

April 26, 2022

The Wythe County Board of Supervisors held its regularly scheduled meeting at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 26, 2022. 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.

Jesse R. Burnett

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

Regina Williams, Finance Director

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kimberly Ayers

Amanda Banes

Philip Blankenbeckler

Jerry Blevins

Steve & Lanita Canup

Anthony Cline

Lori Guynn

Brian Lawson

Zach Lester

Linda Meyer

Dickie Morgan

Brenda Thomas

Kathy Vaught

One Other

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 Steve Canup, Fort Chiswell Church of Christ, provided the invocation and Supervisor Cook led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS' TIME

1. 911 Call Log Request – Mr. Jerry Blevins appeared before the Board and made the following statement:

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"Approximately mid-morning, February 15, 2022, I stopped by the Wythe County Department of Social Services to complain about a longstanding problem with my neighbor. The lady with Social Services even asked another lady to sit and hear my complaint. We were almost finished when all of a sudden, four or five Wythe County deputies came in the door without knocking and told the social services lady to leave. They proceeded to tell me to leave, that I wasn't welcome there. At this point, the DSS lady tried to come back in but was told to leave again. The DSS lady was very concerned about the situation and told me that she called the police. After the police told me to leave, I went home. After going home, after being there for a short time, one of my dogs started barking. I saw through a garage window, someone in the tree line near the garage with a long gun. At this time, I went to the front of my garage and fired a shot in the parking lot away from the intruder and then got into my car and travelled to the lower part of my driveway where I could get a better look at the intruder. I called the 911 operator and reported an intruder on my property whereas the operator replied, 'That's not an intruder, but it's the Sheriff's Department and they are there to talk with you.'" I talked at length with the 911 operator about why the Sheriff's Department would be on my property, period, let alone to talk to me. I knew I wasn't involved in any crime and the only thing I could think of was that it had something to do with my visit to DSS that morning. DSS and the police have to investigate all complaints and in doing that, I was concerned that my DSS complaint was causing my life harm and even told the DSS lady that. Being very concerned that my life was in imminent danger and I relayed this to the 911 operator to which she replied, 'All deputies carry body cams.' However, since the deputies had arrived, immediately after my complaint to DSS, with long guns, sneaking up the back way through the tree line, to not identify their presence, even after I fired a shot, told me they were attempting to take me out. In the Wytheville Enterprise newspaper, Saturday, March 5th edition, it states that the police shot one of the dogs while taking cover. This is not true because I would have heard the shot had it been true. The dog was shot at but was during the search of my property. The dog is not a vicious animal and if it was shot, it was intentional. Had my dog been vicious, they would have detected it upon initial contact with the deputies. Malfeasance was further shown by not getting medical attention for the dog that was shot. Most of the 911 call was about my security because I knew if I got out of my car, I would be shot. At no time did I threaten to shoot the police. That is a lie stating I did. Finally, I was arrested and taken for a mental exam at the hospital that turned up nothing beyond what was already known. After being falsely accused and arrested, I spent 10 days in jail and was

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released. When I finally got home, I found my male dog nearly dead and starved to the point of eating plastic and pine needles. Two state police officers stopped by the jail and told me they would feed the dogs. The adult female and puppies appeared to have been fed but the male dog who had initially warned me of the police presence, had not been fed. Police malfeasance was shown when I asked one of the deputies what was going on after my arrest and he replied, 'Oh, shut the F, blank, blank, blank up!' A few days ago, I met with your County Administrator, Mr. Stephen Bear, and his Assistant to help obtain a paper copy of my 911 call from the 15th of February, 2022. After a formal FOIA request on 17, 2022, the 911 call center finally did mail me a police timeline of the incident involving me, but no 911 call results. At this time, I ask Mr. Bear to please tell the Board of Supervisors what the results of his investigation into my 911 call is and what's being done to get a copy of my original 911 call, February 15, 2022. Thank you."

2. Current Events – Mr. Zach Lester appeared before the Board and stated the following:

"Good evening, Board. Thank you for all you do. I'm just going to start bringing up some topics for all of us to talk about. A lot of the meetings I go to are the same old thing where we talk about such minor details in a time where we're losing absolute control of our entire country. So, I'm going to be reading a few quotes to give a few talk points, but I thank you guys for all you do and what you do for our community.

'I think myself that we have more machinery of government than is necessary, too many parasites living on the labor of the industrious. Government big enough to supply everything you need is big enough to take everything you have ... The course of history shows that as a government grows, liberty decreases. The two enemies of the people are criminals and government, so let us tie the second down with the chains of the constitution so the second will not become the legalized version of the first.' That was Thomas Jefferson, what a good guy.

The second one. 'If ye love wealth better than liberty, the tranquility of servitude than the animated contest of freedom - go home from us in peace. We ask not your counsels or arms. Crouch down and lick the hands which feed you. May your chains sit lightly upon you, and may posterity forget that you were our countrymen!' That was Samuel Adams. These guys formed our country over 3% tax. Today, my generation, I'm sure you all understand too, 51% of my income

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goes to my government. To do what? To regulate me for fish that I catch – I have to have a license to fish. I have to have a license to hunt. I have to have a license to drive. A license to fish to feed myself. I have to have a license to get a job. A license to be certified, to open a business to feed myself. A license to get married. I have to have the government's permission to do everything in my life. We are all slaves to the establishment and it's through our consent and through our ignorance. They've done this by the book legally instead of lawfully through syntax and grammar. The Act of 1871, look into it, it's when they changed our Constitution to the incorporation of the United States. 1913 when we initiated the Federal Reserve, we gave our wealth away to debt system. That's when we gave our economy away. One of our founding fathers, I think it was Thomas Jefferson that said, 'Whenever we lose our currency, we lose our country.' When you think of our debt notes, when I have fifty thousand dollars in the bank, that's just fifty thousand in dollars I have to pay taxes on. Our tax system is set up so if I use their currency, I have to pay an interest rate on all of that. It's how the IRS works, it's all fraudulent. We just had the 2020 elections stolen from us. There's a movie coming out this week, it's called *2000 Mules* by Dinesh D'Souza, he's actually going to be on our show Friday. He goes over the undeniable evidence, video evidence, on how the 2020 election was stolen. 2,000 people smuggled ballot after ballot to the drop boxes. Check that out. We're talking fraudulent elections, a fraudulent tax system.

And the last quote is, 'It does not take a majority to prevail... but rather an irate, tireless minority, keen on setting brush fires of freedom in the minds of men.' (Samuel Adams) So guys, I'm just going to keep bringing up topics to get everybody inspired. I love you all. Keep doing good work. Thank you all for what you do, ok."

3. DSS Complaint – Ms. Amanda Banes appeared before the Board and made the following statement:

"Good evening, guys. Thank you for being here. The topic that I want to discuss today... I have been up since 4 o'clock this morning with anticipation of coming to speak to you guys. I don't do well speaking in front of people. If I mess up, just give me a moment and I'll continue. I got up at 4 o'clock this morning with the idea of writing something to you guys but didn't get but a very few sentences down. But I would like to read what I wrote. Accountability. It is the fact or condition of being accountable, responsible. Accountable of a person or organization or institution requiring or expected to justify actions or decisions.

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The importance of accountability means being responsible for the decisions being made and taken. Accountability is the main element in leadership. Accountability builds up trust, improves performance, promotes ownership and inspires confidence, is all about being reliable and having clear standards. Also, it is about communication and asking questions to make sure the task, or whatever is being done at hand, is being completed to comply with standards. On May 5th of last year, I was grocery shopping, I was surrounded by five or six cops and the local social services with an affidavit to remove my one-year old from my care. After the initial shock of dealing with my son's removal, I sat down and had a chance to read the affidavit that was presented to the courts. Immediately, I knew something was wrong. There were falsifications. There were misrepresentations of facts. There was changing of stories to go with their plot and not what the actual truth was. Upon finding all of this out, I started making complaints to supervisors, the director, I've even been in front of the DSS Board. Through a couple of emails to Ms. Patty O'Quinn, the response back that I got from her was when I had a valid complaint, they would listen. I have been called crazy for coming and standing in front of you people to fight for my children. I am not crazy. I am a traumatized mother that wants her children back home with her and that's all I am. For three years I have fought these people tooth and nail and when I go in front of the court system, I'm labeled as 'aggressive'. Who would not be aggressive when it comes to their children? I'm not aggressive, I just want my babies back home with me and someone to listen to me. All I am asking for is help and everywhere I have turned, I have been turned down. I'm not perfect. I have made mistakes when it comes to raising my children. I will admit that. I will accept accountability. But it is what we learn from those mistakes. These people are supposed to help us learn from our mistakes and strengthen the family bond. And all that they have done is wear me down. They have taken that family bond that I once had with my children and they have destroyed it. That is all I have to say."

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

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED WATER RATES CHANGE

Chair Vaught read the following "The Wythe County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing to give the citizens served by the Wythe County public water system an opportunity to comment on a proposed rate change. In accordance with the Code of Virginia Section 15.2-2119, and subsequent revisions, the Wythe County Board of Supervisors proposes to change the rates charged for water services on July 1, 2022, as follows:

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CURRENT RATES:

Customer Class	Current Minimum Fee – First 1000 Gallons
Residential Base Rate	\$20.79
Commercial Base Rate	\$20.79

Volume Rate	Rate/1000 Gallons
Residential	\$10.40
Commercial	\$10.40

**PROPOSED RATES BASED ON AWWA Basis of Meter Equivalent Ratios (ERC):
(Regardless of volume usage)**

Customer Class	Base Rate		
Base Rate	\$20.79		

Customer Class	Base Rate	ERC Meter Factor	Meter Base Rate
3/4" Meter *	\$20.79	1	\$20.79
1" Meter	\$20.79	2.5	\$51.98
1-1/2" Meter	\$20.79	5	\$103.95
2" Meter	\$20.79	8	\$166.32
3" Meter	\$20.79	15	\$311.85
4" Meter	\$20.79	30	\$623.70
6" Meter	\$20.79	60	\$1,247.40

* Typical Residential Meter

Volume Rate	Rate/1000 Gallons
Residential	\$10.40
Commercial	\$11.40

The public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at 6:05 p.m., or as soon as practicable thereafter, in the Board Room of the County Administration Building, 340 South Sixth Street, Wytheville, Virginia 24382 to hear public comment on the proposed water rate change.

Chair Vaught opened the hearing for public comments.

Mr. Bear explained the proposed rate structure.

With no citizens wishing to address the Board, Chair Vaught closed the comment period of the public hearing.

Supervisor Smith requested confirmation that the commercial rates do not include Progress Park. Mr. Bear confirmed, stating that Progress Park falls within the Town of Wytheville service area.

Supervisor Cook made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Smith, to approve the water rate structure presented with an effective date of July 1, 2022.

Supervisor Horney noted that the base rate does not include 1,000 gallons now; that if someone uses 1,000 gallons, they will pay the base rate plus \$10.40.

The roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: Brian W. Vaught Jesse R. Burnett
 Rolland R. Cook James D. "Jamie" Smith
 Ryan M. Lawson Stacy A. Terry

NAYS: B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.

PAYMENT OF COUNTY INVOICES

Supervisor Terry made a motion to pay the invoices for approval on April 26, 2022, for the various departments of County government. The invoices were paid on General Warrants 30112352-30112436, and one wire transfer, as follows:

**EXPENDITURES BY DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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CHECK #	ISSUE DATE	VENDOR	AMOUNT
30112352	04/19/2022	APPALACHIAN POWER	\$ 22,885.13
30112353	04/19/2022	CENTURYLINK	52.76
30112354	04/19/2022	CENTURYLINK	72.75
30112355	04/19/2022	CENTURYLINK	98.97
30112356	04/19/2022	CENTURYLINK	128.86
30112357	04/19/2022	CENTURYLINK	137.98

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30112358	04/19/2022	CENTURYLINK	145.42
30112359	04/19/2022	CENTURYLINK	336.78
30112360	04/19/2022	CENTURYLINK	3,398.05
30112361	04/19/2022	CITIZENS TELEPHONE COOP	979.95
30112362	04/19/2022	MANSFIELD OIL CO	10,791.84
30112363	04/19/2022	MCI COMM SERVICE	30.65
30112364	04/19/2022	MCI COMM SERVICE	153.95
30112365	04/19/2022	MCI COMM SERVICE	902.51
30112366	04/19/2022	TOWN OF WYTHEVILLE	7,888.83
30112367	04/19/2022	US CELLULAR	1,314.86
30112368	04/19/2022	VERIZON WIRELESS	160.06

TOTAL EXPENDITURES 04/19/2022**\$ 49,479.35**

CHECK #	ISSUE DATE	VENDOR	AMOUNT
wire	04/26/2022	SKYLINE NATL BANK	\$ 18,652.99
30112369	04/26/2022	AMAZON	590.63
30112370	04/26/2022	AMERICAN BUSINESS FORMS I	5,399.36
30112371	04/26/2022	AMERICAN MINE RESEARCH IN	2,196.20
30112372	04/26/2022	APPALACHIAN JUVENILE COMM	20,300.00
30112373	04/26/2022	APPALACHIAN POWER	4,022.26
30112374	04/26/2022	AYERS & SONS SEPTIC LLC	375.00
30112375	04/26/2022	BRINDLEE MOUNTAIN FIRE AP	289,000.00
30112376	04/26/2022	BROWN EXTERMINATING CO	100.00
30112377	04/26/2022	BUSINESS CARD	1,545.30
30112378	04/26/2022	CAMERON DEREK THOMPSON	1,400.00
30112379	04/26/2022	CARILION HEALTHCARE CORP	110.00
30112380	04/26/2022	CAROLINA RECORDING SYSTEM	6,390.00
30112381	04/26/2022	CAVALIER SUPPLY CO	1,333.14
30112382	04/26/2022	CENTURYLINK	39.98
30112383	04/26/2022	CENTURYLINK	130.24
30112384	04/26/2022	CENTURYLINK	309.66
30112385	04/26/2022	CHOICE COMPUTER CENTER, I	3,059.25
30112386	04/26/2022	CITIZENS TELEPHONE COOP	32.76
30112387	04/26/2022	COLLINS AUTO REPAIR INC	20.00
30112388	04/26/2022	COM TEC	50.00
30112389	04/26/2022	CSG SYSTEMS, INC	2,588.31
30112390	04/26/2022	DEPT OF MOTOR VEHICLES	2,550.00
30112391	04/26/2022	DIVERSIFIED INTEGRATION I	66.00
30112392	04/26/2022	FARTHING, SCOT S	4,585.00

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30112393	04/26/2022	FERGUSON ENTERPRISES #5	59,426.28
30112394	04/26/2022	GALLS	947.79
30112395	04/26/2022	GENUINE PARTS COMPANY	1,222.97
30112396	04/26/2022	GREATAMERICA FINANCIAL SE	159.00
30112397	04/26/2022	HARMAN, ANDREW J	335.00
30112398	04/26/2022	HARPO'S HARDWARE & BLDG S	17.97
30112399	04/26/2022	ICC	76.40
30112400	04/26/2022	IVANHOE FIRE DEPT	5,141.46
30112401	04/26/2022	JASON'S AUTO SERVICE	35.00
30112402	04/26/2022	LAUREL CREEK POTTERY LLC	60.00
30112403	04/26/2022	LEAD MINES RESCUE SQUAD	3,435.71
30112404	04/26/2022	LOWE'S	916.05
30112405	04/26/2022	MANSFIELD OIL CO	12,483.02
30112406	04/26/2022	MATTERN & CRAIG, INC	1,920.00
30112407	04/26/2022	MEADE TRACTOR	42.78
30112408	04/26/2022	MILO C COCKERHAM INC	1,323.37
30112409	04/26/2022	MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS AME	185.00
30112410	04/26/2022	MOUNT ROGERS PLANNING DIS	4,727.34
30112411	04/26/2022	NATIONAL POOLS	1,866.10
30112412	04/26/2022	NEW RIVER REGIONAL WATER	54,844.35
30112413	04/26/2022	OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDIC	60.00
30112414	04/26/2022	TYLER HARRINGTON	74.50
30112415	04/26/2022	PAPER CLIP	119.36
30112416	04/26/2022	PEED & BORTZ LLC	176,290.00
30112417	04/26/2022	PITNEY BOWES	1,000.00
30112418	04/26/2022	R&R ENTERPRISES INC	100.00
30112419	04/26/2022	SALEM STONE	287.68
30112420	04/26/2022	SIRCHIE FINGER PRINT LABO	100.87
30112421	04/26/2022	TACS	1,405.00
30112422	04/26/2022	TESLA ELECTRIC SERV	680.00
30112423	04/26/2022	THREE RIVERS MEDIA CORP	660.00
30112424	04/26/2022	TIDEWATER FLEET SUPPLY LL	334.20
30112425	04/26/2022	TOWN OF WYTHEVILLE	594.93
30112426	04/26/2022	TRI CITIES/SW VA REGIONAL	1,146.80
30112427	04/26/2022	TYLER BUSINESS FORMS	487.47
30112428	04/26/2022	TYLER TECHNOLOGIES INC	55,051.25
30112429	04/26/2022	V&M RECYCLING	6,184.64
30112430	04/26/2022	VIRGINIA BUSINESS SYSTEMS	579.23
30112431	04/26/2022	VRAV	325.00

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30112432	04/26/2022	WYTHE TIRE AND MUFFLER	575.36
30112433	04/26/2022	WYTHEVILLE COMMUNITY COLL	12,216.69
30112434	04/26/2022	WYTHEVILLE OFFICE SUPPLY	249.74
30112435	04/26/2022	WYTHEVILLE OFFICE SUPPLY	157.67
30112436	04/26/2022	DIETIKER LYNDER B	776.41
TOTAL EXPENDITURES 04/26/2022			\$773,468.47

TOTAL EXPENDITURES APPROVED 04/26/2022 **\$822,947.82**

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

AYES:	Brian W. Vaught	Jesse R. Burnett
	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 April 12, 2022, minutes for approval.

Supervisor Cook made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Terry, to approve the April 12, 2022, minutes as presented.

The vote on the motion was unanimous, with Supervisor Smith abstaining.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Bear noted that we have vacancies on the Wytheville Community College Board, the Appalachian Regional Exposition Authority and Mount Rogers Planning District Commission.

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 \$91,109,499 of which \$50,586,041 was in the General Fund Account at the end of March. There were two bond closings in the month of March that impacted the balances.

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2. Meals Tax Collections – Mrs. Guynn reported that the state Fire Marshall sited a few local restaurants for not having a range hood and they have had to quit serving food. This will affect the meals tax figures. They are not huge contributors but they are huge contributors to our community and any assistance to them would be appreciated.

Chair Vaught inquired if the restaurants are trying to install what's needed.

Mrs. Guynn believes one of the restaurants closed, one is working to resolve the issue and she is not sure about the other.

3. Sales & Use Tax – Mr. Bear noted that normally the local Sales & Use Tax drops in March; however, he is not sure if the drop this year is going to follow the normal trend or if it is the beginning of a recessionary drop.

Mrs. Guynn commented on the Occupancy Tax, that it influences the Sales & Use Tax as well.

4. Real Estate & Personal Property Delinquent Notices – Mrs. Guynn indicated that delinquent notices were sent out in March. DMV Stops will be placed next week and this will impact collections a lot.

The Treasurer's office started warrants and debt collections today. The concentrated taxes, like mobile homes, business personal property, some of those are outstanding. We will be looking at those too.

5. Real Estate & Personal Property Collections – Mrs. Guynn reported that as of March 31, 2022, overall collections for the 2020 tax year were at 98.3%, and 93.5% for 2021.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

1. Reassessment Update – Mrs. Kathy Vaught, Commissioner of Revenue, provided an update on the reassessment. Notices were mailed today and there is a reassessment book in her office, the Clerk of Circuit Court's office and a PDF copy will be posted on the County website. She noted that hearings will take place via email or mail, with the last day to send an appeal being Friday, May 20, 2022. The reassessment office telephone number is 276-223-4142 and their email is wythecounty2022@gmail.com.

Mrs. Vaught reported that the total taxable parcels amount is \$1,068,621,000 with improvements of \$2,083,069,800, for a total of \$3,151,690,800. It's an increase of \$783MM from last year.

Chair Vaught expressed his irritation with the reassessment hearings only being by email or mail. He stated that people have a right to be heard and the assessors have a job to do, which includes hearing the people. Supervisor Terry agreed.

Mr. Bear commented that future contracts need to clearly state the hearings are to be in person. He will follow-up with Wampler-Eanes about in-person hearings.

Mrs. Vaught clarified that notices were mailed today and citizens have until May 20th to schedule an appeal appointment. The reassessment office will take calls and emails until then. The Board of Equalization is set to be sworn in on May 3rd and will have in-person hearings taking place 30 days after the first hearings.

The board voiced concerns about the methods of taking appointments as a lot of people in our community don't have internet or emails.

2. Vison Software – Mrs. Vaught indicated that image numbers are now on the land cards. The end-of-year rollover was done and the proposed values are now the current values. Brandon Moore and Todd Catron will work with mapping to get the cards loaded to the GIS site this week.

Mr. Bear expressed appreciation to everyone working to get the software going and commented on how important the image numbers are to staff and realtors.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Chair Vaught noted that Sheriff Foster was in Richmond today where Lieutenant Harry Street received one of the 2022 Unsung Hero Awards. He extended congratulations to Lieutenant Street.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

1. **PAYROLL – March 2022:**

General County Fund	\$	612,143.11
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Police Activity Fund	57,597.12
Courthouse Security Fund	13,803.45
Water Department Fund	23,385.70
Wythe County Wastewater Fund	25,256.00
TOTAL	\$ 732,185.38

Check Numbers: 2001639-20011650; 20011655-2001666

Voucher Numbers: 22434-22600; 22606-22772

2. STATUS REPORTS:

- A. Animal Control – Arlan Dunford
- B. Building & Grounds – Billy Bowers
- C. Building Inspection – Kyle Taylor
- D. Engineering – Johnny Kincer
- E. Finance – Regina Williams
- F. IT – Todd Catron
- G. Parks & Recreation – Kevin Williams
- H. Water & Wastewater – Don Crisp

3. PERSONNEL:

- A. Russo, Steven – Resigned, Full-time Sheriff Deputy, Effective March 16, 2022
- B. Justus, Sarah – Hired, Full-time 911 Telecommunicator, Annual Salary \$28,000, Effective April 1, 2022
- C. Dauley, Sharon – Salary Increase, Full-time Animal Control, Annual Salary \$33,528, Effective April 1, 2022
- D. Counts, William – Resigned, Full-time Sheriff Deputy, Effective April 4, 2022
- E. Dunford, Donna – Resigned, Full-time Deputy Clerk, Clerk of Circuit Court, Effective April 8, 2022
- F. Hagen, Kristine – Resigned, Full-time Water/Wastewater Secretary, Effective April 19, 2022

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G. Brewster, Donna – Terminated, Full-time Custodian, Effective April 21, 2022

4. BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

- A. \$850.00 (1101-458060) – Reimbursement for VACo Supervisors’ Forum
- B. \$208.35 (\$36.45 to 32025-461400; \$171.90 to 32025-457246) – Fuel & Meals Reimbursement for trip to inspect Speedwell Fire Department Truck at Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus

Supervisor Smith seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

CSA REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS

Mr. Philip Blankenbeckler of the Wythe County Department of Social Services reported that the Wythe County Children’s Services Act (CSA) has submitted a local match request of \$195,815 for the projected expenditures for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Mr. Blankenbeckler stated that Wythe County CSA currently serves 52 youth and explained the various placements of these youth. There is a higher local match rate for the children in residential foster placement. Mrs. Thomas does a straight-line projection based on expenditures to date and has added additional funds to next year’s CSA request, to help offset this expense in the coming fiscal year.

Supervisor Terry asked if the Board can look at this on a month-by-month basis and see where we stand next month.

Ms. Ayers commented that the CSA budget is a variable that we can’t predict. The May FAPT agenda will include summer placements for Minnic students. She noted that Mr. Bear attends the monthly meetings and is kept apprised of these numbers.

Mr. Bear asked, if \$30,000 in the hole, what amount will get CSA through the next month? He noted that CSA only draws down what is needed.

After brief discussion, Supervisor Terry made a motion to amend and appropriate \$80,000 to the DSS Children’s Services Act budget. Supervisor Cook seconded the motion and the roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Brian W. Vaught	Jesse R. Burnett
	Rolland R. Cook	B. G. “Gene” Horney, Jr.

Ryan M. Lawson
James D. "Jamie" Smith

Stacy A. Terry

NAYS: None

PROCLAMATION – NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Smith, to approve the Proclamation – National Day of Prayer as follows:

**PROCLAMATION
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**

WHEREAS, so great was the faith of our Founding Fathers, and so firm was their belief in the need for God's blessing upon their bold experiment in self-government, that they frequently turned to Him in prayer both as individuals and as a community; and,

WHEREAS, the first act of the Continental Congress, the same body that declared America's independence, was a prayer. And today, we will do well to continue placing in God's hands our hopes and dreams for peace, love and understanding; and

WHEREAS, on this National Day of Prayer, observed more than 200 years after the Continental Congress asked for God's blessing upon our young country, our prayers continue to have no better objective than the safety, well-being, protection and prosperity of our Nation; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Jefferson and other Founders believed that the God who gives us life, gives us liberty as well, and if the American people are to keep a truly free and democratic government, they must acknowledge their dependence on His mercy and guidance; and

WHEREAS, we ask that our fellow Americans join us in prayer for our Nation, seeking His blessings for guidance, grace and protection as we meet the challenges of each new day. Let us pray for our leaders giving them wisdom, discernment, and strength, for the men and women of our Armed Forces, for all first responders who put themselves in harm's way every day and bless our land with honorable endeavors, sound learning, respect and pure manners. And let us ask God for the

sustenance and guidance for all of us to meet the great challenges we face as a Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wythe County Board of Supervisors assembled in regular session in Wytheville, Virginia, this 26th day of April, 2022, does hereby proclaim May 5, 2022 as "NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER" and invite our community to join together in worship and prayer for the renewal of our Nation's moral heritage and for God's blessings upon each of us.

So presented on this 5th day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-two.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

Chair Vaught commended Ms. Cummings for a fine job preparing the proclamation and invited everyone to attend the National Day of Prayer Ceremony at the Wytheville Meeting Center on May 5th.

ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

1. Public Safety Radio System – Mr. Hankins reported that three bids were received for the radio system upgrades. ProComm is the recommended bidder at a cost of around \$1,017,000.

Chair Vaught asked about the date of completion, which is approximately a year. Mr. Hankins noted that this is supply driven.

Chair Vaught inquired if there are any performance stipulations, that this is his only qualm with the draft contract.

Mr. Hankins stated that we can ask them to include the clause stating, "substantially in conformance with RFP", that they submitted. The RFP that they

submitted was in excess of 95% coverage of the county and they felt conservative with that number. The 5% not covered is National Forest.

Supervisor Smith agreed, that if they included this reference in the RFP, that they need to be held to that standard.

2. Speed Camera Enforcement – Blue Line Solutions – Mr. Hankins stated that staff continues to work on the contract with Blue Line Solutions. One of the concerns is that every civil penalty assessed will incur court costs of \$76. This was not anticipated when the ordinance was passed and he feels it's appropriate to consider before we sign a contract that obligates us to use the equipment for a minimum of a year. He expects to have a contract for the Board's review at the next meeting.
3. Rural Retreat Lake Lease – Mr. Hankins said that the lease has now been signed and forwarded to Richmond to the Department of Wildlife Resources, the Attorney General's Office and the Governor's Office for their signatures.
4. Personnel – Mr. Hankins commented that applications are still being received and reviewed for Communications Director and Dispatcher positions.
5. New Apparatus – Mr. Hankins expects Speedwell's pumper tanker to be delivered soon. The rock boat delivery has been pushed out to July 1 due to supplier issues.
6. Tourism Grant – Mr. Hankins reported that the EDA grant sought to support funding for tourism development activities at the APEX Center was not funded.
7. Max Meadows Fire Department – Supervisor Smith asked for a status update on the Memorandum of Agreement with Max Meadows Fire Department.

Mr. Hankins intends to send the revised MOA to Chief Haywood this week and will let the Board know when it is sent.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

1. Utility Billing Software – Mr. Bear thanked the citizens for their patience the past week during the utility billing software upgrade. He commended staff's efforts throughout the software transition.

2. County Office Building Project – A pre-construction meeting was held this morning and Mr. Bear noted he was very impressed with the construction firm. One of the challenges we will encounter is the loss of parking during construction. Mr. Bear will be working with staff to free up parking for citizens as best we can.

3. Blue Star Rail Extension – Change Order #1 – Mr. Bear stated that Blue Star and Norfolk Southern have indicated a need for turnouts in the rail extension. A change order is presented for two turnouts at a cost of \$180,000.

Supervisor Lawson made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Burnett, to approve Change Order #1 for the addition of two #10 turnouts for the Blue Star Rail Extension project.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: James D. "Jamie" Smith

4. Austinville Engineering Amendment – Sewer Rehab Project – Mr. Bear explained the funding opportunities for this project that would necessitate an updated PER. As such, Mattern & Craig submitted their proposal in the amount of \$12,000 for this additional work.

Supervisor Smith made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Terry, to approve Amendment No. 1 in the amount of \$12,000 as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

5. Austinville Engineering Amendment – O&E Manuals – Mr. Crisp presented a proposal for Amendment No. 2 to update the O&E Manuals for the Austinville Plant. He indicated that over the years there have been permit modifications, downsizing, and changes to operation that warrant an update to the manuals.

Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Horney, to approve Amendment No. 2 in the amount of \$6,510.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

6. Sourcewell Generator and Transfer Switch Quotes – Mr. Bear explained that two quotes were received for the Sourcewell contracts. Staff, as well as Peed & Bortz, approve of the quote from Carter Machinery, the low bidder.

Supervisor Horney made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Lawson, to approve the issuance of a purchase order to Carter Machinery in the amount of \$69,671.13

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: James D. "Jamie" Smith

7. Transfer of Lots 24A & 24B to Joint Industrial Development Authority – Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Lawson, to authorize

the transfer of Lot 24A and Lot 24B to the Joint IDA of Wythe County, Town of Wytheville and the Town of Rural Retreat, and authorize the Chair to execute the deed.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: James D. "Jamie" Smith

2. Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates ("RFC") – Mr. Bear provided the Board with two engagement letters from RFC; one for the financial statements audit and the other for non-attest services (GASB #87).

Supervisor Lawson made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Terry, to approve the financial statements audit engagement letter with Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates and authorize County Administrator to execute the documentation.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

Supervisor Smith made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Lawson, to approve the GASB No. 87 Non-attest Services engagement letter with Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates and authorize County Administrator to execute the documentation.

The roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Brian W. Vaught	Jesse R. Burnett
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Ryan M. Lawson
Rolland R. Cook
James D. "Jamie" Smith

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

NAYS: None

FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET

Mr. Bear provided the Board with updated and proposed Expenditure and Revenue Budgets, revised Budget Calendar, Notice of Real Property Increase for advertisement, and Notice of Personal Property, Machine & Tools and Merchant's Capital for advertisement.

Mr. Bear summarized the major increases in the proposed FY23 budget as follows:

1. School System - \$30,119,958 (No additional local operating funds)
 - A. Budget includes new GWHS/Scott Middle School
 - B. Remaining increase covered by state/federal operating funds and construction funds through ESSER/State/Etc. Is dependent upon General Assembly final budget.
2. Water Department Capital - \$14,771,620
 - A. Lots Gap Tank project - \$5.2MM (\$2.5MM Grant/ 80/20 Split with Town)
 - B. Barret Mill waterline (\$3.9MM (Rural Development Loan/Grant)
 - C. Olive Branch (\$4.2MM (Rural Development Loan/Grant)
 - D. Line Replacement - \$1MM (Local Funds)
3. Wastewater Capital - \$8,235,000
 - A. WWTP Expansion - \$7.7MM (Grants/Loans)
 - B. FC Conveyance System - \$500k
4. Lead Mines Rescue Squad - \$1,078,679
 - A. Adding payroll including benefits for LMRS employees (2 Trucks/24 Hours per Day)
5. County Capital Projects - \$1,487,000
 - A. Tower/Radio Project - \$1MM
6. Wastewater - \$531,809
 - A. Anticipated additional operational expense with economic development

7. Consolidated Dispatch - \$451,228
 - A. Additional personnel/structure for improved communications services
8. Department of Social Services - \$436,564
 - A. \$30,000 increase in local funds, balance state/federal
9. VIAA/Mount Rogers Regional Partnership - \$238,740 (Pass through/Reimbursed)

Chair Vaught commented on the need for the major increases and that Wythe County still has some of the lowest tax rates around.

Supervisor Smith emphasized the importance of taking care of the rescue squad services. It will be a public safety matter with the introduction of 2,500 new jobs and the increased traffic along the interstates.

Supervisor Smith made a motion to advertise the real estate tax rate at \$.52 for Calendar Year 2022. Supervisor Terry seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Bear proposed a decrease in the personal property rate by 4.3%, for a rate of \$2.22. The Machine & Tools and Merchant's Capital will remain the same.

Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Lawson, to advertise the Personal Property, Machine and Tools and Merchant's Capital tax levies for a public hearing at 6:00 p.m., June 14, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

Supervisor Smith made a motion to set the public hearing on the real estate tax for May 31, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. Supervisor Terry seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Bear noted that there will be a few expenditure budget details to finalize and can be discussed at the May 10th meeting.

The Board reviewed a revised budget calendar showing the updated public hearing dates and budget adoption.

Supervisor Cook made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Lawson, to adopt the revised budget calendar. The motion passed unanimously.

BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

1. Mowing Bids – Supervisor Burnett made a motion, as recommended by the Building & Grounds Committee, to reject all bids received for mowing (all came in over budget) and to re-bid the work with modifications to help lower the costs.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

2. Trash & Recycling Center Paving – Supervisor Burnett made a motion, as recommended by the Building & Grounds Committee, to re-bid the paving project for the Trash Collection and Recycling Center paving project, as no bids were received on the first solicitation.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

WATER COMMITTEE

1. Lot 1B Sewer Extension Project – Supervisor Horney made a motion, as recommended by the Water Committee, to accept Peed & Bortz's proposal for the Lot 1B (STS) Sewer Extension project in the amount of \$294,600.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

James D. "Jamie" Smith

NAYS: None

SUPERVISORS' REPORTS

1. Ordinance 78-5 – Supervisor Burnett has had several citizens ask him to consider an update to the Elderly & Handicapped Tax Exemption Ordinance and to base the eligibility off of age and property values only.

Mr. Bear stated that it is a good time to review the ordinance and we could possibly raise the thresholds but he's not certain we're able to eliminate any qualification requirements.

2. School Bus Turn Around on Sipe Lane – Supervisor Smith explained issues with the school bus being able to turn around on and exit Sipe Lane. Currently, about 15 students are walking through an open field to catch the bus in the Dollar General parking lot and this is not acceptable. A former board member that lives on Sipe Lane has agreed to allow the bus to turn around on his property but there are still issues with pulling out on Route 94. He requested Mr. Bear discuss this with VDOT.

3. Meadow View Lane – Supervisor Smith said a few residents on Meadow View Lane, off Grouse Ridge Road, have reached out about revenue sharing for their road.

4. Route 52 Wastewater Project – Supervisor Smith inquired about the timeframe for the Route 52 Wastewater Project.

Mr. Bear will contact the engineer to get a time schedule. This is just Phase 1 down Route 52. Phase 2 is Long Meadows and Phase 3 goes up the valley to Route 94.

Supervisor Smith indicated that a developer is interested in this area and is curious if there are any plans to relax ordinances or water/sewer regulations to encourage developers.

Mr. Bear met with developer recently; there is a small section in our subdivision ordinance that allows for condos or townhouse-type developments but we might

have some density issues. We have not started anything to offer incentives yet. The ordinance currently states developers are responsible for construction of roads.

Chair Vaught referenced a grant Mount Rogers Planning District Commission received for housing development that developers should check on.

5. Intersection of Route 52 and 94 – Supervisor Smith said a lot of Fort Chiswell students cross this busy intersection to go to Food City and Burger Express; he wants to keep this issue in focus.

Mr. Bear recommends bringing on an engineering firm to take on this project.

Chair Vaught referenced the grant Rural Retreat received for crosswalks and commented that that may be an option.

6. Wythe-Grayson Regional Library – Supervisor Terry announced that the Regional Library will kick-off brand new accounting software in July. This will allow them to track financial records better. He is happy to report that the Library has made huge strides of improvement and he is happy with their progress.

Supervisor Terry reported that Mr. Tony Stroupe has indicated requesting a meeting with the Board to discuss the Fort Chiswell Library. He is unaware of any meeting requests. The Wythe-Grayson Library Board has tabled this matter until the Friends of the Fort Chiswell Library can make efforts with fundraising.

Mr. Bear is not aware of any requests for meetings or information being provided from the Friends of the Fort Chiswell Library.

Chair Vaught understood at the last meeting with the Friends, that there were grant opportunities the County would be eligible for if the County bought the building and Mr. Stroupe was to provide that information. Have we received the information?

Supervisor Smith referenced an email about a meeting but that Mr. Stroupe was waiting on representation from Grayson County.

Supervisor Terry stated that Mr. Hale's historical work with saving buildings and his architectural and engineering records need to be preserved but not at the expense of the Wythe County taxpayers with a special room for those records.

7. VDOT Matters – Chair Vaught noted that there are considerable wash-outs on Gap of the Ridge Road. He asked if anyone recalled where VDOT planned to install guardrail on the road, if it is in the same area possibly.
8. Administrative Professional's Day – Chair Vaught announced that it is Administrative Professional's Day tomorrow. He thanked all of the administrative staff at the county for what they do.

Mr. Bear noted that he opted to celebrate Administrative Professional's Day at a later date to allow time for staff to get the utility billing software up and running.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to come before the Board, Chair Vaught adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:20 p.m.

Brian W. Vaught, Chair