

**VIRGINIA:** AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TAZEWELL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD JUNE 1, 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 (left the meeting at 8:04 p.m.)  
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

**ABSENT:** NONE

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Chairman, Tom Lester called the regular 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 Stacy.

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.

#### **APPROVED SUPERVISOR ASBURY'S MEETING ATTENDANCE VIA PHONE**

Upon motion of Supervisor Hymes, 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 authorizes Supervisor Asbury's attendance by phone.

#### **AGENDA APPROVED AS AMENDED**

The County Attorney added an agenda item under section 16(E), "The Request of a Waiver from the State Board of Elections Regarding Split Precincts".

Mr. Collins said that by June 15<sup>th</sup> each year Brian Earls has to notify the State Department of Elections of any districts that have split precincts. He stated that there are split precincts in Cedar Bluff, Richlands, Tazewell, and Pocahontas and because of this it is necessary to request a waiver from the State Board of Elections to allow the County to proceed with these split districts.

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 1, 2021 agenda as amended.

### **MINUTES APPROVED AS WRITTEN**

Upon motion of Supervisor Stacy, 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 May 4, 2021 Tazewell County Board of Supervisors meeting minutes as written.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Upon motion of Supervisor Hymes, 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 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:

A.

### **WARRANTS May 2021**

#### **Payroll**

Ordered that Warrant Nos. 145305 through 145319, and direct deposits totaling \$243,561.34 from the General, covering payroll for the various County agencies, for the period ending April 30, 2021, be approved.

Ordered that Warrant Nos. 145321 through 145335, and direct deposits totaling \$244,572.34 from the General Fund, covering payroll for the various County agencies, for the period ending May 14, 2021, be approved.

#### **Accounts Payable/Payroll Deductions**

Ordered that Warrant Nos. 493422 through 493547, and electronic transfers (ACH) totaling \$405,236.39 from the General, Landfill Enterprise, Capital Outlay, Law Library, and CARES funds covering operating expenses for the various County agencies issued April 27, 2021, be approved.

Ordered that Warrant Nos. 493549 through 493559, and electronic transfers (ACH) totaling \$340,423.77 from the General, covering payroll deductions for the various County agencies for the period ending April 30, 2021, be approved.

Ordered that Warrant Nos. 493189 through 493298, and electronic transfers (ACH) totaling \$722,395.76 from the General, Landfill Enterprise, Capital Outlay, Law Library, and CARES funds covering operating expenses for the various County agencies issued May 10, 2021, be approved.

Ordered that Warrant Nos. 493681 through 493691, and electronic transfers (ACH) totaling \$141,593.57 from the General, covering payroll deductions for the various County agencies for the period ending May 14, 2021, be approved.

**Handwritten**

Ordered that Warrant No. 802111 for \$1,050.00 from the General, Landfill Enterprise, Capital Outlay, and Law Library, covering operating expenses for the month of April 2021, be approved.

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

- \$50.00 to Acct. 31020-5520 (received from Michaelle Gravley)
- \$100.00 to Acct. 31020-5520 (received from Johnny M Street Sr)
- \$690.97 to Acct. 31020-1150 (received from Cumberland Mountain Community Services)
- \$1,299.99 to Acct. 3120-8101 (received from County of Bedford, Virginia)

C. Surplussed the Brinks truck that was donated to the Sheriff's Office a few years ago.

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

- \$17.58 to Acct. 7301-5230 (received refund from Verizon)
- \$100.00 to Acct. 7301-3099 (Joyce Johnston Donation)
- \$300.00 to Acct. 7301-3099 (MALiA Donation)

E. Ratified CSA payment of \$430,000.00 in May Financial Orders

F. Ratified the amount of \$1,500.00 from the Southern District Fund, for advertisements sponsoring the Virginia Motorcycle Meet up on June 11-13

G. Ratified the amount of \$500.00 from the Southern District Fund, payable to the Iron Titans Motorcycle Club, Inc., P.O. Box 877, Pounding Mill, VA 24637; attn. Leana Monk. These funds will pay for the band at the Annual Blessing of the Bikes event on June 13

H. Ratified poll approving both Memoranda of Understanding between the County & Chamber and County & IDA regarding DHCD Grants and allow Mr. Lester as Chairman to execute them on behalf of the Board

- I. Ratified poll extending the deadline for scholarship applicants until June 1<sup>st</sup> this year only and amending the MoU with SWCC to extend the deadline for scholarship applicants until May 1<sup>st</sup> permanently
  - J. Approved payment for comp time accrued for Economic Development Manager for managing economic assistance grants and 2021 DHCD grants for small businesses in the amount of \$2,490.00
  - K. Ratified the approval of up to \$2,000.00 for trash pickers and safety vests from the Landfill Fund to be used for community cleanups across the County. \*As of May 21<sup>st</sup>, Mrs. Robinson has purchased 25 trash pickers for Sheriff's Office, 10 trash pickers for the Cedar Bluff Community Clean up, 10 two-packs of trash pickers for Supervisor Stacy's community cleanup. Approximately \$900.00 has been spent so far.
  - L. Authorized \$200.00 from the Southern District Fund to the Treasurer of Tazewell County to pay Nuckolls Hall rental and cleaning fees for a Project Graduation event held on May 29<sup>th</sup>.
  - M. Authorized a transfer in the amount of \$250.00 from contingency to the Tazewell County Public Library. These funds are for the Emma Yates Library ribbon cutting celebration.
  - N. Authorized a transfer in the amount of \$102,983.00 from the Contingent Grant Account (91050-7041) to the EMS Contingency Account (32040-7023)
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## **KENNETH DUNFORD – DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING**

### **FINCASTLE FARMS ROAD – BRUSH CUTTING**

#### **UP TO \$1,250.00 FROM EASTERN DISTRICT**

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 authorizes Mr. Dunford to proceed with the brush cutting process and authorizes an amount up to \$1,250.00 from the Eastern District Fund. The contractor to perform the work has not yet been determined.

### **CLEARFORK FLOOD STUDY APPROVED**

Mr. Dunford announced that the Clearfork Flood Study has finally been approved. Supervisor Hymes said that residents can now submit the Flood Study to their insurance company and it should reduce the amount they are paying on their insurance. Mr. Dunford said that if anyone needed updated maps to document the changes, his office could provide them.

## **BRUSH CUTTING IN BLUEFIELD**

Supervisor Stacy asked for an update regarding brush cutting near the Sanders House in Bluefield. Mr. Dunford answered that it is a VDOT right-of-way and whoever cuts it will need to get a permit. He spoke with VDOT and they said it shouldn't be too hard to get a permit to do the work. Supervisor Stacy asked Mr. Dunford to provide him with a quote of what it would cost for the brush cutting.

## **MIDDLE CREEK ROAD PAVING FOR CHASING THE WILD BOAR EVENT**

Supervisor White thanked Mr. Dunford, Mr. Young, Mr. Lester and others who were involved with getting a bike turn around spot paved in Middle Creek before the Chasing the Wild Boar bicycle race took place.

## **TOWN OF POCAHONTAS - ROADS**

Supervisor Hymes discussed the Town of Pocahontas' request to have the County fix some of their roads. Mr. Dunford said he asked Mayor Ben Gibson to get two more quotes on what it would cost to fix the roads and to send it in as a formal request. After Mr. Gibson does this the CST Committee can meet to discuss options on whether or not they can use coal road money to help. Supervisor Hymes mentioned that it looked like there may have been water line and sewer work done on these roads and was paved half way over.

## **GUARDRAIL REQUESTS IN SPRINGVILLE**

Supervisor Stacy asked Mr. Dunford to contact VDOT to put guardrails in Springville. He mentioned that there have been several accidents there and that there was another fatality the week before across from the Phipps property. Supervisor Stacy asked that Mr. Dunford make another guardrail request to VDOT to be placed near the Triangle Gun Club.

## **ROUTE 671 PROPOSED GUARDRAIL INSTALLATION UPDATE**

Mr. Dunford stated that after looking at Route 671 with VDOT, there is question whether this portion of road is in Tazewell or Buchanan County. VDOT shows that it is Tazewell but the County is showing that it is in Buchanan. Mr. Dunford and VDOT are looking further into it.

## **MIDDLE CREEK ROAD PAVING - PAYMENT DISCUSSION**

The Chairman explained discovering at the last minute that they needed a bike turnaround spot on Middle Creek Road to make their event safer. Supervisor White said that the Chasing the Wild Boar event had a positive economic impact on Tazewell County. Over 150 people from around the world came to Tazewell County to be in the race. He stated that every hotel from Bluefield to Damascus was full. The Board had a lengthy discussion to figure out where the funding would come from to pay for the paving on Middle Creek Road. Mrs. Matney said she would go check the account balance of the Orphan Road Maintenance Fund and get the Board an answer by the end of the meeting.

**EXECUTIVE/CLOSED MEETING – 4:27 PM**

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

- A(1) Personnel Regarding EMS Captain
- A(1) Personnel Regarding Custodian Position
- A(1) Personnel Regarding County Administrator Annual Review
- A(1) Personnel Regarding Committee Members for the Courthouse Grounds Improvement Committee
- A(1) Personnel Regarding the Wireless Services Committee
- A(29) Potential Contract for Broadband Service
- A(29) Contract Negotiations Regarding a Legislative Consultant for Project Jonah Water Project

**RETURN/CERTIFICATION/REPORT OF ACTION – 6:03 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: Four (4)

### **JOB POSITION CREATED – EMS CAPTAIN**

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 creates the position of EMS Captain at a pay scale rate of \$41,500.00 and authorize the Director of Fire and EMS to hire for that position.

### **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 retains David Bailey Associates as legislative consultant for Project Jonah from November 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022.

### **GIGABEAM MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION AGREEMENT TERM AMENDMENT APPROVED**

Upon motion of Supervisor Hymes, seconded by Chairman 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 an amendment of the term of the Maintenance and Operation Agreement with Gigabeam, Inc. for one (1) year, from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

### **COURTHOUSE GROUNDS IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Upon motion of Chairman 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 appoints Sarah Romeo, Flora Sinkford, Susie Green, Andre Wallace, Mable Horton, Ellen Elms, and Tracy Wright to the Courthouse Grounds Improvement Committee with County Administrator Eric Young being appointed as an ex-officio member.

The Eastern and Northwestern Districts will have representation appointed at the later June meeting.

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### **SCHEDULED CITIZEN COMMENTS**

#### **RACHEL PATTON, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SWVA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

Assistant Director of the SWVA Workforce Development Board, Rachel Patton, approached the Board. The SWVA Workforce Development Board operates federal workforce programs for the region and are one out of fifteen workforce development areas in the state. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we are facing a nationwide labor shortage and SWVA has not been immune to this labor shortage. Ms. Patton said that they have been working with regional

businesses trying to help them fill these positions. Before the pandemic she said that they were starting to get into a really tight labor market with unemployment in the region between 3-4% across most of the region. Ms. Patton said coming out of Covid that they still have people transitioning off of unemployment and expect to be busy with them this summer. She said this still leaves them looking for long term solutions about where the workforce is going to come from for projects such as Project Jonah and the Battery and Electrification Projects that Tazewell County is working with. On behalf of the Workforce Development Board, Ms. Patton asked for assistance from the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors to help with get folks back into the workforce with some of the American Rescue Plan Act funds that the County will be receiving. Ms. Patton presented the two following proposals to the Board:

1. **Youth Services Proposal** – Ms. Patton said that this is one of the longstanding federal programs that they offer to youth to help them enter the workforce. According to 2018 data, roughly 600 kids graduate from high school every year in our region and they do not enter the workforce. She said this was a huge challenge and that we needed these kids in our workforce. Most of the reasons why these kids cannot enter the workforce are due to social issues such as: no driver's license, technically being homeless, or had never gone on the radar screen of foster care. Ms. Patton requested \$100,000.00 to serve the youth that does not fall into the restrictions of their traditional youth program. She explained for their traditional youth program that a person does not qualify just because of low income; they have to have other barriers as well. An example would be a person coming out of foster care or youth that are coming out of correctional facilities. She said that there are a lot of barriers limiting some of the youth that they can help. They would like to be able to help address things that keep the youth from getting training and getting engaged into the workforce. Some ways that they can help would be through: mental counseling, housing, transportation, financial and literacy skills, helping them with fees for licensures and things that financial aid does not cover. The program would help youth transition from graduating high school to entering employment.
2. **Transportation Proposal** – Ms. Patton stated that one of the biggest challenges that they have with serving people in our region is due to a lack of transportation. She said it doesn't matter what they train folks in or if they want to work if they do not have reliable transportation to get them back into the workforce. Ms. Patton requested \$100,000.00 to start a Car's to Work Program to help people that lack transportation to purchase a vehicle and make a payment on it that they can afford. The program would be for people who have a job and need to get to it, they must have secured employment and a way to get there or they need to be enrolled in training and in their programs. They must meet the requirements. The program would help them to have a low payment and the money granted would go in to buying the next set of cars. She pointed out that the region does not have a mass transit system to get people back and forth to work and that our rural terrain makes it more difficult to walk or ride a bicycle to work. Ms. Patton said that they currently have an ARC grant that has had similar type of program but it is limited to the folks in that program and they would like to expand it to the folks enrolled in their WIOA programs and other workforce programs.



Supervisor Stacy asked if there would be any matching funds coming from the federal government. Ms. Patton responded that most of this would be local money but that they can explore the options. She said for the youth they probably have funding coming from other sources but they operate most of their programs as last dollar so they go see what other funding sources are available to address the needs first. She clarified that they wouldn't pay college tuition for a student who can receive financial aid and that they go find other sources of funding. Chairman Lester told her that the Board would be forming a committee to address how the County will allocate the American Rescue Plan Act funding and invited Ms. Patton to come back and share her proposals to the committee.

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### **UNSHEDULED CITIZEN COMMENTS**

1. Michael Harris, 216 Belmont Street, Bluefield, VA – is opposed to the proposed cigarette tax. Mr. Harris reported that according to the CDC in 2015 there were 15.1% of Americans who smoke and that there are currently 12% who smoke. He believes that the tax is unfair and puts a burden on the smoking citizens of Tazewell County.
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### **ROBERTS RULE OF ORDER SUSPENDED**

Upon motion of Supervisor Hymes, 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 suspend Roberts Rules of Order for the purpose of rearranging the June 1, 2021 agenda format as needed.

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### **COVID-19 UPDATE**

The County Administrator reported on average that there have been six to seven COVID-19 cases per day for the last two weeks. Mr. Young said this was a slight uptick in cases, that two weeks ago there were three to four cases a day. Still this is a relatively low number of new cases.

County Administrator, Young said that the County did not reach their 40% of residents' vaccination goal by Memorial Day. He reported that there were approximately 31-33% Tazewell County residents that have been vaccinated. Mr. Young said Dr. Shelton from VDH confirmed that any resident who goes to West Virginia to get vaccinated does not count in Tazewell County's vaccination data. Vaccination rates and case numbers are low in Bluefield which leads the County to believe that some people are probably getting their vaccines in West Virginia. Dr. Shelton told Mr. Young that she is anxious to work on outreach projects and has spoken with him about setting up mobile clinics. He asked the Board to think about two to three places they would like the mobile vaccination clinic to go. The mobile clinic would be administering the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which is one shot. The Chairman mentioned the Raven and Jewell Ridge communities as well as maybe at events such as the Fiddlers Convention. Mr. Young mentioned that the fair would be a great place to setup too. Supervisor Asbury commented that she believes a lot of people who are not receiving the shot have just chosen not to do so.

Supervisor Stacy agreed and said that he didn't believe they would have a lot of people who want this vaccine that hasn't already gotten it. He mentioned opening the phone lines back up for vaccination scheduling. The Board discussed areas where the shot is being administered: Walmart, Food City, and doctor offices. Mr. Young mentioned another option about the possibility of working together with the Appalachian Agency for Senior Citizens to see if they are able to do a bus run and pick up citizens who want to get vaccinated and take them to town to do so and then drive them back home. Mr. Young said if they were to do the transportation routes he was thinking of picking communities such as Doran and Boissevain. Dr. Shelton had suggested less affluent communities that people may not have vehicles or resources to get to the clinics themselves. The Carline area of Tazewell was suggested as a potential mobile clinic stop. Mr. Young said if the Board desired he could work with staff and come up with a list of places and see what they can do.

The County Administrator said that they would continue their vaccine advertising. He foresees a resurgence of cases happening in the fall and urged everyone not to become complacent. Supervisor Stacy asked if they can implement a program for people to call in and schedule their vaccinations. Mr. Young replied that VDH had been doing this for four months and suggested utilizing the 911 texting feature that pushes messages out to every wireless phones in the County notifying them of vaccine availabilities.

## **ENDED LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY**

County Administrator, Young reported that the County has been in a Local State of Emergency due to COVID-19 since March 17, 2020 but has been in state of emergency since February 2020 because of a flood. Mr. Young said that he didn't believe that there was a real reason to continue the State of Emergency. He commented that COVID-19 is a problem but the County is working on the problem and he does not believe that it is a level that demands emergency action or powers at this point.

## **COUNTY ADMINISTRATION AND BUILDING INSPECTORS BUILDINGS REOPENED TO PUBLIC**

Mr. Young announced that he would be reopening County offices to the public including the Building Inspections and Administration offices. He said most County employees have been vaccinated and the citizens who want to have most likely been vaccinated.

## **RESTORED SMALL PURCHASE PROCEDURES LIMIT TO \$50,000.00**

Mr. Young asked for authorization to return to a small purchase limit of \$50,000.00. He recalled the Board raising the limit to \$100,000.00 on an emergency basis so that the County could more easily spend CARES Act funding. With most of the CARES Act funding being spent and the Board having three years to spend the American Rescue Plan Act funding, there is no longer a need for the \$100,000.00 spending limit.

The County Attorney said that this \$50,000.00 margin would be reflected in the second category of the Small Purchase Procedures Resolution. Mr. Collins explained that small purchase

procedures would return to what they were before the emergency allowing purchases of more than \$10,000.00 but not exceeding \$50,000.00 without having to request three informal solicitations. Any purchases between \$50,000.00 and \$100,000.00 will remain the same and will still require four informal solicitations and posting on eVA.

Upon motion of Supervisor Stacy, 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 restores the Small Purchase Procedures limit to \$50,000.00.

## **FAIRGROUNDS REOPENED FOR RENTALS**

The County Administrator announced that he would be reopening the fairgrounds for rentals that were also closed due to the duration of the emergency. He said that they would also be dismantling the overflow of hospital facility that was placed in the Fuller-Peery building.

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## **AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT UPDATE**

County Administrator, Young said that the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) is the new legislation that was passed this past February. He said that the County was notified by the US Department of Treasury that they would be receiving approximately \$7,880,000.00 in these funds. The County will have until December 31, 2024 to spend these monies in the following categories:

1. **Public Health Addressing the Virus Itself** – Any public health need such as PPE, subsidies for medical care, and a promotion and provision of the vaccine. Mr. Young recommended setting aside some of the money in the event we see a variant or resurgence in the virus this fall.
2. **Economic Recovery** – This includes grants for businesses. Specifically the restaurant and lodging industries.
3. **Hard Hit Communities and Families** – The County is allowed to develop programs and distribute resources to families that may have lost their jobs and homes or otherwise negatively impacted by the virus. Including compensation to families of persons who died from the virus.
4. **Lost Public Revenue** – Mr. Young explained that this qualifies if the County's revenue is less than it was in 2019, it can reimburse itself for that. He said Mrs. Matney would look into this further. Mr. Young commented that the County was down in natural gas revenue significantly due to the COVID-19 shutdown but that the County's sales tax was actually up, probably due to stimulus.

5. **Premium Pay for Central Workers** – Mr. Young said ARPA allows the County to be able to give hero pay to nurses, doctors, EMT's, and other persons that were essential in combating the virus whether they are employed by the County or not.
6. **Water and Sewer Projects**- the plan allows the County to be able to improve water and sewer infrastructure with these funds and specifically mentioned that the County could not use the funding towards road work.
7. **Broadband Service** – to help provide internet for remote learning, working, and telemedicine.

Mr. Young asked the Board to form a committee to sit down and look at these categories and try to form a budget year by year on how the County should spend these funds. Chairman Lester asked if it would make sense for the Budget Committee to continue on in this capacity. Supervisor Stacy commented that he wanted the full Board involved in the allocation and the policy areas that the County wants to fund and further stated that a Budget Committee would be the appropriate place to determine how much of that will benefit County government functions. Mr. Young said he asked his department heads to be working on plans for these funds and he hopes to have proposals to present to the Board for their recommendation by the next Budget Committee meeting.

Supervisor Stacy suggested holding community events inviting the public out to let them tell us their thoughts and ideas regarding the funding rollout. Chairman Lester recommended commercials to promote the American Rescue Plan Act to inform the public about what it is and where the meetings will be held.

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## **ROBERTS RULE OF ORDER REINSTATED**

Upon motion of Supervisor Hymes, 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 reinstates Roberts Rules of Order.

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## **BUDGET PRESENTATION BY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

The County Administrator, Eric Young, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Proposed County Budget Ordinance. The theme for his presentation was Sesame Street, brought to you by the letter: "V". Mr. Young stated that the letter "V" is for virus, and that there have been a lot of V's with it. Throughout his presentation he displayed several line graph charts such as the, "Dow Jones Industrial Average Spring 2020, U.S. Gross Domestic Product 2020, the county's Ending Balances FY2016-FY2021, the county's Local Revenues, and the Local Spending on Education FY18-FY22," with almost all of them having a distinctive shape that looked like the letter "V" from the data that had been collected.

County Administrator Young, commented on the “V’s” that the County needed to monitor. He discussed the County’s ending balances over the last five years and commented that in July of 2016 there was a little over \$7,000,000.00 in the bank and by July 2018 the County had less than \$3,000,000.00. Due to the crisis, the Board made a bold move and made a lot of steep cutbacks and adjusted some revenues. Mr. Young said that the County was hoping for \$6,000,000.00 in revenues but is certain they will finish with at least over \$5,000,000.00 this year. Mr. Young said that local revenues have really taken off after bottoming out in 2018 because the County adjusted revenues and now they have rebounded.

Mr. Young discussed school funding which also dropped in 2018. They were cut approximately \$1,700,000.00 from the County in 2018 last year the Board had to cut funding for them again. The proposed FY 22 Budget increases spending on education by nearly \$1,200,000.00 to pay for a 5% pay raise for School Board personnel who did not receive a pay increase from the State. Mr. Young also mentioned and included certain Sheriff’s Deputies who are in a similar situation regarding not receiving pay increases from the State. The County Administrator laid out how the Board plans to make this possible.

Due to the pandemic the County had dire predictions from the State and budgeted for a total collapse to be more prepared. The County budgeted for a \$400,000.00 reduction in sales tax. Originally it was thought that since people were shut-in their homes and couldn’t get out to go shopping that the County wouldn’t be receiving much of these taxes. Mr. Young reported that the exact opposite happened here and once the stimulus checks were sent out most of the shopping done in Tazewell County was done in stores that were able to stay open because they sold food. A lot of the time county does their shopping outside of the County but throughout the pandemic they were afraid to leave the area. Instead of losing \$400,000.00 the County gained \$500,000.00. This is a \$900,000.00 turn in the County’s favor.

Mr. Young stated that the regional jail bill and juvenile detention bill declined by a combined \$644,000.00. By combining the jail savings with the sales tax projection increase the County was able to fund \$2,040,000.00 in payroll increases. He explained that both of the savings and revenues should recur during FY22, which should fund the increases in FY23.

The American Rescue Plan Act funding received from the U.S. Government will allow the County to supplement local revenues up to 104% of FY20 levels through FY25. Mr. Young said this gives the County more confidence that it can support these recurring costs until FY26. He said by this time the County should have a new real property assessment and possibly a meals tax to supplant ARPA revenue in its general budget.

Mr. Young also reported: County healthcare costs also declined so there wouldn’t be an increase in employee premiums in the budget; with the Governor’s G3 plan the state will pay for about one third of our students at SVCC who were receiving and who could receive the Board’s scholarship, saving the County about \$180,000.00 going forward; because the County is going to twice per year billing this fiscal year will add \$7,500,000.00 to its reserves by June 20, 2022, this will put the County past its goal of \$8,000,000.00 in reserves that was recommended by Davenport.

Mr. Young then discussed “V’s” to be concerned about. A line graph of Tazewell County’s inmate population was displayed. He said that the regional jail bill declined sharply last year going from 317 inmates in January 2020 to 273 inmates in January 2021. It has now sharply inclined to approximately 310 inmates. This is due to the courts opening back up and taking in more inmates. Mr. Young doesn’t anticipate a large rebate from the regional jail next year.

A line graph showing Actual Health Care Costs v. Budgeted Health Care Costs was displayed. Mr. Young explained the trend pertaining to the graph noting a big spike in December 2020. He believes this is due to numerous staff having Covid-19 around that time. USI had told the County that they looked at January and February numbers and felt like they were really low and felt confident that the premium would go down. However, there was a steep spike in March’s costs. April data was not yet available. Mr. Young predicts there will be increasing health care costs with everyone trying to catch up on all of the procedures and tests that they had put off because of the pandemic.

Mr. Young discussed minimum wages rising faster than the County’s local median wage. He said this meant that the amount that the County is required to pay its employees is going up faster than the wages our people have to pay taxes to pay our employees. This will be a problem going forward that will have to be addressed. He also expects to see another decline in the coal industry.

Mr. Young said that costs to provide EMS services are continuously going to go up with Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements going down. He said that most people our EMS crews transport are insured by Medicare or Medicaid. There is a growing gap between the cost in providing the service and the revenue that the County is getting from the service.

The County Administrators other concerns were: the county’s population continues to decline meaning fewer students in schools which means less state funding to operate them; national inflation increasing the cost of goods and services that we buy as a government; and our revenue not increasing significantly until the County is able to have another real property tax assessment. Supervisor White said that he was seeing real estate prices selling way above tax assessed value plus the asking price. He commented that he had been dealing with real estate for sixteen years and that this was the first time in Tazewell County that they had seen this trend catch up with other places in the country. Mr. White said it was the housing shortage here that was causing people to pay much more.

Mr. Young proposed solutions to his aforementioned concerns commenting that they have tried to address some of these concerns in this budget cycle. He said this budget continued to fund the Commonwealth Attorney’s early release program, a program where non-violent offenders do community service jobs for the County and are able to leave jail earlier. On average an inmate costs \$33.00 per day. The County started funding this program last year and will continue to do so in this budget. This also includes home electronic monitoring for persons on bond to try and keep them out of jail while they are waiting on trial.

Another solution proposed was a cigarette tax to prevent EMS cost overruns. He reported that the County was paying approximately \$200,000.00 a year to the Town of Richlands to

provide EMS protection for the western and northwestern districts, paying \$100,000.00 a year to the Town of Tazewell to provide EMS protection for the southern district, and the County is providing EMS protection for the northern and eastern districts. The County is losing up to \$300,000.00 per year in operations by doing this. Mr. Young explained that the state legislature authorized the County to enact a cigarette tax. The Budget Committee projected it would produce \$500,000.00 per year to offset continued losses in EMS. Supervisor Stacy commented that the Board attempted to do the Meals Tax Referendum as its first choice to spread around to the most people the need to increase revenues but that it was defeated and there were now no other options available other than to raise the real property tax or consider imposing the cigarette tax which all of our localities were already imposing. Mr. Young added that when the Meals Tax failed the Board had no recourse but to then adjust the real property tax. He recalled the Board imposing the Merchants Capital Tax last year. These types of issues leave the County with no choice but to eliminate a service, raise the taxes it has, or create a new tax.

Mr. Young said that the County included \$110,000.00 in health care contingency in this budget. He said this is money the County has that is not in the fund that they could use it for something else later but that in the event that the sharp rebound displayed in the chart earlier continues then the County has the funds to backfill it with.

Mr. Young ended his presentation with another “V” standing for vaccine and encouraged the public to get it if they desired. A complete copy of the budget presentation as presented is online at: [www.tazewellcountyva.org](http://www.tazewellcountyva.org) and on file in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, VA 24651.

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## **PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED BUDGET & TAX LEVY ORDINANCE FOR FY2021-22**

7:13 PM – 7:14 PM

The Chairman, Tom Lester, called to order a public hearing that was duly advertised according to law, entitled, “TAZEWELL COUNTY PROPOSED BUDGET & TAX LEVY ORDINANCE FOR FY2021-22”. The County of Tazewell’s recommended budget synopsis is prepared and published for informative and fiscal planning purposes only. The inclusion in the budget ordinance of any item or items does not constitute an obligation or commitment on the part of the Board of Supervisors of this County to appropriate any funds for that item or purpose. The budget ordinance is presented on the basis of the estimates prepared by the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors/Budget Committee, and requests submitted to the County Administrator by other offices and department heads of the County. The budget ordinance presumes enactment of an increased tax levy ordinance. There is no allocation or designation for that purpose of any funds of the County for any purpose until there has been an appropriation for that purpose by the Board of Supervisors of Tazewell County, Virginia. The budget ordinance is for informative fiscal planning purposes only and will not be approved, adopted or ratified by the Board of Supervisors until at least seven (7) days after the Public Hearing with an anticipated adoption date of June 25, 2020. This Public Hearing is held pursuant to Section 15.2-2500 – 15.2-2508 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, and is for the purpose of allowing the public to question and comment on the proposed budgets. A copy of the complete budget ordinance is on file in the

office of the County Administrator, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia and posted outside the Circuit Court Clerk's Office door of the County Courthouse on Main Street in Tazewell, Virginia. It will also be posted on Tazewell County's website, [www.tazewellcountyva.org](http://www.tazewellcountyva.org). All citizens of Tazewell County Virginia have the right to attend and state their views thereon, subject to reasonable time limits as shall be determined by the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors.

Now, the Chairman called for comments from the floor three times and there being none, he declared the hearing closed.

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## **PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A CIGARETTE TAX**

7:15 PM – 7:31 PM

The Chairman called to order a public hearing that was duly advertised according to law regarding, "AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A CIGARETTE TAX IN TAZEWEEL COUNTY, VIRGINIA".

Now, the Chairman called for public comments from the floor with regard to the public hearing. The following people commented:

1. Mike Davidson, owner of three convenience stores in Tazewell County – understands that the Board needs a way to generate income but does not agree with the idea that the Board could potentially impose a cigarette tax up to \$0.40 cents per pack which adds up to \$4.00 per carton. Two of Mr. Davidson's convenience stores are located in Bluefield, VA close to the West Virginia line and said he has many customers come across the state line because of the lower tobacco prices. He has a competitive advantage against them because there is a \$5.00 variance in carton prices from VA to WV. Mr. Davidson is not against tax proceeds going towards EMS services and knows that it is a service that everyone needs but he is opposed to raising the tax to \$0.40 on the working class. He urged the Board to look at a tax that would be imposed on everyone. However, if this is the route the Board takes, he suggested a much lesser cigarette tax. Mr. Davison has an obligation to himself and family foremost and his convenience stores are what have provided for him and his family for nearly thirty years. He is concerned that imposing such a tax may deeply and negatively impact his sales. Mr. Davidson asked the Board how they came up with the \$0.40 per pack figure. The County Attorney explained that his was a number that is the maximum amount authorized by the Cod of Virginia. Supervisor White clarified that just because the County advertised the tax at \$0.40 per pack it did not mean that the Board is imposing the tax. He said that the Board can impose a cigarette tax for any amount up to \$0.40. Mr. Davidson questioned the Board and asked if they had an idea of how many cigarettes were sold in Tazewell County in 2020 and if it really would generate the \$250,000.00 that the County was shooting for in their advertising notice. He then questioned Mr. Young about the tax generating a proposed amount of \$500,000.00 that was mentioned in his earlier budget presentation Mr. Young explained that the County budgeted \$250,000.00 because they are expecting that the Board will not be able to implement the tax until later in the year, so the County would not have a full years



worth of revenue. The County anticipates that once it gets the full year it will probably be a tax proceeds of \$500,000.00. Mr. Davidson discussed the number of cartons sold in Tazewell County in 2020 and urged the Board to consider limiting the amount of tax they may impose on cigarettes. He referenced the year 2009 when the federal government placed a \$6.00 tax per carton and how badly it impacted his store that was once bustling. Mr. Davidson said due to that tax he had to get rid of two of his employees because there was no longer a need for them.

Supervisor White mentioned speaking with another owner of convenience stores, Donnie Mitchem, who was also concerned about the proposed \$0.40 tax. In the Town of Tazewell there is already a maximum cigarette tax of \$0.40. The County Attorney clarified that the towns are grandfathered in at their current rate and if the tax is over \$0.40 in the town that is also grandfathered into the current code revisions. He further explained that anything after January 1, 2021 is capped at \$0.40 per pack. Mr. Collins said that the County cannot enforce its tax if a town already has a cigarette tax set already. As an example he said if a town has a cigarette tax set at \$0.05 per pack, the County can't push its tax on the town. Supervisor White discussed more of Mr. Mitchem's views and said that he would prefer that all of the towns' cigarette taxes are in the same range because he feels like it would make it easier and that there would be more competition. Mr. Davidson respectfully disagreed with Mr. Mitchem's views and didn't believe it would give him the competitive advantage.

Supervisor Stacy commented that he would like to keep our Virginia businesses more competitive than West Virginia because the County would receive additional benefit for the people coming down to shop in our stores. He stated he personally does not have a problem with the \$0.40 tax due to all of the issues surrounding the cigarette itself but he didn't want the tax to hurt any business.

Supervisor Hymes discussed the budgeting process they used to determine their figures and how he would like to find out how many cartons were sold in the towns vs. county. Mr. Davidson said he would send the Board data on how many cartons were sold in the county so that the Board may be able to figure out what portion of sales came from the towns.

Supervisor Stacy commented that the public did not vote in favor of the Meals Tax which would have brought in projected revenue of \$1,400,000.00 a year for the programs the County wanted to create. The Cigarette Tax is far less than what the County was hoping for but the Code of Virginia sets the guidelines for what taxes may be imposed and what cannot.

Now, the Chairman called for additional comments from the floor three times and there being none, he declared the hearing closed.

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 defers action on the proposed ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A CIGARETTE TAX until a later meeting so the Board can conduct further research.

## **RECESS**

The Chair called for a brief recess and the meeting was reconvened shortly after.

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## **APPOINTMENTS**

### **CLINCH VALLEY COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY**

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 reappoints Chris Plaster, Adrianna Culbertson, David Larimer, and David Anderson to the Clinch Valley Community Action Agency with a term continuing on July 1, 2021 and expiring on June 30, 2022.

Supervisor White deferred the appointment of Jim Boyd to his successor.

### **ENTERPRISE ZONE COMMITTEE**

Upon motion of Supervisor Stacy, 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 reappoints Maggie Asbury, Glenn Catron, Curt Breeding, Ann Robinson, and Chuck Presley to the Enterprise Zone Committee with a term continuing on July 1, 2021 and expiring on June 30, 2022.

Supervisor White deferred the appointment of Supervisor Tom Lester to his successor.

### **FIRE-RESCUE, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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 reappoints Jim Talbert and Mike Hymes to the Tazewell County Fire-Rescue, Inc. Board of Directors with terms continuing on July 1, 2021 and expiring on June 30, 2023.

### **INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

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 reappoints Larry Ratliff and Kyle Hurt to the Industrial Development Authority with terms continuing on July 1, 2021 and expiring on June 30, 2025.

### **NINTH DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT FINANCING, INC.**

Upon motion of Supervisor Hymes, seconded by Chairman 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 appoints Economic Development Director, Tim Danielson to the Ninth District Development Financing, Inc. with a term commencing on July 1, 2021 and expiring on June 30, 2023. This appointment replaces the expired term of Pam Warden.

### **PLANNING COMMISSION**

Upon motion of Supervisor Asbury, 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 reappoints Ann Robinson to the Planning Commission with a term continuing on July 1, 2021 and expiring on June 30, 2025.

Supervisor White deferred the appointment of Darrell Addison to his successor.

### **RECREATION AND PARKS FACILITY AUTHORITY**

Upon motion of Chairman 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 reappoints Shawn Durham to the Recreation and Parks Facility Authority with a term continuing on July 1, 2021 and expiring on June 30, 2024.

Supervisor Hymes deferred Daniel Ingram's appointment, Supervisor Stacy deferred Billie Robert's appointment, and Supervisor Asbury deferred Joey Stiltner's appointment.

### **TAZEWELL COUNTY ROAD VIEWERS**

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 reappoints Russell Stowers, Scott Rasnick, Curtis Gillespie, and Clyde Sparks to the Tazewell County Road Viewers with terms continuing on July 1, 2021 and expiring on June 30, 2022.

Supervisor White deferred the appointment of Allen Whited to his successor.

### **TOURISM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Upon motion of Chairman Lester, 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 reappoints \*Roger Scarberry and appoints Logan Plaster, PO Box 1820, Richlands, VA 24641 to the Tourism Development Committee with a term commencing on July 1, 2021 and expiring on July 30, 2023. This appointment replaces the expired term of Connie Allen.

Supervisor Hymes deferred the appointment of Tammy Allison who does not have time to serve on this committee. Supervisor Stacy deferred the appointment of Terri Kammer who does not wish to be reappointed. Supervisor White deferred the appointment of Sarah Romeo.

\*Supervisor Asbury will need to find a replacement for Roger Scarberry who does not want to be reappointed.

### **TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMISSION**

Upon motion of Chairman Lester, 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 reappoints Jack Asbury, Jonathan Roberts, and Scott Rasnick to the Transportation Safety Commission with terms continuing on July 1, 2021 and expiring on June 30, 2024.

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### **COVE COMMUNITY CENTER - INTERNET BILL**

#### **CARES ACT ROUND ONE FUNDS**

County Administrator Young said that the Board previously authorized the use of CARES funds to pay the Cove Community Center internet bill during the pandemic. Authorization is due to expire at the end of the month and he asked the Board to make a decision on whether they wanted to continue paying the bill. Supervisor Hymes suggested that the Board continue to pay the internet bill until at least the end of August 2021. Hymes plans to speak to the Cove Community Center because they have said that they may be able to start funding the bill themselves.

Upon motion of Supervisor Hymes, seconded by Chairman 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 authorizes paying the Cove Community Center internet bill from the CARES Act Round one funds until at least August 31, 2021. The County Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to issue said warrant in accordance with this action and which said warrant will be converted to negotiable check by the Treasurer of Tazewell County, Virginia.

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### **FAIRGROUND IMPROVEMENTS – ARENA FENCING**

The County Administrator mentioned visiting with the Fair Board and it was decided that the County would hold off on the fencing project. They were concerned that the fencing wouldn't survive the derby. Mr. Young said that they were now looking to potentially build a second arena for horse shows behind the arena that is down at the fairgrounds now. He explained that having derbies and horse shows in the same arena is not ideal for the horses because of the pieces of metal, glass, and gravel that is left over from the derby events. Over the years workers have had to dig the dirt out before every derby and then after that event the workers have had to

come back and bury the gravel again before the horse shows. Mr. Young said for this amount of effort the County would probably be better off to build a separate arena for the horse shows. He then told the Board that they were looking into getting prefab bleachers that costs approximately \$20,000.00 a section and he will get quotes on the project and bring back a budget proposal to the Board when one is ready.

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### **THE REQUEST OF A WAIVER FROM THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS REGARDING SPLIT PRECINCTS**

The County Attorney stated that Section 2402-307 of the Code requires that precinct boundaries be set up by June 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. Mr. Collins said it has been complicated this year because we do not have census data and likely will not until sometime in late fall. He explained the code imposes a requirement that if the governing body is unable to establish a precinct with a minimum number of registered voters without splitting the precinct between multiple local election districts, it has to apply to the State Board of Elections to administer a waiver for a split precinct. Mr. Collins said this means that if a county has a town inside of a larger precinct (which Tazewell County has five instances of) then they have to apply to the State Board of Elections for a waiver that allows you to do so. On behalf of Registrar Brian Earls, Mr. Collins requested the Board approve a Resolution requesting a waiver pursuant to section 24.2-307 of the Code of Virginia to apply to the Department of Elections for a split precinct waiver for the following precincts: Cedar Bluff precinct containing the Cedar Bluff Town, Graham precinct containing the Town of Bluefield, Jeffersonville precinct containing the Town of Tazewell, Pocahontas precinct containing the Town of Pocahontas, and the Richlands precinct containing the Town of Richlands.

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 approve a Resolution requesting a waiver pursuant to section 24.2-307 of the Code of Virginia to apply to the Department of Elections for a split precinct waiver for the following precincts: Cedar Bluff precinct containing the Cedar Bluff Town, Graham precinct containing the Town of Bluefield, Jeffersonville precinct containing the Town of Tazewell, Pocahontas precinct containing the Town of Pocahontas, and the Richlands precinct containing the Town of Richlands.

Supervisor Asbury left the meeting at 8:04 PM

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### **EXECUTIVE/CLOSED MEETING – 8:04 PM**

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

- A(1) Personnel Regarding County Administrator Annual Review
- A(3) The Potential Acquisition of Real Estate with Regards to Recreational Purposes

**RETURN/CERTIFICATION/REPORT OF ACTION – 9:00 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: Four (4)  
Nays: None (0)  
Absent: One (1)  
Absent during vote: None (0)  
Report of Action: None (0)

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**BOARD CONCERNS**

SUPERVISOR ASBURY

**TOWN OF POCAHONTAS – 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY CELEBRATION**

**\$750.00 NORTHERN DISTRICT**

Upon motion of Supervisor Hymes, seconded by Supervisor Stacy and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Asbury absent from the meeting, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes \$750.00 from the Northern District funds, payable to the Town of

Pocahontas; attn: Ben Gibson. These monies go towards their 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. The County Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to issue said warrant in accordance with this action and which said warrant will be converted to negotiable check by the Treasurer of Tazewell County, Virginia.

### **HERITAGE HALL PATIENT AIDE – 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL CLUBS & SCRUBS GOLF TOURNAMENT**

#### **\$240.00 NORTHERN DISTRICT**

Upon motion of Supervisor Hymes, seconded by Supervisor Stacy and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Asbury absent from the meeting, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes \$240.00 from the Northern District funds, payable to Heritage Hall Patient Aide, 282 Ben Bolt Avenue, Tazewell, VA 24651; attn: Heather Compton. These monies go towards their first annual Clubs & Scrubs Golf Tournament. The County Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to issue said warrant in accordance with this action and which said warrant will be converted to negotiable check by the Treasurer of Tazewell County, Virginia.

#### **SUPERVISOR HYMES**

### **BACK OF THE DRAGON ACCIDENTS – MILE MARKERS**

Supervisor Hymes reported that there are still lots of accidents happening on the Back of the Dragon. He said emergency crews are having a difficult time finding the people. Supervisor Hymes suggested that Mr. Dunford request mile markers from VDOT to be put up along this route to help emergency vehicles locate these individuals. Supervisor White said that maybe Mr. Shott could have mile marker signs printed off. The County Administrator said he would discuss this concern with Mr. Dunford.

#### **SUPERVISOR WHITE**

### **CHASING THE WILD BOAR EVENT**

Supervisor White discussed the recent, Chasing the Wild Boar, inaugural bike race. He reported that they had 140 professional cyclists from all over the United States and a European pro that came and raced. Supervisor White thanked the Sheriff's Department, towns of Cedar Bluff and Richlands, and all of the emergency crews that came together and make the race a safe and successful event. He specially gave a shout out to Ms. Randy Ann Davis who went above and beyond by having a radio tower repeater put up for the event so they could have better communication. Supervisor White said that the top six junior pro teams in the whole United States came here and were amazed by the courses, roads, and people they met while in Tazewell County. He said there were no major crashes and emergency crews were on site and ready to step in when needed.

On average the riders spent three to four nights in our communities, which was a positive and significant economic impact for Tazewell County. He said there were 300 registrations and that they had 140 riders with hopes of quadrupling that number next year to have 1,200 registrations. Supervisor White said next year they have plans to do kids races and get the adults more involved. They would like to make it a festival atmosphere with vendors and other attractions.

## **THANK YOU TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Supervisor White thanked the members for appointing him back to the Board of Supervisors as an interim. He said he enjoyed the time he's had on the Board and felt great that he was able to contribute in some small way by helping the Board get a couple of contracts negotiated during this short time. Supervisor White told the members that he loves being involved with the County and his community and is always willing to help in any way that he can.

## **SUPERVISOR STACY**

### **THE SANDERS HOUSE – 2020 AND 2021 FUNDING**

#### **\$5,000.00 EASTERN DISTRICT**

Upon motion of Supervisor Stacy, seconded by Chairman Lester and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Asbury absent from the meeting, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes \$5,000.00 from the Eastern District funds, payable to The Sanders House, PO Box 1422, Bluefield, VA 24605; attn: Gail Cook. These monies go towards 2020 makeup funding and funding for 2021. The County Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to issue said warrant in accordance with this action and which said warrant will be converted to negotiable check by the Treasurer of Tazewell County, Virginia.

## **CHAIRMAN LESTER**

### **SPEARHEAD TRAIL MOU**

Chairman Lester asked Mr. Collins if he has received any clarification with the MOU regarding the Spearhead Trail and what role that the engineer plays on road repairs, stating that he knew that DEQ has turned it over to the counties. The County Attorney responded that he had not received anything else and would continue to look into the matter.

### **TRAIL DAYS EVENT**

Chairman Lester invited the Board members to attend a Trail Days event on June 23rd. He said that he would like the Board to invite two members of their district to take part in the event, preferably someone who is involved with the community to promote the trails. Chairman Lester said he would be taking Town Managers, John O'Daniel, John Absher, and Senator Travis Hackworth.



## **REGISTRAR'S OFFICE – INSTALLATION OF FLAG POLE**

### **AUTHORIZED UP TO \$3,000.00 FROM THE CONTINGENCY FUND**

Chairman Lester said that the Registrar's Office is requesting funding to install a flag pole at their new location. They had requested \$2,500.00 and Mr. Young suggested authorizing an amount up to \$3,000.00. He said they will also need to get permission from the landlord to install the flag pole.

Upon motion of Supervisor Stacy, seconded by Supervisor Hymes and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Asbury absent from the meeting, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes an amount up to \$3,000.00 from the Contingency Fund to go towards the installation of a flag pole at the Registrar's Office.

## **TOWN OF CEDAR BLUFF – WALKING TRAIL – OLD KENTUCKY TURNPIKE**

### **\$8,000.00 WESTERN DISTRICT**

Upon motion of Chairman Lester, seconded by Supervisor White and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Asbury absent from the meeting, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes \*\$8,000.00 from the Western District funds, payable to the Town of Cedar Bluff; attn: John Absher. These monies go towards the Walking Trail – Old Kentucky Turnpike. The County Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to issue said warrant in accordance with this action and which said warrant will be converted to negotiable check by the Treasurer of Tazewell County, Virginia.

\*The motion made on 6/1/2021 was for \$10,000.00 but Chairman Lester intended the amount to be \$8,000.00. A poll was sent out on 6/8/2021 and approved. The poll will be ratified at the 6/29/2021 meeting.

## **COUNTY OFFICES CLOSED FOR ALL STATE SCHEDULED HOLIDAYS**

Upon motion of Supervisor Stacy, seconded by Chairman Lester and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Asbury absent from the meeting, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes the County Administrator to close County offices on all State scheduled holidays.

## **DOMINION DRIVEWAY & PARKING LOT PAVING, INC. - MIDDLE CREEK PAVING**

### **\$4,000.00 FROM THE ORPHAN ROAD MAINTENANCE FUND**

Upon motion of Supervisor White, seconded by Chairman Lester and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Asbury absent from the meeting, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes \$4,000.00 from the Orphan Road Maintenance Fund, payable to Dominion Driveway & Parking Lot Paving, Inc., 2927 Adria Road, North Tazewell, VA 24630;

attn: Scott Shrader. These monies go towards paving of a bike turn around spot on Middle Creek Road. The County Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to issue said warrant in accordance with this action and which said warrant will be converted to negotiable check by the Treasurer of Tazewell County, Virginia.

### **CPROP GRANT APPLICATIONS**

Mr. Young said Cumberland Plateau sent a notice to the County that they are opening up their Cprop grant applications. The applications are due by the end of June and the County can apply for up to \$200,000.00. The County Administrator laid out three plans for the Board to choose from:

1. **Cavitt's Creek Walking Trail** – Apply for \$125,000.00 for Cavitt's Creek Walking Trail and park updates. Mr. Young recalled the Board voting at the last meeting the authorization to apply for a federal grant for the same purpose and that if the County is awarded through the federal grant the County is required to have a local match of approximately \$50,000.00. The projected costs to complete this project are estimated between \$120,000.00 and \$125,000.00. He explained if the Board chose this option for the Cprop grant application then he would like to see how much funding the County could get by applying for both grants. If the County doesn't receive funding from one or the other grant then they could scale back the project.
2. **Bluestone Shell Building Parking Lot Paving** – Apply for \$75,000.00 for paving the parking lot of the Bluestone Shell building. Mr. Young commented that a couple of consultants have told him that site selectors do not like the gravel parking lot.
3. **Jonah Water Project Final Design** - Apply for \$200,000.00 towards the final design of the project

The Board thought that the County should apply for the Cprop grant application for the Cavitt's Creek Walking Trail.

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### **RECESS**

Now, there being no further business to be transacted the 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: 9:26 p.m.