

**VIRGINIA:** AT A SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE TAZEWELL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD MARCH 30, 2020 AT ONE O'CLOCK P.M. IN THE TAZEWELL COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 197 MAIN STREET, TAZEWELL VIRGINIA 24651

**PRESENT:** CHARLES A. STACY, CHAIRMAN  
TOM A. LESTER, JR., VICE CHAIRMAN  
TRAVIS HACKWORTH, MEMBER (*present by phone*)  
MARGARET ASBURY, MEMBER (*present by phone*)  
D. MICHAEL HYMES, MEMBER  
C. ERIC YOUNG, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
CHASE D. COLLINS, COUNTY ATTORNEY  
DAVE WHITE, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS  
WHITNEY PARSONS, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT  
MEMBERS OF THE PRESS: JIM TALBERT, CLINCH VALLEY NEWS/RICHLANDS NEWS PRESS; WARREN HINKLE, THE VOICE NEWSPAPER (*present by phone*)

**ABSENT:** NONE

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Vice Chairman, Tom Lester called the special called meeting to order and presided, with Chairman Stacy arriving later.

Supervisor Hackworth gave the invocation followed by The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag led by Supervisor Hymes.

Chairman Stacy enters the meeting.

#### **BOARD AUTHORIZES COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR ACCESS TO RESERVE FUND**

The County Administrator recalled last fall the Board establishing a half million dollar fund. The Board had done this to set money aside to reestablish the County's reserves that had been depleted due to the recent recession of coal industry over the last decade. Mr. Young asked that the Board find that there is a state of emergency and authorize the County Administrator access to these funds for the purpose of anticipating unknown decisions they may have to make due to the virus and secondly because of the expectation of losing approximately \$800,000 in sales tax revenue. Supervisor Hackworth asked if there was any State or Federal relief available. Mr. Young replied that there possibly was and he had Merchant McIntyre checking into it. He reminded the Board that they also had a \$2 million dollar credit line the County had established the previous year and not yet used. Mr. Young explained that if their monies ran out this fall due to expenditures the County is having to make this spring, he would rather use the cash on hand so they didn't have to start paying interest any sooner than necessary.

Upon motion of Supervisor Hackworth, seconded by Supervisor Hymes and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby find that there is a state of emergency due to the Coronavirus and authorize the County Administrator to access the \$500,000.00 reserve fund as necessary in anticipation to the loss of sales tax revenue and unknown decisions he may have to make during the virus epidemic.

#### **\$20,000.00 AUTHORIZED TO AASC FOR MEALS ON WHEELS PROGRAM**

Mr. Young recalled the County giving money to Clinch Valley Community Action Agency for temporary relief for Black Jewell miners who lost their jobs due to bankruptcy. He had some discussions with Mr. Sheets and was informed that there was approximately \$20,000 remaining unclaimed because those affected either found other jobs or were called back to work. Mr. Young said he would like to ask CVCA to return the funds back to the County and appropriate it to the Appalachian Agency for Senior Citizens to fund their increase in expenses in their Meals on Wheels program for seniors.

Upon motion of Supervisor Lester, seconded by Supervisor Hymes and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby authorize the County Administrator to ask Clinch Valley Community Action to return the \$20,000 unclaimed from the Black Jewel miners and upon return authorize the County Administrator to appropriate these funds to the Appalachian Agency for Senior Citizens to fund their Meals on Wheels program for senior citizens.

#### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. Young announced that there were two (2) confirmed positive Coronavirus cases in Tazewell County. He anticipates that the number of positive cases will grow. Mr. Young urged that all towns, schools, and churches close down their playgrounds to help prevent the spread of the disease because the virus lives on surfaces for long periods of time.

Mr. Young stated speaking with Judge Patterson that morning and he plans to continue shortened hours at the courthouse until the end of April. The courthouse is remaining open to administer justice and process court cases that have to be processed in compliance with State and Federal laws. However, the courthouse will be closed from 8:00am-12:00pm on Monday's and 12:00pm-4:30pm on Friday's. Mr. Young said he would also be continuing split shifts of County personnel to prevent the spread of the virus and making adjustments as necessary. There have already been some employees unable to attend due to preexisting health conditions.

He discussed Mr. Dunford reaching out to Santek at the landfill to see what their emergency operations plan was. Santek responded that they have construction crews all over the country in the event that illness strikes the County they will backfield their personnel with construction crews from elsewhere in the country. Mr. Young stated that PSA also had a plan to support their water plant operator personnel.

Mr. Young announced that Cavitt's Creek Park will remain open so residents have a chance to get out and have fresh air. He reminded that the facilities and playgrounds there are closed.

He discussed continuing to make public relations push and asking for media's help to remind people to wash hands, keep their social distance, stay away from groups over 10 people, and to constantly clean touched surfaces. He commented that the County has already spent \$3,500 in radio ads with Mrs. Robinson's assistance to spread the message.

Mr. Young recommended calling and checking on elderly relatives and friends because of the mental difficulties of social isolation.

The Board discussed small businesses and help that may be available to them. Mr. Young stated that Mrs. Warden was calling and checking on businesses. Supervisor Lester mentioned Marjorie Douglass as a great contact at Southwest Community College.

Mr. Young asked that the Board set aside Monday's at 1:00 PM in the event that they need to meet to discuss virus concerns. Otherwise, he wouldn't have them meet until the next regularly scheduled meeting.

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## **ADJOURN**

Now, there being no further business to be transacted and upon motion of Supervisor Lester, seconded by Supervisor Hackworth and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby adjourns this meeting to April 21, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

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Charles A. Stacy, Chair

By: WP

Adjourn time: 1:23 p.m.