

February 22, 2022

The Wythe County Board of Supervisors held its regularly scheduled meeting at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 22, 2022. The location of the meeting was in the Boardroom of the County Administration Building, 340 South Sixth Street, Wytheville, Virginia.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

Jesse R. Burnett
 James D. "Jamie" Smith
 Stacy A. Terry

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Brian W. Vaught, Chair

STAFF PRESENT:

Stephen D. Bear, County Administrator (by phone)
 Martha Collins, Administrative Assistant/Clerk
 Scot Farthing, County Attorney
 Matthew C. Hankins, Assistant County Administrator
 Regina Williams, Finance Director

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kim Ayers
 William & Katherine Conaway
 Lennon Counts
 Jim & Dee Ennis
 Lori Guynn
 Crystal Holliday
 Gus Kincer
 Roland Kooch
 Zach Lester

Hugh Matlack
 Linda Meyer
 Dickie Morgan
 Beth Taylor and husband
 Brenda Thomas
 John Thompson
 Kathy Vaught
 Zach Wright

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Rev. Hugh Matlack, Anchor of Hope and Galena Presbyterian Churches, provided the invocation and Supervisor Cook led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS' TIME

1. Marshall Law – Mr. Zach Lester appeared before the Board and stated “You guys are doing an awesome job and we really appreciate it, and it shows how committed everybody is. Tonight, I just want to kind of point out some of our neighbors to the north. Canada’s having a lot of issues you know. Prime Minister Trudeau just issued Marshall Law Friday on his citizens for peacefully assembling, and the reason I bring it up here is because you know they are such a big trade partner of the U.S. They are our largest trade partner. They share 5,000 miles of border with us and the people are now having their bank accounts frozen, their properties seized, and their families incarcerated over peacefully protesting the vaccine mandates that have just been enforced. A lot of the trucking industry has chipped in and that’s made the situation dire up there, and for our neighbors, our support is probably one of the biggest things right now. Their government is literally waging war against their own people. Our news is very complicit in it as well and so it’s not going to be on any of the main channels or anything that gives anybody any information. A lot of people are misinformed about a lot of the stuff so I just want to give you all a couple of months to think about it before that comes to our shores and in our homes. I think that we’re going to be seeing a lot of similar things happen here in the U.S. and when the orders come from the top down, I would like for our county to stand against the system and say that we will not enforce military-style gestapo on our own people. So, I would really like y’all’s support and just get educated on what’s happening outside of our little space. I know you all do an excellent job and we’re really appreciative of it but I think there are some big things that are happening. We just need to sit down and maybe talk about how we would handle if anything ever came about like that. Just want to let you guys know. Thank you again for all you do, and God bless everybody. Thank you all.”

With no one else signed up to address the Board, Vice Chair Lawson closed Citizens’ Time.

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED ISSUANCE OF BONDS - \$6,000,000 FOR WATER & SEWER FACILITIES

Mr. Hankins read the following “Notice is given that the Board of Supervisors of Wythe County, Virginia (the “Board”) will hold a public hearing on the proposed issuance at one time or from time to time of bonds by Wythe County. The estimated maximum amount of the bonds proposed to be issued is \$6,000,000 in the aggregate. The proposed uses of the bond proceeds are to pay costs of capital improvements to water and sewer facilities of the County and to pay costs of issuing the bonds. The public

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hearing, which may be continued or adjourned, and at which persons may appear and present their views on the proposed bond issue, will be held at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on February 22, 2022, before the Board in the Board Room of the County Administration Building, located at 340 South Sixth Street in Wytheville, Virginia.”

Mr. Hankins explained that the proposed, short-term bond issuance would allow the County better cash-flow for several upcoming utility projects.

Vice Chair Lawson, hearing no comments from citizens, closed the comment period of the public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED ISSUANCE OF BONDS - \$12,115,000 FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES

Mr. Hankins read the following “Notice is given that the Board of Supervisors of Wythe County, Virginia (the "Board") will hold a public hearing on the proposed issuance at one time or from time to time of bonds by Wythe County. The estimated maximum amount of the bonds proposed to be issued is \$12,115,000 in the aggregate. The proposed uses of the bond proceeds are to pay costs of capital improvements to public school facilities of the County and to pay costs of issuing the bonds. The public hearing, which may be continued or adjourned, and at which persons may appear and present their views on the proposed bond issue, will be held at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on February 22, 2022, before the Board in the Board Room of the County Administration Building, located at 340 South Sixth Street in Wytheville, Virginia.”

Mr. Hankins commented that the primary use of the proposed issuance is for the construction of a middle school on the grounds of the George Wythe High School. He added that a representative from Davenport is in attendance to speak on the bond issuances.

Vice Chair Lawson, hearing no comments from citizens, closed the comment period of the public hearing.

PAYMENT OF COUNTY INVOICES

Supervisor Cook made a motion to pay the invoices for approval on February 22, 2022, for the various departments of County government. The invoices were paid on General Warrants 30111733-30111827, and three wire transfers, as follows:

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**EXPENDITURES BY DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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CHECK #	ISSUE DATE	VENDOR	AMOUNT
30111733	02/11/2022	DALY COMPUTERS	\$ 149.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES 02/11/2022			\$ 149.00

CHECK #	ISSUE DATE	VENDOR	AMOUNT
30111734	02/16/2022	APPALACHIAN POWER	\$ 42,682.98
30111735	02/16/2022	CENTURYLINK	368.57
30111736	02/16/2022	CENTURYLINK	138.24
30111737	02/16/2022	CENTURYLINK	338.46
30111738	02/16/2022	CITIZENS TELEPHONE COOP	474.18
30111739	02/16/2022	GREATAMERICA FINANCIAL SE	306.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES 02/16/2022			\$ 44,008.43

CHECK #	ISSUE DATE	VENDOR	AMOUNT
wire	02/22/2022	SUNTRUST	\$ 36,881.92
wire	02/22/2022	VIRGINIA RESOURCES AUTHOR	57,516.49
wire	02/22/2022	VIRGINIA RESOURCES AUTHOR	34,246.78
30111740	02/22/2022	DOOR SERVICES CORPORATION	508.68
30111741	02/22/2022	AGA	50.00
30111742	02/22/2022	AMAZON	2,093.89
30111743	02/22/2022	APPALACHIAN POWER	2,874.21
30111744	02/22/2022	BARREN SPRINGS VOL FIRE D	1,568.80
30111745	02/22/2022	BKT UNIFORMS	446.92
30111746	02/22/2022	BOONE TRACTOR & IMPLEMENT	5.64
30111747	02/22/2022	BROWN EXTERMINATING CO	850.00
30111748	02/22/2022	CARTER MACHINERY CO INC	2,346.17
30111749	02/22/2022	CAVALIER SUPPLY CO	1,708.25
30111750	02/22/2022	CENTURYLINK	39.98
30111751	02/22/2022	CENTURYLINK	130.79
30111752	02/22/2022	CITY-COUNTY COMMUNICATION	400.00
30111753	02/22/2022	CLINES AUTO SERVICE AND T	475.00
30111754	02/22/2022	COM TEC	750.00
30111755	02/22/2022	COMPLETE TRUCK SERVICE IN	121.00
30111756	02/22/2022	COUNTY OF WYTHE	2,833.34
30111757	02/22/2022	CSG SYSTEMS, INC	1,838.53

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30111758	02/22/2022	DEPT OF MOTOR VEHICLES	6,375.00
30111759	02/22/2022	DISTRICT THREE	12,404.00
30111760	02/22/2022	ENTERPRISE FM TRUST	6,385.85
30111761	02/22/2022	ESP	347.16
30111762	02/22/2022	FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER	937.50
30111763	02/22/2022	FARTHING, SCOT S	3,757.50
30111764	02/22/2022	FERGUSON ENTERPRISES #5	2,172.46
30111765	02/22/2022	FIRE RESCUE AND TACTICAL	721.56
30111766	02/22/2022	FN WHOLESALE LIGHTING & S	159.00
30111767	02/22/2022	FOOD COUNTRY	8.05
30111768	02/22/2022	FP MAILING SOLUTIONS	1,141.00
30111769	02/22/2022	GALLS	1,550.46
30111770	02/22/2022	GENUINE PARTS COMPANY	604.57
30111771	02/22/2022	GOLDEN RULE CREATIONS	708.36
30111772	02/22/2022	HARPO'S HARDWARE & BLDG S	5.57
30111773	02/22/2022	HOME DEPOT PRO	1,722.60
30111774	02/22/2022	HUFF FORD	325.89
30111775	02/22/2022	HURT & PROFFITT INC	13,600.00
30111776	02/22/2022	JACKSON MEMORIAL ELEMENTA	21.90
30111777	02/22/2022	JAMES DALE POTTER	665.00
30111778	02/22/2022	JARVIS TREE SERVICES LLC	15,200.00
30111779	02/22/2022	JASON'S AUTO SERVICE	143.64
30111780	02/22/2022	JOHNSON CONTROLS	1,644.12
30111781	02/22/2022	JOINT PUBLIC SERVICE AUTH	79.56
30111782	02/22/2022	KINCER, G. JOSEPH	79.98
30111783	02/22/2022	KIWANIS CLUB OF WYTHEVILL	540.00
30111784	02/22/2022	MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY SERVI	3,281.50
30111785	02/22/2022	LEAD MINES RESCUE SQUAD	3,217.65
30111786	02/22/2022	LOWE'S	1,319.05
30111787	02/22/2022	MANSFIELD OIL CO	7,875.25
30111788	02/22/2022	MEADE TRACTOR	182.11
30111789	02/22/2022	MOUNT ROGERS COMMUNITY SE	41,087.25
30111790	02/22/2022	NEW PIG CORPORATION	2,898.83
30111791	02/22/2022	NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL	132,133.80
30111792	02/22/2022	OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDIC	80.00
30111793	02/22/2022	TYLER HARRINGTON	98.28
30111794	02/22/2022	VERONICA LOOP	103.45
30111795	02/22/2022	OR-TEC INC	1,104.00
30111796	02/22/2022	PAPER CLIP	1,462.43

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30111797	02/22/2022	R&R ENTERPRISES INC	645.00
30111798	02/22/2022	R.E. MICHEL COMPANY, LLC	492.46
30111799	02/22/2022	RENTAL HUB INC	905.00
30111800	02/22/2022	ROBINSON FARMER COX ASSOC	27,654.00
30111801	02/22/2022	SALEM STONE	238.21
30111802	02/22/2022	SCANSTAT TECHNOLOGIES LLC	36.08
30111803	02/22/2022	SOUTHWESTERN VA GAS SERVI	1,519.79
30111804	02/22/2022	STATE ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO	2,090.02
30111805	02/22/2022	STRAIGHT ARROW TRANSMISSI	424.46
30111806	02/22/2022	SUPPLY ROOM	196.79
30111807	02/22/2022	TACS	950.70
30111808	02/22/2022	THOMPSON TIRE	38.33
30111809	02/22/2022	THRASHER GROUP INC	40,000.00
30111810	02/22/2022	THREE RIVERS MEDIA CORP	330.00
30111811	02/22/2022	TIDEWATER FLEET SUPPLY LL	1,591.45
30111812	02/22/2022	TOWN OF WYTHEVILLE	9,079.99
30111813	02/22/2022	TOWN OF WYTHEVILLE	125,000.00
30111814	02/22/2022	USA BLUE BOOK	2,326.25
30111815	02/22/2022	VACORP	19,809.00
30111816	02/22/2022	VAUGHT, BRIAN W	889.50
30111817	02/22/2022	VERIZON WIRELESS	40.01
30111818	02/22/2022	VIRGINIA BUSINESS SYST	51.72
30111819	02/22/2022	VIRGINIA BUSINESS SYST	96.34
30111820	02/22/2022	VIRGINIA INTERACTIVE	95.00
30111821	02/22/2022	VRPS	98.00
30111822	02/22/2022	VUPS	39.90
30111823	02/22/2022	WITMER PUBLIC SAFETY GROU	223.00
30111824	02/22/2022	WYTHE OIL DISTRIBUTORS	1,625.83
30111825	02/22/2022	WYTHE TIRE AND MUFFLER	40.00
30111826	02/22/2022	WYTHEVILLE METALS	84.64
30111827	02/22/2022	WYTHEVILLE OFFICE SUPPLY	1,452.38
TOTAL EXPENDITURES 02/22/2022			\$651,894.57

TOTAL EXPENDITURES APPROVED 02/22/2022 **\$696,052.00**

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

AYES:	Ryan M. Lawson	Jesse R. Burnett
	Rolland R. Cook	B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.

James D. "Jamie" Smith

Stacy A. Terry

ABSENT: Brian W. Vaught

NAYS: None

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Board was presented with the February 8, 2022 minutes for approval.

Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Burnett, to approve the February 8, 2022 minutes as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Ryan M. Lawson	Jesse R. Burnett
	Rolland R. Cook	B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
	James D. "Jamie" Smith	Stacy A. Terry

ABSENT: Brian W. Vaught

NAYS: None

REVIEW OF FINANCING REQUEST FOR BIDS – DAVENPORT & COMPANY

Mr. Roland Kooch, Senior Vice President in the Public Finance practice of Davenport, appeared before the Board to present the following:

- Davenport distributed RFPs to over 100 financial institutions (local, regional and national) to provide funding.
- Proposals were received from Capital One, First Bank & Trust, Key, National Bank, Truist and Webster Bank.
- Interest rates are going up although currently are still fairly low (2-2.5%).
- Davenport conducted a review of proposal comparisons (combined and separate financings) and determined no material advantage to splitting up the financings. The lowest fixed interest rate to maturity came from Webster Bank, at 2.57% with all-in cost of 2.68%, and no prepay penalty.
- The Total Debt Service Cost of \$12M at 2.57% is just under \$16M.
- The Utility Refinancing of \$4.57M will generate savings of just under \$700k or 15% (average refinance savings is 3%). This will reduce payments and shorten the length of the prior loan at a lower rate.

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- Financing for the school project's existing and new debt service will exceed the budget only in year 2023, and then be reduced every year thereafter.
- Davenport did a comparison of Webster Bank vs VPSA, and while VPSA may yield slightly more savings, the exact interest rate won't be determined until late April, and it's a variable rate.
- Long-Term Financing Recommendation: Given the current market trend, it is Davenport's recommendation to proceed with the financing through Webster Bank where there is no interest rate risk.
- Short-Term Financing: Mr. Kooch summarized proposals from four financial institutions. While First Bank & Trust had the highest rate, theirs is a Line of Credit where funds are drawdown as you need them. Key had the lowest interest rate at 1.862%, fully drawn at closing, and no prepay penalty after 12 months.

Mr. Hankins said, at this point, the County doesn't know yet exactly how much money is needed and when it will be needed. The more conservative approach may be to go with First Bank & Trust where we would pay interest only on the money we need, when we need it. However, Mr. Hankins would lean toward going with Key Bank at the lower interest rate, but both options are feasible.

Supervisors Smith, Cook and Terry agree that the best option is Key Bank.

- Next Steps: Now through early March, Davenport will coordinate finalizing the numbers and documents, with final approval of documents/resolutions at the March 8th Board of Supervisors' meeting. Closing to take place mid to late March.

Supervisor Cook made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Smith, to authorize Davenport & Company to proceed with the financings through Webster Bank and Key Bank.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

TREASURER’S REPORT

Treasurer, Lori Guynn, appeared before the Board and reported the following:

1. Revenue Statement – Mrs. Guynn reported that the Consolidated Account was comprised of \$75,460,272 of which \$51,081,906 was in the General Fund Account at the end of January, reflecting an increase since December.

2. Tax Collections – Mrs. Guynn reported that collections are still coming in especially with many people having received their income tax refunds. The 3% credit card transaction fee is not generating much push back from people. Many are paying the fee, and those who wish to avoid the fee are coming in to pay in cash or with a check. It helps that the Town and other County offices are all having to impose the same fee.

3. Delinquent Tax Notices – Delinquent tax notices for real estate and personal property should be prepared and sent to the printer by mid-March, and mailed out in late March, early April.

4. Dog Tag Renewal – Mrs. Guynn said they will also be focusing on updating dog tag records in preparation for another mailing by the end of March, early April.

5. Delinquent Meals Tax Collections – The Treasurer’s Office will also be reviewing the meals tax collection records that the Commissioner of Revenue sent over. They will work with many of those businesses to help them get caught up and get their meals taxes paid.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Mrs. Kathy Vaught, Commissioner of Revenue, said that based on a conversation with Mike Colavecchio about the reassessments, his office hopes to have everything sent to the printer by March 1st. Therefore, notices should be sent out around mid-March.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

1. PAYROLL – January 2022:

General County Fund	\$	612,967.13
Police Activity Fund		59,734.85

Courthouse Security Fund	13,803.45
Water Department Fund	23,126.60
Wythe County Wastewater Fund	25,083.16
TOTAL	\$ 734,715.19

Check Numbers: 2001423-2001434; 2001439-2001602

Voucher Numbers: 19904-20069; 20075-20086

2. STATUS REPORTS:

- A. Animal Control – Arlan Dunford
- B. Building & Grounds – Billy Bowers
- C. Building Inspection – Kyle Taylor
- D. Finance – Regina Williams
- E. IT – Todd Catron
- F. Parks & Recreation – Kevin Williams

3. PERSONNEL:

- A. Kristine Hagen – Hired, Full-time Administrative Assistant, Water & Wastewater Dept/County Administration, Annual Salary \$28,392, Effective February 2, 2022

4. BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

- A. \$97.50 (Revenue Code 11003-319004) – Martin Bower, Hazmat Cleanup
- B. \$16,399 (Revenue Code 11003-325052/Expense Code 2106-461525) – Clerk of Circuit Court, Library of Virginia Grant

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

AYES:	Ryan M. Lawson	Jesse R. Burnett
	Rolland R. Cook	B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
	James D. "Jamie" Smith	Stacy A. Terry

ABSENT: Brian W. Vaught

NAYS: None

Mr. Hankins also added that Max Meadows Convenience Center has a brand new trash compactor that is now in operation, improving the level of service.

APEX CENTER – MR. BARRY AYERS

Mr. Hankins announced that due to a family illness, Mr. Ayers is unable to attend tonight and has asked to postpone the discussion until March 8th.

Supervisor Terry asked if the APEX has made their quarterly payment due tomorrow.

Mr. Hankins said no.

Supervisor Terry is not interested in having a discussion on March 8th.

County Attorney Scot Farthing, said it is at the pleasure of the Board whether they want the APEX Authority to speak at the next meeting.

Supervisor Terry said if they can't be self-supportive, he feels it's time to "pull the plug".

Supervisor Cook asked what will the County do with it?

Supervisor Terry responded that it should be put on the market.

Supervisor Cook asked if there are other events scheduled that may generate income, or do we just shut it down completely? He said he is okay with selling it but what do we do between now and the time it sells? Do we let it sit empty or allow the Authority to continue to operate?

Supervisor Terry is okay with letting the APEX Authority operate until the County can locate a buyer.

Supervisor Smith would like to wait until they actually default before making any decision.

Supervisor Horney said that if they default, part of the reason is because we didn't fund them with what we told them we would fund. Granted, part of the money we give them, they are just giving it back in rent payments, but we should also consider the admissions tax (and other taxes) that the County receives.

Supervisor Smith commented that the APEX recently had three big events and although the last one was not well advertised, it turned out to be standing room only.

Supervisor Horney is not opposed to selling the APEX, but he is opposed to just letting it sit there empty. He asked the County Attorney if the APEX can amend their contracts to include language that if the County sells the APEX, the County can either honor the contract or pay a penalty for breaking it.

Mr. Farthing said he could research this but, frankly, it would be difficult to get events in without a solid commitment.

Supervisor Smith also commented that once the County decided to stop funding the APEX, events quickly got booked. In addition, there were two promoters there last weekend and he spoke with one of them. He feels if this type of promotion and activity had been occurring all along, things would be much different.

Supervisor Horney said that COVID has made it increasingly more difficult to bring the events in.

Supervisor Smith would like to wait and see if they default before making any decision.

Supervisor Burnett said he would like an opportunity to speak with the Authority first.

EAST WYTHEVILLE POLLING LOCATION

Mr. Hankins explained that a public hearing is needed to amend the Supervisors District and Voting Precinct Ordinance moving the East Wytheville polling location.

Mr. Lennon Counts, Registrar, explained that the date of the Chautauqua festival conflicts with the June Primary, and after researching alternative locations, Spiller Elementary is the most feasible. Going forward, Spiller will be the polling location for every election for the next ten years, or until such time as a better location is discovered.

Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Horney, to set a Public Hearing for March 22, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. regarding amending the Supervisors District and Voting Precinct Ordinance.

The roll call vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES: Ryan M. Lawson

Jesse R. Burnett

Rolland R. Cook
James D. "Jamie" Smith

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

ABSENT: Brian W. Vaught

NAYS: None

ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Hankins presented the Board with the following items requiring action:

1. Reed Creek Boat Launches – Approval is requested for a letter of recommendation for a Virginia Outdoors Foundation grant that would fund the creation of two boat launches/ramps on Reed Creek. JPSA has also approved a similar letter of support.

Vice Chair Lawson said one ramp would be located at Kents Lane near the transfer station and the other in Max Meadows (currently working with AEP on location).

Supervisor Smith made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Terry, to authorize a letter of support for the boat launches on Reed Creek.

The roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: Ryan M. Lawson
Rolland R. Cook
James D. "Jamie" Smith
Jesse R. Burnett
B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
Stacy A. Terry

ABSENT: Brian W. Vaught

NAYS: None

2. Fire Departments Call-Out Funds – Mr. McCabe has requested approval to pay the call-out funds for the first two quarters as follows:

- Barren Springs \$1,308.72
- Ivanhoe \$1,182.88
- Max Meadows \$3,473.15
- Speedwell \$1,535.23

Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Smith, to authorize payment of call-out funds for the first two quarters of FY22 as requested.

The roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Ryan M. Lawson	Jesse R. Burnett
	Rolland R. Cook	B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
	James D. "Jamie" Smith	Stacy A. Terry

ABSENT: Brian W. Vaught

NAYS: None

3. Ivanhoe Brush Truck – Mr. Hankins requested authorization to pay \$129k which is the balance on the Ivanhoe VFD brush truck. The truck's total cost is \$172k, of which \$43k was paid as deposit. The truck is nearly ready to be shipped.

Supervisor Burnett made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Terry, to approve payment of the remaining balance of \$129,000 for Ivanhoe VFD's new brush truck.

Supervisor Cook asked what it will cost to outfit the truck, to which Mr. Hankins replied that it will depend on the needs of Ivanhoe VFD.

The roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Ryan M. Lawson	Jesse R. Burnett
	Rolland R. Cook	B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
	James D. "Jamie" Smith	Stacy A. Terry

ABSENT: Brian W. Vaught

NAYS: None

4. Rural Retreat Lake Lease – Mr. Hankins reported that the lease agreement is in its final stage with DWR counsel. He anticipates presenting the final agreement to the Board for review at the next meeting. State Code does not allow for automatic renewals; instead, the lease agreement will be for a maximum of five years at a time.

5. 911 Dispatch Personnel – Mr. Hankins announced that Ms. Jamie Grubb has been hired as the Deputy Director effective March 1st. She was interviewed by County staff as well as ECC Board representatives.

Regarding Dispatchers, 34 applications were received, 24 candidates were screened, and 12 were invited to test. All should be tested by the end of this week.

Shift Coordinator positions will be advertised later this week.

6. Purchasing/Procurement Update – Mr. Hankins commented that Ivanhoe's pumper tanker is still waiting on the drop tank; however, it needs to be put in service whether it has the drop tank or not. The plan is to deliver it to Ivanhoe this Thursday.

Speedwell's pumper tanker is also waiting for a drop tank. Delivery is expected in March and it will be delivered to Speedwell with or without the drop tank.

RFPs have gone out for many of the Blue Star projects, among others. The County will continue to seek commercial realty services to help market properties near the APEX along Chapman and Pres Jackson Roads.

Peed & Bortz put out bids for sewer force main to service Blue Star; bids due March 17th.

Staff is currently reviewing proposals received for Lots Gap water storage tank engineering, and Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion engineering.

Supervisor Cook asked about cameras

Mr. Hankins responded that bids have not yet gone out pending more information as to necessary quantity. He understands the need to expedite this.

Supervisor Smith asked for an update regarding paid staff at Max Meadows Fire Department.

Mr. Hankins replied that only four applications were received. Also, he is waiting for Chief Haywood to get back to him regarding the Memorandum of Agreement. Mr. Hankins will reach out to the Chief again, as it's been nearly six weeks.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Hankins, on behalf of the County Administrator, shared the following with the Board:

1. Budget Amendments & Request for Public Hearing – Given major economic development projects, changes will need to be made to the budget as follows:
 - School Construction \$1,000,000 Architect & Engineering Fees
 - Lots Gap Tank \$ 500,000 Engineering Fees
 - FC WWTP \$ 450,000 Engineering
 - MM Sewer Repair \$1,009,000 Infiltration Repairs
 - Rail Construction \$2,000,000 Design & Construction

Supervisor Smith made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Terry, to set a Public Hearing for March 22, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. to consider budget amendments as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: Ryan M. Lawson Jesse R. Burnett
 Rolland R. Cook B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
 James D. "Jamie" Smith Stacy A. Terry

ABSENT: Brian W. Vaught

NAYS: None

2. VA Department of Historic Resources – Fulton Farm, 531 Kohler Avenue – Mr. Hankins said that the VA Department of Historic Resources advised that the subject property in Austinville has been nominated for recommendation to the National Register of Historic Places. Letter of support is available for anyone who wishes to submit their support.
3. SRO DCJS Grant Closure Request – Mr. Hankins explained that DCJS grant funding requires that an SRO have at least three years of law enforcement experience. If we can't fill the position, we risk losing that funding. So it's best for us to just withdraw from the grant rather than have DCJS terminate it. Mr. Hankins said we can reapply later if need be. But in the interim, if we fill that position, it would have to come out of the General Fund.

Supervisor Cook raised concern about the cost of the County funding another position.

Supervisor Smith wanted assurance that the Fort Chiswell High School SRO position is not being eliminated (which it is not).

Mr. Bear said they can discuss this at the next meeting after receiving input from the Sheriff and Chief Deputy.

4. Performance Agreements – Mr. Hankins reported that both STS and Blue Star Performance Agreements continue to be reviewed and will be presented at the March 8th Board meeting.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORT – PHOTO ENFORCEMENT ORDINANCE

Mr. Farthing said that a draft ordinance is included in the board package. He considered two similar ordinances (Altavista and Fairfax), and ultimately modeled Wythe County's ordinance after Fairfax, which provides more detail.

Mr. Hankins has drafted and will advertise an RFP for service.

Supervisor Horney made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Smith, to set a Public Hearing for March 22, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. to consider the Camera Speed Monitoring and Enforcement Ordinance.

The roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Ryan M. Lawson	Jesse R. Burnett
	Rolland R. Cook	B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
	James D. "Jamie" Smith	Stacy A. Terry

ABSENT: Brian W. Vaught

NAYS: None

Supervisor Cook feels that a greater fine should be imposed for excessive speeding; however, State Code will only allow a maximum of \$100 from the enforcement of camera speed monitoring.

SUPERVISORS' REPORTS

1. Business Closures in Fort Chiswell – Supervisor Burnett expressed disappointment that two businesses in Poplar Camp have closed (Lunch Bucket Diner and Ogles Convenience Store). It's a shame to see good, local people having to shutter their businesses.
2. Road Issue in Max Meadows – Supervisor Smith asked if VDOT could address the deteriorating condition of the street going up to Max Meadows Elementary. Apparently, the road is caving along the sides of the road, under the weight of the buses.
3. Speeding on Rt. 94 – Supervisor Smith said that speeding continues to be an issue on Lots Gap and Route 94, from Fort Chiswell Road up to around St. Paul PHC. Both Supervisor Smith and Supervisor Burnett have received complaints.
4. Progress Park 'No Parking' Signage – Supervisor Smith said the 'No Parking' signs have been knocked down. Trucks are still pulling over on the side of the road and causing damage to the roadside. Signs need to go back up and drivers ticketed.
5. Turkey Hunting in Progress Park – Supervisor Smith said because the deer hunt was so successful, there is now a lot of interest in a Spring turkey hunt (archery) if we can make that happen.
6. Wythe County Sports Complex – Supervisor Smith is pleased to report on a new business that just opened. Mr. Wayne Kirby recently opened Wythe County Sports Complex on Chapman Road that is a great place for kids to practice baseball, soccer, wrestling.
7. High Speed Internet – Supervisor Horney has received complaints about where the highspeed internet cable is going in. Landowners were not notified of the work, and is there a way we can let them know? Also, Supervisor Horney asked what the timeline is for rolling out Broadband (when and where)?

Mr. Hankins said he spoke with Point Broadband last week after receiving complaints from landowners, but does not have a timeline as yet.

CLOSED MEETING

The Board decided to postpone the Closed Meeting until March 8th.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to come before the Board, Vice Chair Lawson adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:25 p.m.

Ryan M. Lawson, Vice Chair