the access easement road be named Blue Star Drive.

Supervisor Cook made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Terry, to approve naming the access easement road within Lots 24A and 24B to "Blue Star Drive".

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

SUPERVISORS' REPORTS

1. Christmas – Supervisor Terry wanted to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas.
2. Christmas – Supervisor Horney also wished everyone a Merry Christmas.
3. St. Lukes Road Speeding – Vice Chair Lawson received a complaint about speeding on St. Lukes Road on the paved portion and said she is working with VDOT on possible speed reduction.

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4. County Door Decorating Contest – Vice Chair Lawson wanted to thank all the County employees who participated in the charity contest. The judges are all art teachers from the Wythe County Public School District. The winner will be announced on December 17th and the money raised (\$220) will go toward the charity of the winner's choice.
5. Smith Road – Supervisor Smith said residents on Smith Road presented a petition to get their road under maintenance and repair. He and Mr. Bear will work with the citizens to let them know the options (revenue sharing, etc.).
6. Crosswalk at 94/52 – Supervisor Smith mentioned that although this issue is not new, there are a lot of students crossing there during various events and it's becoming increasingly more dangerous. He asked Mr. Bear to work with VDOT to see what can be done.

Mr. Bear is contacting Mr. Kincer to see if there is any available money in the VDOT "Safe Route to School" fund. This crosswalk is certainly among the most needed as far as safety improvements go.

7. Ivanhoe Property Clean-up – Supervisor Smith asked Mr. Bear if there've been any updates on the property eye-sore.

Mr. Hankins responded that Mr. Dunford contacted the property owner and gave him thirty days to clean up the mess. Mr. Hankins will make sure that Mr. Dunford follows up with the property owner.

8. Christmas Toy Drives – Sheriff Foster reported that his department took 100+ kids shopping last week for the "Shop-With-A-Cop" day. They have also organized a toy drive for the kids that fell victim to the tornadoes in Kentucky. This toy drive is also being promoted by Channel 7 and is on social media.
9. Christmas Holiday – Chair Vaught also wanted to wish everyone a Merry Christmas.
10. Broadband – Chair Vaught said it's very exciting that Broadband will be coming to our area.

Mr. Hankins said the Governor announced yesterday a \$2B investment in Broadband, an investment that roughly equates to \$3,600 per

household/address. Point Broadband will be the provider to all unserved and those underserved and this should be accomplished by 2024 (approximately 8,000 households). This likely will not affect residents of the Town of Wytheville or the Town of Rural Retreat that are currently being served by Shentel.

11. Holiday/Extra Day Off – Chair Vaught announced that the Supreme Court has designated December 30th as a holiday, closing all the courts. Accordingly, the Chair requests the County give their employees that day off as well.

Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, to give County employees December 30th as an additional holiday.

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

12. Convenience Centers – Chair Vaught received a complaint about a resident who uses a walker, that they had visited the Convenience Center recently and was told by the attendant that they could not assist the customer because of COVID. This is unacceptable. The Chair also received a complaint that the Convenience Center closed early the day before Thanksgiving. He relayed this to Mr. Bowers who is contacting V&M.
13. Minimum Wage Increase – Chair Vaught said that effective January 1st, the minimum wage will increase to \$11/per hour and that we have two custodians making that right now. He asked if there is a plan for adjusting their wages. Mr. Bear said this has been discussed and he will present proposals for the Board’s consideration at the next meeting.
14. Firefighters – Mr. Hankins reported that the firefighter application announcement went out (daytime/part-time) for Max Meadows Fire Department. In addition, he said announcement seeking dispatchers also went out.
15. 911 Dispatch – Supervisor Cook asked how close are we to getting Dispatch fully staffed? Mr. Hankins responded that an ad will go out this week for the new position of Deputy Director and that they hope to find someone who has experience in both recruiting and retention.

RECESS

The Board recessed until Thursday, December 16, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. for a Joint Meeting with the Appalachian Regional Exposition Center Authority.

Supervisor McRoberts notified the group that he will be unable to attend as it is his birthday that day.

RECONVENE

The Board reconvened on Thursday, December 16, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brian W. Vaught, Chair
Ryan M. Lawson, Vice Chair
Rolland R. Cook

B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
James D. "Jamie" Smith
Stacy A. Terry

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Coy L. McRoberts

STAFF PRESENT:

Stephen D. Bear, County Administrator
Martha Collins, Administrative Assistant/Clerk
Matthew C. Hankins, Assistant County Administrator
Regina Williams, Finance Director

APEX AUTHORITY PRESENT:

Betsy Gillman, Vice Chair
Barry Ayers
Shannon Ball

Bob Litton
Tam Topham
Jamie Wyatt

OTHERS PRESENT:

Gary Gillman

Beth Taylor

CALL TO ORDER

Both Chair Vaught and Vice Chair Gillman determined that a quorum was present from each of their Boards and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

WORK SESSION

The Board of Supervisors engaged in at-length discussions with the APEX Authority regarding scheduled events, operations and financials. The Board would like to see

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financial reports submitted on a regular basis. Additionally, the Authority is currently working on a business/vision plan and will present a draft to the Board after the new year.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to come before the Boards, both Vice Chair Gillman and Chair Vaught adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:20 p.m.

Brian W. Vaught, Chair