

**VIRGINIA:** AT A SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE TAZEWell COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD JUNE 10, 2021 AT FOUR O'CLOCK P.M. IN THE TAZEWell COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 197 MAIN STREET, TAZEWell, VIRGINIA 24651

**PRESENT:** TOM A. LESTER, JR., CHAIRMAN  
D. MICHAEL HYMES, VICE CHAIRMAN  
CHARLES A. STACY, MEMBER  
SETH WHITE, MEMBER  
MARGARET ASBURY, MEMBER  
C. ERIC YOUNG, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
WHITNEY PARSONS, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT  
MEMBERS OF THE PRESS: WARREN HINKLE, THE VOICE NEWSPAPER

**ABSENT:** CHASE D. COLLINS, COUNTY ATTORNEY

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Chairman, Tom Lester called the special called meeting to order and presided with all members present.

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

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.

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## **RENEWED AGREEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF ELECTRICITY FROM APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY**

The County Administrator received the newest version of the Virginia Public Authorities Agreement for the Purchase of Electricity from Appalachian Power Company. Mr. Young stated that VACo negotiates on behalf of localities to get a pooled rate on the County's electrical bill. He explained that the Agreement needed to be renewed for another three years so the County would continue to get the discounted rate that it currently has.

Upon motion of Supervisor White, seconded by Supervisor 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 the renewal of the, "VIRGINIA PUBLIC AUTHORITIES AGREEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF ELECTRICITY FROM APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY". A copy of the Agreement is on file in the County Administrator's Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

## **APPROVED TOWN OF RICHLANDS EMS AGREEMENT**

Mr. Young commented that the Richlands Town Council had approved the proposed EMS Agreement at their meeting on Tuesday. Mr. Young asked that the Board approve the Town of Richlands EMS Agreement. He requested the Board of Supervisors final approval.

Upon motion of Supervisor White, 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, "TOWN OF RICHLANDS EMS AGREEMENT" as presented previously in Executive Session. A copy of the Agreement is on file in the County Administrator's Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

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## **DISCUSSION REGARDING A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF VCEDA**

The County Administrator asked for direction on a request he had received for a potential resolution in support of VCEDA. After discussing, the Board asked that the Resolution be drafted before the Richlands VCEDA meeting and not to wait until the Board of Supervisors recessed meeting. Mr. Young said he would draft one and that he or Mr. Collins would circulate it to the Board.

Chairman Lester said that the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy (DMME) has given him the responsibility of pulling the working group together based upon the legislation that will determine how to use the replacement money for the coal severance tax. He explained that these listening sessions are an opportunity for the stake holders to give input as to how people in Southwest Virginia feel that the money should be spent and where it should go in order to spend it. Mr. Lester emphasized how strong of a partner VCEDA has been to the County and how many recent successes they have had. Chairman Lester recalled a conversation with Supervisor Hymes who wanted to make sure that the stakeholders who are in the working group know that Tazewell County has been very dependent on VCEDA and that it would be detrimental if we lose VCEDA or its funding. This conversation between Mr. Lester and Mr. Hymes led the Board to email the County Administrator and Attorney to consider drafting a resolution in support of VCEDA.

Chairman Lester stated that there have been three total meetings planned and the first one was already held in Big Stone Gap on Tuesday. Mr. Lester attended this meeting. He said the other meetings will be held in Richlands and Clintwood. Supervisor Stacy suggested that the full Board attend these meetings and requested that staff notify the Board when the next VCEDA meeting date has been scheduled.

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## **AGENDA APPROVED AS AMENDED**

Upon motion of Supervisor Hymes, seconded by Supervisor 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 approves the June 10, 2021 agenda as amended.

**EXECUTIVE/CLOSED MEETING – 4:14 PM**

Upon motion of Supervisor Stacy, seconded by Supervisor White 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(29) Potential Contract for Broadband Service
- A(29) Contract Negotiations Regarding a Legislative Consultant

**RETURN/CERTIFICATION/REPORT OF ACTION – 5:52 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: One (1)

**RETAIN DAVID BAILEY ASSOCIATES – PROJECT JONAH**

Upon motion of Supervisor White, seconded by Supervisor 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 amends the contract starting date regarding retaining David Bailey Associates as legislative consultant for Project Jonah to start immediately and last throughout the session and to pay him an amount up to \$30,000.00 for his services.

## **BOARD CONCERNS**

### **SUPERVISOR STACY**

#### **DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSED CIGARETTE TAX**

Supervisor Stacy has received a lot of inquiries wondering why the Board isn't considering a tax on all tobacco products. Mr. Young explained that the General Assembly only gave Counties the authority to impose a cigarette tax and this is why the proposed tax does not include smokeless tobacco products.

Supervisor Hymes asked how many cigarettes have been sold in the County. Mr. Young responded that Mrs. Matney was still working on the figures but knew that the Town of Tazewell had sold approximately 68,000 cartons. Supervisor Asbury commented that the Town of Pocahontas had sold 25,000 cartons last year and stated that their tax is currently \$0.08 per pack. Chairman Lester commented that Cedar Bluff's cigarette tax is set at \$0.10 per pack and that their sales have reportedly decreased according to Town Manager, John Absher.

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## **RECESS**

Now, there being no further business to be transacted and upon motion of Supervisor Stacy, 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 recesses this meeting to June 29, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

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Thomas A. Lester, Jr., Chair

By: WP

Adjourn time: 5:57 p.m.