

VIRGINIA: AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TAZEVELL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD APRIL 9, 2024 AT FOUR O'CLOCK P.M. IN THE TAZEVELL COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 197 MAIN STREET, TAZEVELL, VIRGINIA 24651

PRESENT: ANDY HROVATIC, CHAIRMAN  
AARON GILLESPIE, VICE-CHAIRPERSON  
KYLE CRUEY, MEMBER  
CHUCK PRESLEY, MEMBER  
SHANNA PLASTER, MEMBER  
C. ERIC YOUNG, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
CHASE D. COLLINS, COUNTY ATTORNEY  
SUSAN JEWELL, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT  
MEMBERS OF THE PRESS: JIM TALBERT, CLINCH VALLEY NEWS/PRESS; WARREN HINKLE, THE VOICE

ABSENT: NONE

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## MINUTES

Chairman, Andy Hrovatic called the regular meeting to order and presided with all other members present.

Supervisor Cruey led The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag followed by the invocation given by Supervisor Gillespie.

Chairman Hrovatic 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.

### **AGENDA APPROVED AS AMENDED**

The Chairperson called for any additions to the agenda.

County Attorney, Chase Collins, requested to add an item to Executive Session: A(29) Contract negotiations with SWCC regarding scholarship agreement.

Upon motion of Supervisor Gillespie, seconded by Supervisor Cruey 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 approved the addition of an item to Executive Session: A(29) Contract negotiation with SWCC.

Upon motion of Supervisor Plaster, seconded by Supervisor Presley 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 approved the April 9, 2024 amended agenda with

additions/deletions, a copy of which is available at the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

### **MINUTES APPROVED AS WRITTEN**

Upon motion of Supervisor Plaster, seconded by Supervisor Presley 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 minutes from the March 5, 2024 meeting. A copy is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Upon motion of Supervisor Gillespie seconded by Supervisor Crucey and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the items listed in the table and the Warrants as presented in the "Consent Calendar", which is attached to the agenda. The County Administrator is authorized to issue warrants in accordance with this action and said warrants shall be converted to negotiable checks by the Treasurer of Tazewell County, Virginia.

#### **Consent Calendar**

(All items on the consent calendar are considered to be routine matters. The following items may be enacted by one motion, with the concurrence of the Board of Supervisors, a member may request that an item be removed for further discussion)

- A. Approval of Warrants
- B. County Departments - Transfer the following amounts from the Contingent Expenditures and Grant Account No. 91050-7041 to various department accounts as shown on the attached table
- C. Ratify poll to transfer \$10,000.00 from Property Maintenance Enforcement to the Cavitts Creek Bathhouse Project

A copy of the consent calendar is attached to these minutes.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

#### ***Audit Report – Emily Viers***

Emily Viers of Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates, gave an audit report detailing the county's performance regarding compliance.

Mr. Young had several questions regarding the TCPS financial information:

Mr. Young: Regarding Page 2 of the report, the school board is considered a component of the County, correct?

Ms. Viers: Yes. They are a component unit. They don't have taxing authority and you provide a lot of their funding.

Mr. Young: And the school board keeps its own books and have their own identification number and all that?

Ms. Viers: Yes.

Mr. Young: For several years, there has been a "lag" in getting their reimbursements,

Ms. Viers: Yes. I think that goes back ten or twelve years, fifteen years.

Mr. Young: Correct me if I'm wrong....they spend money they're entitled to be reimbursed from the state and federal government but they don't draw that down until the next fiscal year, is that right?

Ms. Viers: Yeah, that's what's happening. There's always a little bit of a delay but most localities will do their Essers on a monthly basis, so they're requesting in July what they spend in June and they usually do their smaller grants on a quarterly basis so they can stay on top of them. Some of the Esser ones, for the 2023 audit, there were amounts they requested well into 2024. That was part of the delay in issuing the report because they were still doing reimbursement requests for the December/January time frame so we had to wait for that.

Mr. Young: So, the Esser reimbursements were for the prior year to FY23?

Ms. Viers: No, the ones for 2023 were for just the year 2023 but we did have to reissue 2021 and the 2022 report because they went back in the 2024 report and requested amounts that related to 2021, to the tune of \$2m I believe. But they were material enough in nature that we had to reissue those reports because they could no longer be relied upon because the amount was too significant.

Supervisor Gillespie: You said that this type of behavior has been marked in your auditing for quite some time?

Ms. Viers: Yes.

Supervisor Gillespie: The amount that you just referred to, has a similar amount ever been found in any of your previous audits? Is that that largest amount that was delayed?

Ms. Viers: This is the largest amount that's been delayed. Historically, the amounts have been below our threshold so we've not had to reissue reports, we've just been able to let them fall into the next year.

Supervisor Gillespie: What is the threshold that you all have to comply with in this level or having to go into another level? I'm confused that is someone is allowed to continue a behavior and it escalates, I figured in an audit report there might be some indication of that behavior

Ms. Viers: No, issuing that as a material weakness is about all we can do. We don't have the authority to do anything to TCPS budget or enforce that they do anything.

Mr. Young: And the amount of reimbursements was \$2m for 2022?

Ms. Viers: It was \$2m for 2021 and \$5m for 2022.

Mr. Young: Was that reflected in the financial statement as receivable for 2022?

Ms. Viers: Not initially, but when the report was reissued this year, they were reflected. T

Mr. Young: So, last year, when we met at this time, that had not been reflected?

Ms. Viers: Yes, that's correct.

Mr. Young: So, that was money that was due them— receivables – that they had not requested yet?

Ms. Viers: Yes.

Mr. Young: So, I know you've been working with them since we found this issue....do you think now they have requested all that they're due?

Ms. Viers: I have no way to know until the 2024 audit. We did confirm by email that everything was caught up prior to releasing this because we wanted to be sure we didn't have to reissue 2023 in a couple of months. We were told they were caught up but until we really get into the audit, we really won't know.

Mr. Young: And this is reimbursements for money they had spent?

Ms. Viers: Yes.

Mr. Young: Do we know if that was reimbursements for state money they had spent or Tazewell County money?

Ms. Viers: That should have been local dollars.

Mr. Young: So, it was this Board's money they had spent in 2022 and were entitled to be reimbursed, but had not done so?

Ms. Viers: Yes.

Mr. Young: And had not reported that that was within their ability to do?

Ms. Viers: Yes. To come back to your point, Mr. Gillespie, if we had any concerns that the funds were used inappropriately, that would rise to a level of being reported to the APA or the federal

entity if it were federal funds. Even in the single audit finding, we did not question cause because they detail everything.

Supervisor Gillespie: The guidance that you're recommending of more uniform and transparent and easier reimbursement method of monthly reimbursement, is that coming from a national or state standard?

Ms. Viers: No.

Supervisor Gillespie: But, the other clients that you serve, that's what the majority of them do.

Ms. Viers: Yes. We did have another locality that had a similar issue that went back into a previous year. The Esser Program has made that different for them. They got some funding up front and they were allowed to go back in the federal program and that just makes it very difficult for reporting and ensures that the financial statements are correct. And, typically, when there are grant, funds involved, that's for a future period but going back is not unallowable.

Supervisor Hrovatic: So, it would be fair to say that the monthly reimbursement would be the standard for good, fair accounting practices.

Ms. Viers: I think so. In my opinion.

Mr. Young: But three years would not be good accounting practices.....

Mr. Viers: No.

Supervisor Cruely: Most counties that you serve don't have the issue because they do it on a monthly basis and not have huge amounts of reimbursements from previous years?

Ms. Viers: Typically, yes. We have had a couple of anomalies but for the most part, most school boards request reimbursements monthly or quarterly and they're not going to going back years later to adjust them.

Supervisor Gillespie: Did you, in 2022 and 2023 and then what you've done so far in 2024 have you seen any other government entity, such as a school board, draw reimbursements in these amounts elsewhere outside of Tazewell County?

Ms. Viers: I haven't seen any as large as this. I think this one in Tazewell County was close to \$8m and the other one I've seen was closer to \$2m. We've had other localities that have had to go back and request funds but to my knowledge, this is the only one I was required to reissue.

Supervisor Cruely: This type of issue with the school board has been going on for several years?

Ms. Viers: Yeah, I think this issue with the school board has been ongoing for about 10+ years and I think it's been exacerbated by the fact that they received millions and millions of dollars in pandemic funding they're trying to use as fast as they can and its just gotten worse and worse with all of these pots of money that they've received.

Supervisor Cruey: And that would be considered bad accounting practices?

Ms. Viers: Yes, in my opinion.

A copy of the report is available at the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

Upon motion of Supervisor Gillespie, seconded by Supervisor Cruey 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 inviting Dr. Chris Stacy of TCPS to attend the May 7, 2024 BOS meeting.

***Engineering – Kenneth Dunford***  
***Road repair***

Mr. Dunford asked the Board for approval for VDOT to discontinue Rt. 821 Cartright Hill Road, a 1/10 mile stretch off of Laurel Creek Road at Boissevain which serves one residence.

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruey, seconded by Supervisor Presley 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 advise VDOT of the discontinuance of Rt. 821 Cartright Hill Road.

Upon motion of Supervisor Hrovatic, seconded by Supervisor Plaster 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 agrees to suspend Robert's Rules of Order so that the Board might move around in the agenda as necessary.

Upon motion of Supervisor Hrovatic, seconded by Supervisor Plaster 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 \$3,500.00 from the Western District funds for the purpose of replacing a drainpipe and do some ditch work on South View Street.

Supervisor Hrovatic requested Mr. Dunford to inquire to VDOT about a signal light at the intersection of Route 460 and Rink Street at Pounding Mill/Claypool Hill.

***PSA Report – Jan Cordle***

Jan Cordle, PSA Executive Director updated the Board on various projects in the works with the PSA. She shared with the Board a detailed report on several capital projects which is attached to these minutes and on file at the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

**EXECUTIVE/CLOSED MEETING – 5:08 pm**

Upon motion of Supervisor Hrovatic, seconded by Supervisor Plaster and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with all members present and voting in favor thereof, the Board invites all persons

necessary to conduct business in this session and enters into an Executive/Closed meeting, pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711:

**Executive/Closed Meeting – Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711**

- ▶ A(29) Contract negotiations regarding modification of the Bluefield, WV Solid Waste Disposal Agreement at the Tazewell County Landfill
- ▶ A(29) Door-to-door trash collection bid evaluation
- ▶ A( 7) Legal consultation regarding landfill operations agreement
- ▶ A(29) Contract negotiations regarding modification of the Wythe/Bland JPSA
- ▶ A(3) Property acquisition regarding the Gratton Convenience Area
- ▶ A(29) Contract negotiations with SWCC

**RETURN/CERTIFICATION/REPORT OF ACTION** – 6:38 pm

The Board of Supervisors returned to public session and Chairman Gillespie read the following certification:

**CERTIFICATION OF  
EXECUTIVE/CLOSED MEETING  
TAZEWELL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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

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

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

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

Ayes: Five (5)

Nays: None (0)

Absent: None (0)

Absent during vote: None (0)

Report of Action: None (0)

## **ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no action following executive session.

## **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

### ***Abigail Rhudy resolution***

Upon motion of Supervisor Gillespie, seconded by Supervisor Presley 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 present a resolution to Abigail Rhudy for her accomplishments in Track and Field. A copy of the report is available at the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

### ***TCCTC Skills USA presentation***

The students from TCCTC that participated in the Skills USA competition presented a slide show about the competition and answered questions about the competition from the Board members.

## **CITIZENS COMMENTS – SCHEDULED**

David Dubbs asked the Board's permission to use the Motorsports Arena for go-cart racing for the 2024 fall season. Mr. Young, County Administrator, advised Mr. Dubbs to contact the scheduler at the county administration building to schedule the events and pick up a contract for the use of the facility.

Michelle Gravely – left the meeting prior to citizens comments

Gary Keen - not present at the meeting

Will Adams, Tazewell, Virginia spoke regarding litter along the highways, partially caused by un-tarped trucks hauling trash to/from the landfill.

## **UNSCHEDULED CITIZEN COMMENTS**

James Wade, inaudible address – spoke about budget, reassessment and various other topics

Connie Bailey Kidd, 2268 Virginia Avenue, Bluefield, Virginia 24605 inquired about the proposed door-to-door trash pickup service

Erica Galloway, Tazewell, Virginia – announced awards recently received by the library

Russell Stowers, Tazewell, Virginia – asked the Board not to remove the convenience stations throughout the county, stating those stations help keep trash off the roadsides

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### ***Public hearing to approve DHCD Flood Relief Program administrative stipend***

The Chairman called to order a public hearing that was duly advertised according to law for the approval of a DHCD Flood Relief Program administrative stipend.

County Attorney, Chase Collins, shared details of the flood relief program and the basis of the request for the stipend.



County Administrator, Eric Young, explained that Susan Jewell is the administrative assistant for the flood relief program in addition to multiple other duties.

The Chairman called for public comments from the floor.

The Chairman called a second and third time for additional public comments from the floor.

The Chairman closed the public hearing.

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruely, seconded by Supervisor Presley 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 a stipend in the amount of \$5,000.00 for Susan Jewell, the administrative assistant for the flood relief program.

***Public hearing regarding the 2024 Comprehensive Plan***

The Chairman called to order a public hearing that was duly advertised according to law for the approval of the 2024 Comprehensive Plan.

County Attorney, Chase Collins, shared details of the Comprehensive Plan and its purpose for the County.

The Chairman called for public comments from the floor.

The Chairman called a second and third time for additional public comments from the floor.

The Chairman closed the public hearing.

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruely, seconded by Supervisor Presley 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 proposed 2024 Comprehensive Plan. A copy of the report is available at the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

***Public hearing regarding real property exemptions for the elderly***

The Chairman called to order a public hearing that was duly advertised according to law to approve an ordinance to amend the current real property exemptions for the elderly.

County Attorney, Chase Collins, shared details of the current ordinance and described the proposed changes, which would expand the program to allow more residents to benefit from tax reductions.

The Chairman called for public comments from the floor.

The Chairman called a second and third time for additional public comments from the floor.

The Chairman closed the public hearing.

The Board considered a copy of a letter prepared by David R. Anderson, Commissioner of the Revenue of Tazewell County, estimating the cost of the exemptions, which is hereby made a part of the minutes of this meeting.

Upon motion of Supervisor Gillespie, seconded by Supervisor Cruey 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 ordinance increasing the qualifying guidelines for the real property exemption for the elderly.

A copy of the ordinance and the Commissioner's letter are available at the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street. Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

***Reduction in personal property rate ratio***

The Chairman called to order a public hearing that was duly advertised according to law to approve a reduction in the personal property rate ratio.

County Attorney, Chase Collins, shared details of the proposed reduction.

The Chairman called for public comments.

Will Adams, Tazewell, Virginia spoke in opposition to the rate reduction. Adams noted the ordinance would not benefit residents who owned few vehicles or older vehicle or did not own vehicles.

The Chairman called a second and third time for additional public comments from the floor.

Several unidentified citizens present at the meeting also commented that they found the personal property rate reduction unhelpful because they owned older vehicles and the reduction wouldn't benefit them in any way.

An unidentified citizen inquired about why there is a \$20.00 fee added to the personal property tax. Mr. Young advised that the \$20.00 tax was added in 2018 at a point when the County was in serious financial condition.

The Chairman closed the public hearing.

County Administrator, Eric Young, recommended that a vote on the personal property rate ratio be deferred until the May meeting, giving the Budget Committee time to meet and discuss the matter further.

Upon motion of Supervisor Hrovatic, seconded by Supervisor Presley and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with all members present and Supervisor Gillespie voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby tables consideration of the ordinance for the personal property rate ratio until the May 2024 meeting.

***Tax exempt status of Triangle Sportsmen’s Club***

The Chairman called to order a public hearing that was duly advertised according to law regarding granting tax exempt status to Triangle Sportsmen’s Club.

County Attorney, Chase Collins, shared details of the tax-exempt request.

A representative for Triangle Sportsmen’s Club spoke regarding the contributions the Club has made to the community by holding shooting competitions which bring in hotel and restaurant revenue and by offering TCSO a shooting range and training at a reduced rate.

Timothy Hass of the Springville area commented in opposition to granting tax-exempt status to Triangle.

The Chairman called for public comments from the floor.

The Chairman called a second and third time for additional public comments from the floor.

The Chairman closed the public hearing.

Mr. Young explained the Virginia Code section under which Triangle seeks tax exempt status is different than the Code enabling the advertised ordinance. He further stated that the Code cited by the speaker required a determination by the Commissioner of the Revenue.

Upon motion of Supervisor Gillespie, seconded by Supervisor Presley and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with all members present and Supervisor Crucey abstaining from the vote, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby agrees to table this matter until such time that counsel for Triangle Sportsman’s Club can meet with the Commissioner of the Revenue to determine if the organization will qualify for tax exempt status.

**ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCIAL/COUNTY PROJECTS UPDATE**

***Ratify poll to apply up to \$10,000.00 in Morris Knob Tower cost savings from previously approved appropriation to improvements to Morris Knob access road***

Upon motion of Supervisor Gillespie, seconded by Supervisor Crucey 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 using the remaining \$10,000.00 from the purchase/installation of the Morris Knob Tower to refurbish/repair the access road to Morris Knob.

***Budget update***

Mr. Young gave an update on the budget, stating that there is yet more work to do to.

Mr. Young showed a chart depicting the state required funding versus county funding for TCPS, explaining that the state required local share of school funding has increased from \$11.2m in FY2021 to \$16m in FY2025.

James Wade commented regarding overstaffing of the school system.

***Adoption of 2024 Health Insurance/Hospital Plan***

Mr. Young announced that employee health insurance rates will remain the same in the coming year and the deductibles and premium remain the same.

Upon motion of Supervisor Gillespie, seconded by Supervisor Plaster 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 the employee health insurance/hospitalization plans as presented. A copy is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

***Casino revenue allocation***

Mr. Young explained that the revenue from the casino is down a bit from what was expected. He announced that Tazewell County should receive approximately \$625,000.00 as its share of the casino revenue. He said the funds can be used toward (1) education; (2) transportation or (3) public safety. He asked the Board to allocate the funds solely to education. The Board discussed the previous year's allocation and the need for fire and EMS funding.

Upon motion of Supervisor Presley, seconded by Supervisor Gillespie 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 placing two-thirds of the casino revenue toward education and one-third toward public safety.

***Consider surplus of AASC decommissioned 1998 International bus (VIN 1HVBBABN8WH646683) and surplus of AASC decommissioned 1998 International bus (VIN 1HVBBABM1TH373296)***

Upon motion of Supervisor Gillespie, seconded by Supervisor Cruey 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 surplus of AASC decommissioned 1998 International bus (VIN 1HVBBABN8WH646683) and surplus of AASC decommissioned 1998 International bus (VIN 1HVBBABM1TH373296).

***Consider surplus of TCSO 2005 military surplus trailer (VIN 13N-2412A-5-65930881)***

Upon motion of Supervisor Gillespie, seconded by Supervisor Cruey 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 surplus of TCSO 2005 military surplus trailer (VIN 13N-2412A-5-65930881).

***Library request for fairground rental funding***

Upon motion of Supervisor Gillespie, seconded by Supervisor Cruey 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 a donation in the amount of \$400.00 from contingency for the fairground rental fee for the TCPL.

***FOIA policy update***

Mr. Collins announced that some revisions and updates to the current FOIA policy are necessary.

Upon motion of Supervisor Gillespie, seconded by Supervisor Plaster 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 requested suggested revisions to the FOIA policy from the County Attorney to be presented at the May 7, 2024 meeting.

***945 community room rental***

Mr. Young proposed that since the 945 building is staffed 24 hours a day, the community room can be rented to the public with the rental fee helping to offset some of the cost of the utilities for the building.

***Consider approving \$20,000.00 from contingency for the Claypool Hill Fire Station roof repair***

Mr. Young advised Mr. White reported a roof issue at the Claypool Hill Fire Station. He further advised that the building would suffer further damage without immediate repair.

Upon motion of Supervisor Plaster, seconded by Supervisor Presley 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 repairs to the roof of the Claypool Hill Fire Station.

***Other***

***Board of Equalization update***

Mr. Young shared details regarding the upcoming BOE hearings.

**Outside funding requests**

***GHS Honors Banquet funding request***

Upon motion of Supervisor Presley, seconded by Supervisor Plaster and adopted by a vote of 3 to 1, with Supervisor Cruet against and Supervisor Gillespie absent for the vote, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves a donation in the amount of \$200.00 from Eastern District fund to the GHS Honors Banquet.

***Chamber of Commerce Octobrewfest funding request***

Keisha Cole, Director of the Chamber of Commerce shared details of the upcoming OctobrewFest. The Chairman directed that this matter be deferred until the May 2024 meeting.

***Chamber of Commerce annual banquet***

Chamber of Commerce Director, Keisha Cole, gave details regarding the annual banquet. No action was taken on this matter.

***CVCA (Curt Gillespie Memorial Garden) funding request***

Mr. Hrovatic mentioned that a new hanger is being built at the Tazewell County Airport and suggested that the hanger be named for Mr. Gillespie, Mr. McReynolds and Mr. Pruitt.

Supervisor Gillespie mentioned for the record that he is no relation to Curt Gillespie.

***Upper Tennessee River Roundtable***

No action was taken on this matter.

## **Appointments**

### ***Library Board***

Upon motion of Supervisor Presley, seconded by Supervisor Plaster 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 Connie Bailey Kitts to serve on the Library Board.

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruey, seconded by Supervisor Presley 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 Patsy Murphy to serve on the Library Board.

The Chairman directed that the remaining appointments to the Library Board be deferred to the May 7, 2024 meeting.

### ***Fire/Rescue Board***

Upon motion of Supervisor Gillespie, seconded by Supervisor Presley 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 Jim Talbert to the Tazewell County Fire/Rescue Board.

### ***New River Highlands RC&D Council***

The Chairman directed that this matter be deferred until the May 7, 2024 meeting.

### ***Equalization Board (Northern District appointment and resignation of Jerry Altizer)***

Upon motion of Supervisor Gillespie, seconded by Supervisor Presley and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with all members present and Supervisor Cruey abstaining from the vote, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby appoints Caleb Cruey to serve on the Board of Equalization.

### ***SWCC local board***

The Chairman directed that this matter be deferred until the May 7, 2024 meeting.

### ***DSS (replace Maggie Asbury)***

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruey, seconded by Supervisor Gillespie 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 Sheena McGlothlin to serve on the DSS Board.

Upon motion of Supervisor Hrovatic, seconded by Supervisor Gillespie 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 Heather Riley to serve on the DSS Board.

### ***IDA (Marco Warner resignation)***

The Chairman directed that this matter be deferred until the May 7, 2024 meeting.

***SRRA (Rick Wood)***

The Chairman directed that this matter be deferred until the May 7, 2024 meeting.

***Upper Tennessee River Roundtable***

The Chairman directed that this matter be deferred until the May 7, 2024 meeting.

**BOARD CONCERNS**

**Supervisor Presley**

Supervisor Presley expressed interest in having a program to benefit TCCTC students that choose to go directly into the workforce following high school graduation rather than attending college.

Mr. Young described a program wherein a TCCTC graduate would receive a voucher to present to a prospective employer, which would allow the employer to receive a discount on M&T tax in return for hiring the student.

**Supervisor Plaster**

***RHS Wrestling building***

At Supervisor Plaster's request, the Chairman directed that this matter be removed from consideration and taken up at a later time.

***Raven Elementary property***

Upon motion of Supervisor Plaster, seconded by Supervisor Gillespie 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 use of the Raven Elementary outside field for practice use in exchange for mowing that property.

***Jewell Ridge fireworks***

Upon motion of Supervisor Plaster, seconded by Supervisor Gillespie and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with all members present and Supervisor Cruey voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves a donation to the Jewell Ridge Fire Department in the amount of \$4,000.00 from Northwestern District funds for the purpose of purchasing fireworks for the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration.

**Supervisor Cruey**

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruey, seconded by Supervisor Gillespie 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 a donation in the amount of \$1,500.00 to the Bandy Volunteer Fire Department for the purpose of purchase an AED for the department.

**Supervisor Gillespie**

Upon motion of Supervisor Gillespie, seconded by Supervisor Presley 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 directs the County Attorney to draft a letter to AEP in objection to the most recent rate increase and to authorize the Chairman and/or County Attorney to execute the same.

**Supervisor Hrovatic**

None

**EXECUTIVE/CLOSED MEETING** – 9:38 pm

Upon motion of Supervisor Hrovatic, seconded by Supervisor Gillespie and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with all members present and voting in favor thereof, the Board invites all persons necessary to conduct business in this session and enters into an Executive/Closed meeting, pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711:

**Second Executive/Closed Meeting – Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711**

- ▶ A( 1) Personnel in Administration
- ▶ A( 1) Personnel in Administration
- ▶ A( 1) Personnel in Finance
- ▶ A( 1) Personnel in Tourism
- ▶ A( 1) Personnel in Maintenance

**RETURN/CERTIFICATION/REPORT OF ACTION** – 10:53 pm

The Board of Supervisors returned to public session and Chairman Gillespie read the following certification:

**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: Three (3)

### **ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon motion of Supervisor Gillespie, seconded by Supervisor Hrovatic 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 agrees to eliminate the assistant mechanic position at the county garage, effective July 1, 2024.

Upon motion of Supervisor Gillespie, seconded by Supervisor Hrovatic 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 agrees to eliminate the part time tourism position at the Visitor Center in Bluefield, effective July 1, 2024.

Upon motion of Supervisor Gillespie, seconded by Supervisor Hrovatic 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 agrees to eliminate the administrative assistant to the Board of Equalization position.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

### **ADJOURN**

Upon motion of Supervisor Plaster, seconded by Supervisor Presley and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby adjourns until May 7, 2024 at 4:00 pm.

a copy teste:

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Andy Hrovatic, Chairman