

VIRGINIA: AT A RECESSED MEETING OF THE TAZEWELL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD OCTOBER 15, 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
MARGARET ASBURY, MEMBER
D. MICHAEL HYMES, MEMBER
TRAVIS HACKWORTH, MEMBER
C. ERIC YOUNG, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
CHASE D. COLLINS, COUNTY ATTORNEY
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

Chairman, Charles Stacy called the recessed meeting to order.

The Chairman welcomed those 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.

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

ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER SUSPENDED

Upon motion of Supervisor Hymes, 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 suspend Roberts Rules of Order for the purpose of moving Executive Session to follow immediately after the Consent Calendar.

AGENDA APPROVED AS AMENDED

The County Administrator asked to add the following agenda items:

- Administrative Update
 - B. CARES Act Requests

C. Consideration of awarding courthouse roof bid

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 approves the October 15, 2020 agenda as amended.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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 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:

Commissioner of Revenue – Transferred the following amounts from the Contingent Expenditures and Grant Account No. 91050-7041 to the Commissioner of Revenue Accounts as follows:

- \$250.00 to Acct. 12090-6001 (received from Black Knight Infoserv LLC, ck#181618 dated 10-12-2020)

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

- \$1,000.00 to Acct. 31020-5520 (received from BPO Elks No. 1459)

EXECUTIVE/CLOSED MEETING – 4:05 PM

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 enters into an Executive/Closed meeting, pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711:

- A(1) Personnel in Economic Development
- A(5) Project Jonah
- A(5) Project Bonanza

RETURN/CERTIFICATION/REPORT OF ACTION – 6:06 PM

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: Five (5)

Nays: None (0)

Absent: None (0)

Absent during vote: None (0)

Report of Action: None (0)

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – REGIONAL REVENUE SHARING UPDATE

The County Administrator explained that the Board had recessed the meeting in hopes of having Regional Revenue Sharing documents to approve but updated that the documents were still being worked on by the attorneys of other counties.

TAZEWELL COUNTY CARES BUSINESS ASSISTANCE GRANTS

The County Administrator informed the Board that the IDA hadn't had a chance to review all of the business assistance grant applications. Mr. Young reported that they received 130 applications on Friday and another 90 applications on Tuesday. The grant was initiated with a minimum of \$1,000.00 to each business from a \$250,000.00 fund. The IDA is concerned that some businesses may deserve more assistance than what they will receive due to the number of applicants that applied for assistance. The IDA may decide to prioritize these claims and the

businesses that received previous grant monies from the County would be placed on the bottom of the priority list to favor businesses that have not yet received any help from the County. The IDA requested that the Board transfer \$150,000.00 into the small business assistance fund from the \$650,000.00 that was earmarked for businesses with more than 25 employees. After much discussion amongst the Board, they decided to increase the transfer amount to \$250,000.00 to the small business assistance fund.

TRANSFERRED \$250,000.00 FROM LARGE EMPLOYER BUSINESS ASSISTANCE FUND TO SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE FUND IN ROUND II

Upon motion of Supervisor Hymes, seconded by Supervisor Lester and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Hackworth abstaining, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby transfers \$250,000.00 from the funds previously marked for large employer business assistance into the small business assistance fund in CARES round II.

T.L. & FAMILY LLC. GRANT ASSISTANCE REQUEST

Mr. Young recalled a recent request from T.L. & Family, LLC. that the Board approved in the amount of \$9,500.00 for PPE. They also requested \$35,000 for repairs to their mobile home; the Board did not approve this request.

The County Administrator discussed an additional funding request he received from T.L. & Family, LLC. Their new request provided a contingency plan for an alternate method of quarantining the intellectually disabled individuals who may test positive or have been exposed to someone with Covid-19. They proposed hiring two staff persons to stay in the hotel room with the quarantined individual 24/7. Both of their plans A and B, included the cost of the hotel room, PPE, and food supplies. Plan A totaled \$53,583.60 and included overtime pay. Plan B totaled \$31,830.00. Mr. Young believed the request was too high and sought the advice of Dr. Cantrell asking how this scenario would best be handled. According to Mr. Young, she advised that most likely all four of the residents would be quarantined onsite if one tested positive or if one even had symptoms. She did not believe that off site quarantining was necessary; Dr. Cantrell informed that if one resident was positive they would have to be isolated from the others but all of them would be quarantined and that the staff workers would only be allowed to go to work and go home.

Chairman Stacy mentioned meeting with them at their request and encouraging them and other businesses to apply. Mr. Young mentioned he wouldn't mind paying for a hotel room for the quarantined staff for two weeks but their request of \$53,000.00 seemed a little high. The Board took no action.

BROADWAY CINEMAS GRANT ASSISTANCE REQUEST

The County Administrator discussed a letter he received from the owner of Broadway Cinema's asking for assistance in the amount of \$36,000.00. Mr. Young emphasized that Broadway Cinema's is the only movie theatre in our County and that they deserve to receive special consideration. The theatre was completely closed from March 28th until July 15th due to an executive order regarding Covid-19 and has since only been able to operate at half capacity. Their arcade and children's indoor playground has also been shut down.

The Board sent Broadway Cinema's request to the IDA.

COVID-19 UPDATE

The County Administrator reported that the risk factor of contracting Covid-19 in the county is currently at 13.3 (ten is considered high risk). Mr. Young explained that cases are seemingly occurring randomly throughout the county. Before, cases in the county were more easily tracked and its origins were better known. The newest cases have nothing to do with Bluefield College's case outbreak. Statistics also showed that 9.5% of Tazewell's healthcare professionals who are tested are testing positive for Covid-19. Mr. Young further stated that there were seven new cases reported in the County the day before and that they have been consistently seeing that number of cases per day for the last 7-10 days.

The County Administrator briefly discussed Russell County. Their risk factor of contracting Covid-19 is currently 31.5 and 12% positivity for healthcare professionals.

TWICE PER YEAR TAX BILLING PRESENTATION - COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

The County Administrator, Eric Young, gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding twice per year tax billing. Mr. Young explained that the County has in recent years been cutting expenses and raising taxes to help build its reserve fund. With this method the County's financial situation is slowly improving and the revenue vs. expenses has dropped. The County finished this year with \$4.7 million in its General Fund which is more than anticipated. He realizes that to most, this appears that the County is moving towards great financial success but made clear that this isn't quite the case because the Capital Fund and Landfill Fund balances have been drained. The problem is that the County is saving only a couple hundred thousand dollars per year more than it is spending. Davenport recommends that the County have a reserve fund of \$8,000,000.00 to \$10,000,000.00 to be stable. At this rate it could take the County a decade or longer to build its reserves. Mr. Young proposed that twice per year tax billing would provide the County the

cushion it needs to build its reserves at a faster pace. It would resolve cash flow issues and the county wouldn't have to worry about using a line of credit to make payroll in the fall. The county may be able to avoid borrowing money altogether for some projects. Tax payers would be able to make two smaller payments, one in the spring and one in the fall, instead of one large payment close to the holidays. In closing Mr. Young stated that the biggest reason for twice per year billing is to give the Board a reserve fund so they did not have to keep raising taxes to rebuild the \$10,000,000.00 reserve fund so quickly.

PUBLIC HEARING SET TO CONSIDER TWICE PER YEAR BILLING

Upon motion of Supervisor Hackworth, 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 authorizes and directs the County Attorney to advertise for a public hearing on November 10, 2020 to consider twice per year tax billing.

AWARDED BID FOR COURTHOUSE ROOFING PROJECT TO BAKER ROOFING

The County Administrator informed the Board he had received bids for courthouse roof repair. Two bids were received, Dunford Roofing bid \$62,100.00 and Baker Roofing bid \$56,450.00. There were also two no bids, meaning the companies declined to place a bid when the County requested one from them.

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 finds Baker Roofing to be the low bidders and approve a contract with them for the courthouse roofing project. A copy of the bid and contract is on file in the County Administration Building, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

BOARD CONCERNS

SUPERVISOR HYMES

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Supervisor Hymes asked the County Attorney to research social media policies. He commented that employees needed to know what parameters they can operate in regarding making posts on social media. Mr. Collins stated that he cannot recall a social media policy that has been found constitutional but that he would refresh his research on the subject. There was a

lot of discussion among the Board. Chairman Stacy asked that this topic be added to December's agenda.

SUPERVISOR ASBURY

EMMA YATES LIBRARY

Supervisor Asbury thanked the County Attorney for attending a Library Board meeting in Pocahontas the previous week. Mrs. Asbury updated that they were in the final stages of transferring the Emma Yates Library over to the Tazewell County Public Library.

SUPERVISOR HACKWORTH

RAVEN THEATRE – UTILITIES

\$300.00 NORTHWESTERN

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 authorizes the amount of \$300.00 from the Northwestern District Fund, payable to the Raven Theater, 240 Raven Road, Raven, Virginia 24639; attn: Jack Ray. The County Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to issue said warrants in accordance with this action at such time as may be necessary and appropriate and which said warrants will be converted to negotiable checks by the Treasurer of Tazewell County, Virginia.

Supervisor Hackworth asked that the check be sent out that week.

NOTE: Ms. Parsons gave financial order to Kim Beckner on 10/16/2020 to complete.

SUPERVISOR LESTER

COMMUNITY POLICY AND MANAGEMENT TEAM BOARD DISCUSSION

Supervisor Lester would like to increase representation on the CPMT Board. He spoke highly about the child advocacy center in Richlands and the tremendous work they do at the care center caring for children who have been victims of mental, physical, and sexual abuse. Supervisor Lester recommended the Board pass a resolution inviting a member of the care board, perhaps an executive director to represent the state institution in planning. Mr. Collins stated he would need to research the CPMT bylaws before the Board proceeds.

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 November 10, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

Charles A. Stacy, Chair

By: WP

Adjourn time: 7:34 p.m.