

DECEMBER 12TH, 2024 PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

VIRGINIA: at the **REGULAR MEETING** of the **Tazewell County Planning Commission**
held **December 12th, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.** in the **Tazewell County**
Administration Building, Tazewell, Virginia – 197 Main Street

PRESENT: **Ann Robinson - Chairperson**
Robert “Bob” Moss - Vice-Chairman
Kyle Cruey – Member
Hayden Lyons – Member
Lance Wimmer – Member

OTHERS

PRESENT: **Kenneth Dunford, Jr., - Director of County Engineering**
Brad Gibson - Executive Secretary (Interim)
Chase Collins - County Attorney
Williams Andrews – 288 Martin St, Pounding Mill, VA
Sally Perkins - 287 Martin St, Pounding Mill, VA
Robert & Lena Whitt – 175 Carroll St, Pounding Mill, VA
Robert Carlson – 1142 Lake Witten Rd, North Tazewell, VA

ABSENT: **Jason Herndon – Member**
Anthony Ramella – Member

Chairperson Robinson called the December 12, 2024 regular meeting to order and presided at approximately 6:32 p.m.

She then welcomed all visitors and all those in attendance.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Chairperson Robinson, gave the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the US flag by Member Wimmer.

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APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FORMAT

Upon motion of Vice-Chairman Moss, seconded by Member Cruey, and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with Members: Herndon and Ramella absent from the meeting, the Tazewell County Planning Commission does hereby **APPROVE** the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 14TH, 2024 REGULAR/RECESS MEETING MINUTES

Upon motion by Member Cruey, seconded by Member Lyons, and voted on by a vote of 5 to 0, with Members: Herndon and Ramella absent from the meeting, The Tazewell County Planning Commission does hereby **APPROVE** the November 14th Regular Meeting Minutes as written.

Kenneth Dunford, Jr, Director of Engineering, recommended that the Commission suspends Robert's Rules of Order so that the meeting can move to a different item of business on the agenda, since the Public Hearing cannot start until 6:45 pm.

Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Moss, seconded by Member Lyons, and voted on by a vote of 5 to 0, with Members: Herndon and Ramella absent from the meeting, The Tazewell County Planning Commission does hereby **APPROVE** suspension of Robert's Rules of Order, and the meeting shall now move to Subcommittee Reports.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Martin St

Several Members individually went to Martin St and believe that the entirety of Martin St should be maintained by the county. Moss recommends that Supervisor Hrovatic should gravel the road at least. Mr. Dunford clarified Hrovatic does not have the authority to do so right now.

Member Cruey stated that the Board has voted to hold a public hearing regarding the status of Martin St as a county-maintained road. Cruey says that Hrvotic supports adding the road into the Orphan Road system.

Upon motion by Member Cruey, seconded by Member Lyons, and voted on by a vote of 5 to 0, with Members: Herndon and Ramella absent from the meeting, The Tazewell County

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Planning Commission does hereby **APPROVE** a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors that the entirety of Martin St should be added to the Orphan Road system at their January meeting.

Dunford recommends that the meeting move onto Member Concerns.

MEMBER CONCERNS

None at this time.

Dunford recommends that the meeting move onto Citizens Comments.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Robert Carlson gave the Commission copies of a letter he had written regarding Forever Chemicals (PFAS). Mr. Carlson asked for the status of an ongoing project by solar power company Energix. Chase Collins, County Attorney, said that Energix has a signed agreement to continue the project. The letter does not need reapproval from the Board. If it goes beyond the term then they will need to renegotiate the term. Mr. Collins and Mr. Dunford then described safeguards that are in place at the landfill and PSA. Chairperson Robinson asked that Mr. Carlson's letter (and an email that was mentioned in the letter) be included in the minutes, and to forward this matter to the Board of Supervisors.

Please Note: The Engineering Department did not receive a copy of Mr. Carlson's email. Please forward us a copy, and we will include it in the minutes.

PUBLIC HEARING:

RAISE Grant (US 19/460 Traffic Improvements)

7:09 PM

Mr. Dunford spoke on behalf on the grant. The county currently has grant writers, and they have helped us receive many grants through DCR, Safe Streets for All, and various grants that I have been involved with, and this is one that they have brought to our attention. This planning grant involves traffic improvements along 19/460.

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Corridor 1 is the entrance at Hardee's and Walmart. We are looking at access management in the areas. We originally had a VDOT study that included blocking the entrances to buildings. We thought we could find an alternative to solve the problem.

Area 2 is from Hardees in Pounding Mill all the way to the town limits of Bluefield. We have short exit and acceleration lanes. We haven't set the boundaries yet for where the areas will start or stop, we are making it broad so that we can pick-and-choose which areas need the most attention.

Claypool Hill has been designated as a high-risk area. The business owners did not want to close all of their entrances. The Board voted to return the money back to VDOT. We are not revisiting the idea of closing the entrances, we are hoping to find appropriate alternatives.

Corridor 3 is the Crab Orchard Rd area.

Mr. Collins stated that this is a lengthy project, and it might be until the 2030s before any alterations might be made to the roadway.

Chairperson Robinson called for comments.

1st call

2nd call

With no comments at either call, Chairperson Robinson closed the public hearing.

Mr. Dunford asked that the commission allow Mr. Collins to write a letter of support for the grant.

Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Moss, seconded by Member Lyons, and voted on by a vote of 5 to 0, with Members: Herndon and Ramella absent from the meeting, The Tazewell County Planning Commission does hereby **APPROVE** Mr. Collins to write a letter of support for the grant.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Ratliff Investment Company subdivision

A representative for the subdivision did not appear at the meeting. Therefore, no discussion was held for the subdivision.

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Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Moss, seconded by Member Cruey, and voted on by a vote of 5 to 0, with Members: Herndon and Ramella absent from the meeting, the Tazewell County Planning Commission is hereby adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m. until the regular meeting time on Thursday, January 9th, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Brad Gibson

Brad Gibson—Executive Secretary (Interim)



Ann Robinson—Chair

Tazewell County Planning Commission

December 12, 2024

Tazewell County Planning Commission
197 Main Street
Tazewell, Virginia 24651

Subject: Forever Chemicals

Dear Planning Commission Members,

Forever Chemicals (PFAS) used in solar panels causes cancer, contaminates drinking water, wells, kills animals and is a known toxic substance. They are also known as GEN X chemicals.

According to the EPA PFAS is 7 times more toxic than PFOA that was used in pots and pans. PFOA has been discontinued.

Forever chemicals are used in solar panels, as an exterior coating, as an anti reflection coating. This coating increases the solar absorption of the solar panels, increases the water shedding and reduces reflection of the panels. PFAS is also used in the cabling, batteries and other items used in solar facilities.

The reason they are called Forever Chemicals is they never degrade and are always present. Current estimates are that 97% of Americans have some level of PFAS in their blood. Estimated water contamination in the U.S. is 47% of all drinking water contains PFAS.

What else contains PFAS dental floss, cosmetics, house hold items, cleaning products, and a whole host of other products.

I have emailed an article titled "[This is my Chernobyl](#)" a story about PFAS contamination in Texas. Please read the text and then locate the interview "[Live Q & A Why 'forever chemicals are'](#)" and view the You Tube video, which is 13 minutes long. There are hyper-links that contain additional information on PFAS chemicals.

North Carolina has a vast network of utility scale solar panel sites, they also have a State wide drinking water contamination problem. Northern West Virginia also has the same drinking water contamination problem. Both States have DuPont plants that produce PFAS chemicals.

The proposed solar panels, for Tazewell County, contain CdTE and will have PFAS coatings applied both will be located near Lake Witten and could contaminate a major drinking water source. Since the purpose of the coating is to shed water over time the coating will degrade and go into the soil contaminating it and no seal of a solar panels will last 40 years claimed by Energix.

I request that you recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the Solar Ordinance be revised to prohibit the use of any harmful chemicals, provide Safety Data Sheets for all materials used in the proposed solar plant.

Respectfully Yours,



Robert Carlson
1142 Lake Witten Road
North Tazewell, VA 24630
276-970-1946