

VIRGINIA: AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TAZEWell COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD MAY 5, 2020 AT FOUR 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
MARGARET ASBURY, MEMBER
D. MICHAEL HYMES, MEMBER
C. ERIC YOUNG, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
CHASE D. COLLINS, COUNTY ATTORNEY
WHITNEY PARSONS, EXECUTIVE ASSITANT
MEMBERS OF THE PRESS: JIM TALBERT, CLINCH VALLEY
NEWS/RICHLANDS NEWS PRESS; WARREN HINKLE, THE VOICE
NEWSPAPER

ABSENT: NONE

Chairman, Charles Stacy called the regular meeting to order and presided, with all members in attendance.

Supervisor Lester gave the invocation followed by The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States led by Supervisor Asbury.

The Chairman welcomed Jim Talbert and Warren Hinkle who was in attendance and citizens who were participating by conference call. Citizens were able to call in and participate in the meeting by calling (425) 436-6388 and entering the access code 836650.

AGENDA APPROVED AS AMENDED

Upon motion of Supervisor Hymes, seconded by Supervisor Asbury 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 approves the May 5, 2020 agenda as amended.

MINUTES APPROVED AS WRITTEN

Upon motion of Supervisor Hymes, seconded by Supervisor Lester 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 herby approves the April 21, 2020 Tazewell County Board of Supervisors meeting minutes as written.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Upon motion of Supervisor Hymes, seconded by Supervisor Asbury 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 approves the following items presented as “Consent Calendar”. The matters requiring the issuance of warrants shall be issued by the County Administrator in accordance with this action and converted to negotiable checks by the Treasurer of Tazewell County, Virginia:

WARRANTS April 2020

Payroll

Ordered that Warrant Nos. 144752 through 144775, and direct deposits totaling \$241,754.31 from the General, covering payroll for the various County agencies, for the period ending March 31, 2020, be approved.

Ordered that Warrant Nos. 144777 through 144797, and direct deposits totaling \$243,405.21 from the General Fund, covering payroll for the various County agencies, for the period ending April 15, 2020, be approved.

Accounts Payable/Payroll Deductions

Ordered that Warrant Nos. 489578 through 489683, and electronic transfers (ACH) totaling \$370,933.25 from the General, Landfill Enterprise, Capital Outlay, and Law Library, covering operating expenses for the various County agencies issued March 25, 2020, be approved.

Ordered that Warrant Nos. 489685 through 489698, for \$147,051.17 from the General, covering payroll deductions for the various County agencies for the period ending March 31, 2020, be approved.

Ordered that Warrant Nos. 489700 through 489789, and electronic transfers (ACH) totaling \$1,814,785.40 from the General, Landfill Enterprise, Capital Outlay and Law Library Funds, covering operating expenses for the various County agencies issued April 8, 2020, be approved.

Ordered that Warrant Nos. 489791 through 489803, for \$127,421.71 from the General Fund, covering payroll deductions for the various County agencies for the period ending April 15, 2020, be approved.

Handwritten

Ordered that Warrant No. 802085 through 802088 for \$28,050.00 from the General, Landfill Enterprise, Capital Outlay, and Law Library, covering operating expenses for the month of March 2020, be approved.

Sheriff's Department – Transferred the following amounts from the Contingent Expenditures and Grant Account No. 91050-7041 to the Sheriff Department Accounts as follows:

- \$100.00 to Acct. 31020-5520 (received from New Peoples Bank)

EXECUTIVE/CLOSED MEETING – 4:05 P.M.

Upon motion of Supervisor Lester, seconded by Supervisor Asbury 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 enters into an Executive/Closed meeting, pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711:

- A(5) Discussion of Potential Business Regarding Jonah
- A(29) Richlands EMS Contract Negotiations
- A(29) Tazewell EMS Contract Negotiations
- A(29) Contract Negotiations Regarding Justice Easement

RETURN/CERTIFICATION/REPORT OF ACTION – 6:03 P.M.

CERTIFICATION OF
EXECUTIVE/CLOSED MEETING
TAZEWELL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

WHEREAS, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors has convened an executive/closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative vote and in accordance with The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Board of Supervisors that such executive/closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) that only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the executive/closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors. The Chairman called for a roll call vote with the following vote hereby recorded.

The Chair called for a roll call Vote on the Certification:

Ayes: All Five (5)

Nays: None (0)

Absent: None (0)

Absent during vote: None (0)

Report of Action: None (0)

COVID-19 UPDATE

The County Administrator reported information he received from the Virginia Department of Health. At the time of their report 1,617 tests had been taken from Tazewell County residents. Mr. Young explained that the initial phase of the test were patients presenting to medical providers with COVID-19 symptoms and the providers then ordering the tests to see if the patient tested positive so they would know how to treat the person. He said the testing phase is now going to move testing to see where the virus spread even though the person may not be symptomatic or complaining of symptoms. They will test people in selected areas to see where the virus is and where it is not. The next phase following should be tests that will be available to determine if the person can return to work or not.

The VDH reported out of 1,617 tests in Tazewell County there were 6 positives and 5 of those persons had already recovered with only one active case. Mr. Young reported that thus far there hadn't been any fatalities or hospitalizations relating to COVID-19 in the County. He commented that Tazewell County was ahead of other counties in testing because it has multiple assets to healthcare compared to the other counties.

Mr. Young discussed plans to end split shifts for County employees on May 18th and said he would leave it up to the constitutional officers and other agencies discretion on when they would end theirs. He stated that it wasn't that the danger had dissipated that much but that County business is falling behind.

CONTINUES LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO CORONAVIRUS

Upon motion of Supervisor Hymes, seconded by Supervisor Lester 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 extends the previously declared State of Emergency due to COVID-19 until June 15, 2020.

ADOPTED RESOLUTION REQUESTING REOPENING OF SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

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 adopt a, "RESOLUTION REQUESTING REOPENING OF SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA". A copy of the resolution is on file in the County Administration Building, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651. The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors was directed to forward a copy of the Resolution to Delegate Will Morefield, Senator Ben Chafin, and Governor Ralph Northam.

Mr. Young explained how the Tourism Department had been retooled to assist with informational advertising regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. Their next media statements will inform the public that just because restrictions are being lifted it doesn't mean that the threat of contracting the virus isn't still there. Mr. Young discussed concerns about residents vacationing during the summer months and carrying the virus back with them. He would like to encourage

residents to vacation within the County at its parks and trails since there is relatively low exposure.

BUDGET COMMITTEE UPDATE

(Approximately 30 minutes into the meeting)

Supervisor Hackworth reported on behalf of the Budget Committee. He stated due to COVID-19 the County is expected to lose \$800,000.00 in lost revenue. They plan to make the difference up by level funding most departments and only funding the essentials needed at this time. Then the committee will look at its ending balances and revisit some of those departments. He commended Mr. Young's budget approach he had presented to the committee which laid out three options. Option 1: essentials having to be funded, Option 2: being essential but didn't have to be done now, and Option 3: a needed essential but could wait until a later date. Supervisor Hackworth stated that the committee decided to fund everything in category 1 and a couple of things in category 2.

APPOINTMENTS

LOCAL BOARD OF BUILDING APPEALS

The Board tabled their appointments until the next meeting.

REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE – CENSUS 2020

Upon motion of Supervisor Hymes, seconded by Supervisor Asbury 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 appoints Russell Stowers, 6949 Clearfork Road, Bastian, VA 24314 as a member of the Tazewell County Redistricting Committee, with terms at the will and pleasure of the Board of Supervisors.

APPROVED LOCAL ALLOCATION FOR TAZEVELL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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 authorizes \$11,491,347.00 or up to the amount required by the State, as the local funding amount at the FY20 level for the Tazewell County School Board for FY20-21.

Mr. Young explained that the Budget Committees intent is to advertise a budget that would level fund the School Board with what the County funded them last year with a 2% reduction. He stated if the County comes out better financially or worse financially they will recalculate. Supervisor Hackworth commented that schools hadn't operated in the last 2 months which meant less costs due to summer school being canceled and them using less fuel and

utilities. He explained that the Sheriff's Office budget was also cut by approximately 2% compared to last year's funding.

APPROVED COUNTY EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE RATES

The County Administrator discussed employee health insurance rate changes. He explained that there was going to be increased copay on most pharmaceuticals. For example if one was paying \$10.00 they would now be paying \$15.00 and so on depending on what tier the employees plan fell in. In making changes to insurance rates the County will be saving a projected \$25,000.00 in costs. Mr. Young reported that as the end of March the County was at 102% for overall plan costs of what it should have been by that time. He discussed COVID-19 and various effects the threat of it has on insurance rates as well as many elective procedures being deferred that they may acquire the costs of later on.

Mr. Young stated the County's consultant, USI, notified them in January that the County would probably be going up 5% but now they have revised that figure to 7% based on COVID-19 issues. He clarified that there wasn't any County employees with the virus, however the cost and fees for other services would be going up because hospitals will be trying to recover lost revenues with other procedures. USI then recommended that they County look into budgeting 9% instead of 7% because of the uncertainty going forward. With USI's recommendation the Budget Committee has budgeted 9% of that 9% increase in health insurance rates. He explained that the County will split the first 7% with employees and employees would be getting about a 7% increase. The Budget Committee is also adjusting single-plan payers with their share going up by 2% making their rates go up by 12% in their premium costs. Adjustments to the single-plan saved the County another \$50,000.00.

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**Tazewell County
Hospitalization Rates
FY 2021
(Effective July 1, 2020)**

These rates are effective with the June 15th payroll:

KeyCare 20	Total Annual Premium	Total Monthly Premium	Employee's Monthly Share	Employee's Semi-Mo. Share	Employer's Monthly Share	Employer's Semi-Mo. Share
Single	\$ 11,152.08	\$ 929.34	\$ 199.94	\$ 99.97	\$ 729.40	\$ 364.70
Dual	\$ 20,454.48	\$ 1,704.54	\$ 448.18	\$ 224.09	\$ 1,256.36	\$ 628.18
Family	\$ 29,743.32	\$ 2,478.61	\$ 711.71	\$ 355.86	\$ 1,766.90	\$ 883.45

KeyCare 300	Total Annual Premium	Total Monthly Premium	Employee's Monthly Share	Employee's Semi-Mo. Share	Employer's Monthly Share	Employer's Semi-Mo. Share
Single	\$ 9,946.32	\$ 828.86	\$ 99.46	\$ 49.73	\$ 729.40	\$ 364.70
Dual	\$ 18,385.80	\$ 1,532.15	\$ 275.79	\$ 137.89	\$ 1,256.36	\$ 628.18
Family	\$ 26,838.96	\$ 2,236.58	\$ 469.68	\$ 234.84	\$ 1,766.90	\$ 883.45

Board members Hymes and Asbury questioned the rates and stated that they felt more could have been done to keep the premiums low by adjusting the plans' coverage. Mr. Young stated that the County had not explored plan adjustments early on because the cost increase prior to the COVID crisis had appeared to be so minimal. Mr. Hymes stated he still felt more could have been done.

Upon motion of Supervisor Hackworth, seconded by Supervisor Lester and adopted by a vote of 4 to 1, with Supervisor Hymes opposing, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the proposed *Tazewell County Hospitalization Rates FY2021 (effective July 1, 2020)*. A copy of the proposed rates is on file in County Administration Building, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

DISCUSSION OF TAZEWELL COUNTY IDA MICRO BUSINESS RECOVERY PROGRAM

(Approximately 1 hour into the meeting)

Mr. Young recalled the IDA working since April on a plan to help micro businesses, which are businesses too small to qualify for federal relief. VCEDA loaned the County \$100,000.00 to make these types of loans and the IDA plans to match that amount. He informed the Board that the application was posted on the County website for qualifying businesses. The IDA plans to meet again on Wednesday, May 13th to award some of these loans. He stated that the loans were 0% no payments for 6 months and a maximum loan of \$5,000.00.

FEDERAL GRANTS UPDATE

Mr. Young discussed federal grants the County was applying for: \$50,000.00 grant to help pave parking area at the shell building located at the Bluestone; \$200,000.00 to pay for school resource officers; and \$126,000.00 to pay for EMS training and recruitment. He will not know if the County's grant applications have been awarded until October.

The County Administrator briefly discussed federal money that's being rolled out due to COVID-19. He explained that the first round and category went to localities who have a population over 500,000 making Fairfax the only eligible county in Virginia to receive funding. He explained that the second round and category would be given to states for localities. Virginia received \$3.2 billion for that but the localities must have direct costs relating to the virus. The County is hoping that the masks, advertisements, and employee time will be billable and make them eligible to receive relief funding.

CONSIDERATION OF FORMING A GROUNDWATER COMMITTEE FOR SELECTION OF ENGINEERING FIRM TO PERFORM GROUNDWATER MONITORING AT THE LANDFILL

Upon motion of Supervisor Hymes, seconded by Chairman Stacy 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 forms a Groundwater Committee and appoints Supervisor Hackworth as a member of the committee. This committee will focus on the selection of an engineering firm to perform groundwater monitoring at the landfill.

The County Administrator and Kenneth Dunford will serve as ex-officio members of the committee.

BUSINESS CATALOG

Under the direction of the Board, Mr. Collins drafted the Attorney General a request regarding business cataloging for purposes of insuring that businesses are paying capital taxes on time and to make sure businesses are paying Machinery Tools Taxes on time. He is working on scheduling public hearings for June and will have a report at the next meeting.

CONSIDER IMPOSING LATE FEES FOR LATE FILINGS OF MACHINERY AND TOOL TAX RETURNS

The County Administrator recalled the Commissioner of Revenue, Mr. Anderson, in December inquiring about the consideration of imposing late fees for late filings of Machinery and Tool Tax returns. The reason Mr. Anderson made the request was because people wouldn't file the return in a timely manner causing budgeting issues and making work more difficult in his office. Mr. Young told him he would look into it during the budget process. Mr. Anderson contacted Mr. Young that week to delay his request until a better time due to COVID-19 obstacles.

The Board tabled Mr. Anderson's request until a later month.

MORAL OBLIGATION RESOLUTION/SUPPORT AGREEMENT

Mr. Collins explained the IDA borrowing money for project Clinch River Forest Products (CRFP) from VCEDA and the VA Small Business Financing Authority. He stated that the terms would require that the Board of Supervisors adopt a resolution for moral support and to execute the court agreement.

Upon motion of Supervisor Hackworth, seconded by Supervisor Asbury 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 approve a RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF TAZEWell COUNTY, VIRGINIA APPROVING SUPPORT AGREEMENT that has been presented in a form to the Board and upon further motion authorize the chairman of the Board of Supervisors to sign the SUPPORT AGREEMENT OF THE COUNTY OF TAZEWell, VIRGINIA for the VSBFA loan for project CRFP. A copy of these documents is on file in the County Administration Building, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, VA 24651.

BOARD CONCERNS**SUPERVISOR HACKWORTH**

Supervisor Hackworth asked the County Administrator to contact Mr. Watson from VDOT to see if there was any guardrail money available.

The Board discussed orphan road maintenance and that the proposed budget does not include funds for orphan road maintenance in FY21. Mr. Hackworth asked Mr. Young and Mr. Collins to research whether coal road severance tax funds could be used for orphan road repair. Mr. Young stated he suspected it could not but would look in to it. Mr. Young suggested that when the Board knew what the ending balance would be for FY20 they might consider restoring the orphan road repair funding for FY21.

SUPERVISOR LESTER

Supervisor Lester discussed Indian Paint Road issues. He said every time it rains it washes the gravel onto the paved part of the road and they have to contact VDOT to redo the work all over again. He suggested using CST money if there were any available.

SUPERVISOR ASBURY

(Approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes into the meeting)

Supervisor Asbury reported that Horsepen Road had been washed out and was in terrible condition. Her neighbor had traveled the road and ended up tearing his car up because it was dark and he couldn't see the road condition. She mentioned contacting VDOT and Mr. Buchanan saying they would have a meeting regarding the road.

SUPERVISOR HYMES

Supervisor Hymes mentioned complaints he had received regarding the Cedar Bluff Transfer Station opening late and closing early. Another complaint he received was having to throw garbage over a 4ft fence. Mr. Young said he would contact Santek.

Supervisor Hymes asked what the status was regarding broadband in the County. Mr. Collins read aloud a text received from Mr. Mike Clemons on April 21st. In summary the text stated that he had ordered all the physical equipment needed for the Tazewell project and with hurdles due to COVID-19 they were still waiting on a couple shipments of radios. Mr. Clemons stated in his text that he would be building in Thompson Valley within a month. Mr. Young asked Mr. Collins to check and see what the performance schedule is on this Tobacco Commission grant.

ADJOURN

Now, there being no further business to be transacted and upon motion of Supervisor Hackworth, seconded by Supervisor Lester 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 June 2, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

Charles A. Stacy, Chair

By: WP

Adjourn time: 7:34 p.m.