June 8, 2018

Tazewell County
Board of Supervisors
197 Main Street
Tazewell, Virginia 24651
{Via Email}

Dear Members of the Board:

Pursuant to the Board's instructions I have tried to answer questions presented by the public at the public hearings held on June 5th, 2018, regarding the proposed taxes and budget. Many questions were rhetorical, such as "why is education not as important as..." or "why can't we pay our teachers as much as Grayson County" or "why did we build the shell building."

In this letter, I do not attempt to answer those questions of policy. I defer to the Board to answer those questions. Below are answers to factual questions raised by members of the public, which were not answered during the hearings due to time considerations, so as to give everyone a chance to speak.

Question 1:  "Why did we turn down Alpha when they wanted to go into the Bluestone?"

Answer 1: To my recollection and to the recollection of my staff, Alpha has never asked for any parcel in the Bluestone. There were rumors that Mr. Spencer had turned down a company in 2008; however, I do not know that those have ever been verified.
Question 2: "Why didn't we check on that property in Raven before we bought it for the fish farm?"

Answer 2: Dominion Aquaculture (Jonah) purchased the property in Raven. The Board of Supervisors did not purchase the property. Jonah performed extensive research on the property before buying it. They elected to acquire additional property elsewhere in Tazewell County, because their primary investor wanted the project to be completed more quickly than the permitting process for the Raven property would allow. To my understanding the Raven site remains a phase II site for a second species of fish. Surveying and core drilling geotechnical work is ongoing at the alternate site. The Board of Supervisors has not paid for either site. A Tobacco Commission grant has paid for research on both sites.

Question 3: "Why aren't there any floors in the shell building?"

Answer 3: The shell building is intended to recruit prospective tenants. The thickness of the concrete floor necessary for manufacturing is much greater than for an IT company or call center. Due to the expense of concrete flooring for a 40,000 square foot building, the IDA elected to not install the concrete floor until we had a definite tenant with definite needs for the concrete depth. Essentially, we did not want to install an eight inch thick concrete floor and then lease the building to a call center; nor did we want to install a four inch thick floor and not be able to lease to a machinery manufacturer. The IDA wanted to keep the building flexible.

As noted at the meeting the building was financed 100% by the Coalfield Economic Development Authority (VCEDA) from taxes levied on companies who mine coal and extract gas from the region. The terms of the loan do not require any payments until we have a business tenant and then the our payments on the loan will equal the rent received from the business tenant.

Question 4: "I live in Richlands and now I will have to pay for two stickers for my car, a town sticker and a County sticker. Why is that?"

Answer: The proposed motor vehicle license tax ($10 per vehicle) does not apply to persons who already pay a license fee to any incorporated town. If you live in a town that has this tax, you do not have to pay the County tax. If you live in the County outside any town you would have to pay this tax. If you live in a town that does not already have the tax, then you would pay the County tax.
I believe that these are the only factual questions from the speakers. If I missed any or if you feel like these answers are not adequate, let me know. Also, I will post these answers on the County website.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

C. Eric Young
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