

VIRGINIA: AT THE RECESSED MEETING OF THE TAZEVELL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD DECEMBER 16, 2020 AT TWO O’CLOCK P.M. IN THE TAZEVELL COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 197 MAIN STREET, TAZEVELL, 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
DAVE WHITE, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
GINNY DAWSON, CARES ACT ADMINISTRATOR
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 and presided, with all members in attendance.

RATIFIED POLL ALLOWING THE BOARD TO MEET ELECTRONICALLY

Chairman Stacy explained why the Board decided to meet electronically, stating that it was due to covid concerns and an outbreak in the County Administration Building.

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 ratifies a poll allowing the board to conduct the recessed meeting by electronic and telephonic communication pursuant to Sections 2.2-3701, 2.2-3707(D), and 2.2-3708.2(A)(3) of the Code of Virginia.

AGENDA APPROVED AS AMENDED

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 approves the December 16, 2020 agenda as amended.

COVID-19 UPDATE

The County Administrator reported that the county on average has been having 40 positive cases a day; doubling from just two weeks ago. Tazewell County's risk rate is approximately 85 on a scale from 1-10, with ten being considered high risk. The positivity rate on tests is now over 20%. Mr. Young encouraged citizens to wash their hands, wear their masks, and be vigilant. He announced that he tested positive for coronavirus the previous day. He mentioned that there were several county staff who were in quarantine as a precaution. Mr. Young spoke with both hospital administrators and they reported being okay regarding bed space but they have issues due to a large portion of their staff being quarantined because of covid exposures outside of the workplace. Our hospitals are getting close to its tipping point on being able to treat people. If this happens, the County Administrator, mentioned that they would contact the Virginia Department of Emergency Management if our hospitals reach a point to where they can no longer take residents who are ill. Mr. Young stated that he would like to be optimistic but he believes the situation is going to get worse before it gets better.

Chairman Stacy asked what the plan is in the event that medical staff shortages start to impact our local hospitals. Mr. Young said each hospital has its own plan for moving patients out to other regional facilities. There are concerns that those regional facilities may become full causing larger problems for our area. Medical personnel are facing difficulties because not only are they needed for treatment but medical staff is also needed to deploy the vaccine. Mr. Young said it was critical to vaccinate our public health staff and medical field employees. Vaccinations are scheduled to begin on December 21st. There are hopes that vaccinating personnel will help to avoid them quarantining for reasons outside of the workplace.

The County Administrator mentioned that there would be drive-thru covid testing at the Tazewell County Fairgrounds on December 17th from 8:00am-4:00pm. Tests are free and symptoms are not needed to be tested. He stated that 600 tests would be available. They hope to have a large turnout so that they can use the testing information to measure the impact of the disease in our population. Antibody tests will be made available in the weeks ahead to see if they have had covid in the last three to four months.

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO APPROVE A BONUS FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF TAZEWell COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, TAZEWell COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, AND TAZEWell COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

The Chairman called to order a public hearing that was duly advertised according to law regarding AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE A BONUS FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF TAZEWell COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, TAZEWell COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, AND TAZEWell COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES.

Now, the Chairman called for public comments with regard to the public hearing. The following people spoke in reference to the public hearing:

1. Tony Cordle, 628 Clinch Drive, Pounding Mill, VA 24609, a member of the DSS Board, requested that the Board make an amendment to the proposed ordinance to give authority to the Tazewell County Department of Social Services to grant other bonuses deemed as appropriate by their administration board.
2. David Taylor, 102 North Lane, Bluefield, VA 24605, Director of Social Services, explained that the State requires its local DSS to have an ordinance like the one they were discussing but that there was also unintended consequences of the ordinance because it limits their administrative board's ability to grant other bonuses as deemed necessary. Mr. Taylor requested the Board amend the ordinance to allow this exception. He stated that it would be at no additional cost to the county and it would allow them with an amended ordinance to use federal funding through a particular program.

Mr. Collins reiterated what Mr. Taylor stated to make sure there was clarification. DSS is asking that a sentence be added to section (3) of the ordinance to authorize the DSS Board to grant additional budgets from the current existing budget of the DSS as the department deems necessary.

There being no one left in the audience who wanted to speak, the County Attorney called for additional comments from those participating by phone three times, there were none. The Chairman asked that members of the press who were participating by phone to announce their presence. Jim Talbert and Warren Hinkle made their presence known. The Chairman declared the public hearing closed.

There was much discussion amongst the Board. Supervisor Hymes didn't believe that they should make an exception for DSS and not make the same exception for other agencies involved. Mr. Taylor commented that the CARES Act funding would not be impacted by the amendment to the ordinance that it is simply in addition to what the Board is providing, the language of the ordinance is the concern because it limits the DSS Board's ability to secure additional funding through Pass Through. Chairman Stacy requested to meet with Mr. Taylor at a later date to try and better understand his concerns.

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 adopts AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE A BONUS FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF TAZEWEEL COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, TAZEWEEL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, AND TAZEWEEL COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES. A copy of the ordinance is on file in the County Administration Building, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

TAZEWELL COUNTY CARES UPDATE

The County Administrator stated that based on the balances provided by Mrs. Dawson there is approximately \$435,000.00 of unspent funds. There are proposed funding requests from various agencies and businesses totaling approximately \$293,000.00 for the Board left to consider.

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE – DEPUTY HAZARD STIPENDS
\$2,000.00 FROM CARES ACT ROUND ONE FUND**

Mr. Young stated that there was a miscount in the number of road deputies that the Sheriff's Office has, there were more deputies than accounted for. They requested an additional \$2,000.00 to make up the difference.

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 authorizes from the CARES Act Round One Fund a total amount of \$2,000.00 payable to the Sheriff's Office for deputies hazard stipends. Said 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.

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE – PPE AND OVERTIME DUE TO QUARANTINE
\$5,722.00 FROM CARES ACT ROUND ONE FUND**

Upon motion of Supervisor Asbury, 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 authorizes from the CARES Act Round One Fund a total amount of \$5,722.00 payable to the Sheriff's Office for PPE and overtime due to quarantine. Said 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.

**AASC – UV LIGHTING FOR FALLS MILLS AND WARDELL FACILITIES
\$2,500.00 FROM CARES ACT ROUND ONE FUND**

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 authorizes from the CARES Act Round One Fund a total amount of \$2,500.00 payable to AASC to purchase a total of six uv lights for their Falls Mills and Wardell facilities. Said 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.

AUTHORIZED \$126,903.72 IN COUNTY SALARY REIMBURSEMENTS – PAM WARDEN AND COURTHOUSE CUSTODIANS

The County Administrator said that they are allowed to recover salaries for employees who are substantially dedicated to fighting the effects of the virus. Mr. Young would like to go ahead and reimburse the county so that they can put the funds into the covid line item within the budget. He suggested reimbursing Pam Warden's salary from September 1st throughout the end of the year for being substantially dedicated to the business assistance program in the fall. Mr. Young further suggested reimbursing the salaries for courthouse custodians.

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 adds agenda item: County Salary Reimbursements and upon further motion authorizes the reimbursements of Pam Warden's and courthouse custodians salaries for a total amount of \$126,903.72 due to their substantial dedication to fighting the effects of covid.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – SNIPER LIQUID DISINFECTANT \$20,000.00 FROM CARES ACT ROUND ONE FUND

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 adds agenda item: Emergency Management Request – Sniper Liquid Disinfectant and upon further motion authorizes from the CARES Act Round One Fund a total amount of \$20,000.00 to Emergency Management for sniper liquid disinfectant.

UNITED WAY DAYCARE ASSISTANCE – ADDITIONAL FUNDING NEEDED \$19,400.00 FROM CARES ACT ROUND ONE FUND

United Way Daycare requested additional funds to make it throughout the rest of the year. Schools switching to virtual education caused an influx in daycare needs throughout the county.

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 \$19,400.00 from the CARES Act Round One Fund, payable to United Way of Southwest Virginia, to pay for additional daycare assistance needs. Said 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.

FOOD PANTRIES – ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE

\$15,000.00 TOTAL AMOUNT FROM CARES ACT ROUND ONE FUND**\$5,000.00 LABOR OF LOVE****\$5,000.00 CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN ACTION****\$5,000.00 GOOD SAMARITAN**

Mr. Young suggested additional funding for county food pantries for a total amount of \$15,000.00 with \$5,000.00 to be given to each food pantry for them to purchase \$2,500.00 worth of PPE to distribute in the meals that they give out to indigent persons who pick up meals and for them to use the remainder \$2,500.00 for additional meal items to distribute. The demand is high and it's a really great way to distribute face masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer to people who may not be able to afford it. The food pantries are: Labor of Love, Center for Christian Action, Good Samaritan.

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 adds agenda item: Additional Funding for Food Pantries and upon further motion authorizes the amount of \$5,000.00 each payable to the following food pantries: Labor of Love, Center for Christian Action, and Good Samaritan for a total amount of \$15,000.00 from the CARES Act Round One fund. Each food pantry is to spend \$2,500.00 on PPE to be given out while distributing their meals and to use the remaining \$2,500.00 to buy additional meal items to distribute. Said 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.

TOWNS EMT HAZARD STIPENDS**\$25,000.00 TOWN OF TAZEWell FROM CARES ACT ROUND ONE FUND****\$25,000.00 TOWN OF RICHLANDS FROM CARES ACT ROUND ONE FUND**

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 adds agenda item: Town of Tazewell and Town of Richlands EMT's hazard stipends and upon further motion authorizes \$25,000.00 each to the Town of Tazewell and Town of Richlands for a total amount of \$50,000.00 from CARES Act Round One funds for EMT hazard stipends. Said 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.

TOWNS POLICE OFFICERS – HAZARD STIPENDS**\$50,000.00 TOTAL FROM CARES ACT ROUND ONE FUND**

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 adds agenda item: Towns Police Officers Hazard Stipends and upon further motion authorizes a total amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 from the CARES Act Round One fund to be divided and payable to the various towns for hazard stipends for their police officers. The amounts sent to each town will be determined by the number of police officers each town has employed. Said 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.

**BUILDING INSPECTORS – HAZARD STIPENDS
\$1,000.00 FROM CARES ACT ROUND ONE FUND**

Building Inspector employees, Gary Jackson and David Boone, are requesting hazard pay due to them being publically exposed to the virus while out in the field doing their jobs.

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 adds agenda item: Building Inspectors Hazard Pay and upon further motion authorizes a total amount of \$1,000.00 from CARES Act Round One funding with \$500.00 each payable to Gary Jackson and David Boone. Said 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.

**TOWN OF BLUEFIELD – EMPLOYEE COVID TESTING
\$2,500.00 FROM CARES ACT ROUND ONE FUND**

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 \$2,500.00 payable to the Town of Bluefield from CARES Act Round One for employee covid testing. Said 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.

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES – HAZARD STIPENDS
\$900.00 FROM CARES ACT ROUND ONE FUND**

The number of DSS employees eligible to receive hazard stipends was miscalculated; there are more employees than accounted for. DSS requested an additional \$900.00 to account for those employees.

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 authorizes the amount of \$900.00 from CARES Act Round One funding, payable to DSS for hazard stipends. Said 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.

TOWNS - TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES

\$45,000.00 TOWN OF TAZEWEILL

\$45,000.00 TOWN OF RICHLANDS

\$45,000.00 TOWN OF BLUEFIELD

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 a total amount of \$135,000.00 from CARES Act Round One funding with the Town of Tazewell, Town of Richlands, and Town of Bluefield receiving \$45,000.00 each to use towards COVID response, which may include police transportation vehicles. Said 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.

CREATED “COVID-19 RESPONSE” LINE ITEM IN THE BUDGET TRANSFERRED SALARY REIMBURSEMENTS INTO COVID-19 RESPONSE LINE ITEM

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 add agenda item: Creation of Covid-19 Response Line Item within the County Budget and upon further motion approves the creation of a Covid-19 Response line item within the county budget and further authorizes the transfers of \$350,000.00 that the county has reimbursed itself for salaries, as well as the \$200,000.00 reimbursed for EMT salaries, into the Covid-19 Response line item within the county’s budget. These funds are to be made available in the event that the county has an emergency demand or need for PPE or other COVID related materials.

3:19 P.M. – Supervisor Hackworth exits the meeting, due to the ongoing potential conflict of interest presented by a business he owns being an applicant for the grant award.

LARGE BUSINESS ASSISTANCE ROUND TWO FUNDS

The Board looked over and discussed the “IDA CARES Act Round II Large Businesses Grant Request – Second Round” spreadsheet. The five businesses on the spreadsheet were: Twin Enterprise (Mr. Hackworth’s corporation), Kwik Kafe, Tadano Mantis Corporation, Pyott Boone Electronics, Inc., and J & S Transport, Inc. There was a lengthy discussion amongst the Board. They specifically had questions regarding the J & S Transport, Inc. grant funding request.

Upon motion of Supervisor Asbury, seconded by Supervisor Lester and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Hackworth absent from the meeting, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby accept the recommendations of the “IDA CARES Act Round II Large Businesses Grant Request – Second Round” spreadsheet contingent upon reduction of the award to J&S Transport being reduced to \$2,210.00 and the difference being reallocated among the other applicants based on their relative number of employees compared to the total number of employees represented by the applicants excluding the J&S transport employees.

APPEALS OF CARES ROUND TWO SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE GRANTS

VINEY’S DIFFERENT STYLES CUTS & MORE \$5,400.00 FROM CARES ACT ROUND TWO

1. Jaimal Viney, a local business owner of: Vibe City Clothing Store, K&S BBQ, and Viney’s Different Styles Cuts & More stated that someone had called him notifying him that his requests had been granted but later on received another phone call stating that he would not be receiving any funding. Mr. Viney wanted to know why he did not receive any grant funding for his businesses.

Viney stated that Vibe City Clothing Store and K&S BBQ are not yet open. Viney’s Different Styles Cuts & More received its business license in April. The Chairman stated that the Board made a decision that if a business had not been open when the pandemic hit that those businesses would be disqualified. Mr. Viney mentioned struggles with purchasing PPE and paying rent for his business. The salon has been open since around May 29th, Chairman Stacy mentioned that Mr. Viney placed an application request for PPE. Mrs. Warden advised that since Mr. Viney had notified her of his appeal she had discovered that he had been given a business license by the Town of Tazewell prior to the Governor’s shut down order. Based on the issuance date of the business license, the Board granted the appeal.

Upon motion of Supervisor Hymes, seconded by Chairman Stacy and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Hackworth absent from the meeting, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby grants Mr. Viney’s appeal with respect to Different Styles Cuts & More and authorizes \$5,400.00 from the CARES Act Round Two fund payable to Viney’s Different Styles Cuts & More; attn.: Jaimal Viney. These funds are to be used for items listed on his application grant request. Said 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.

COAL BUCKET DELI RESTAURANT ESCROW \$2,900.00

The Administrator presented the appeal of the Coal Bucket Deli to the Board. He stated that due to a criminal investigation regarding a co-owner of the Coal Bucket Deli the

Administrator had withheld the award. After discussion, the Board believes that they should escrow the funds regarding their grant request until a court decision has been made regarding whether the co-owner was in fact guilty.

Upon motion of Supervisor Hymes, seconded by Supervisor Asbury and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Hackworth absent from the meeting, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby escrow's the amount of \$2,900.00 for Coal Bucket Deli's grant request until a court decision has been determined in the criminal case, at which time the Board will reconsider the appeal.

ALLOCATED REMAINING FUNDS FROM SMALL BUSINESS ROUND TWO APPEALS FUNDS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH CONTINGENCY FUND

Upon motion of Supervisor Hymes, seconded by Supervisor Lester and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Hackworth absent from the meeting, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes any remaining funds from the small business assistance round two appeals to be placed into the Public Health Contingency fund to be used towards PPE and equipment to the maximum extent available.

ADJOURN

Now, there being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion of Supervisor Lester, seconded by Supervisor Hymes and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Hackworth absent from the meeting, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby adjourns this meeting to Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

Charles A. Stacy, Chair

By: WP

Adjourn time: 4:11 p.m.