

VIRGINIA: AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TAZEVELL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD JANUARY 7, 2025 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, RICHLANDS NEWS & PRESS

ABSENT: None

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/deletions to the agenda.

Eric Young, County Administrator, noted that a revised agenda was prepared for the meeting. Mr. Young noted that the GHS Cheerleading resolution is postponed until the next meeting due to the weather conditions and the veteran's equine presentation is also postponed for that reason.

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 approved the January 7, 2025 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 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 the minutes from the December 3, 2024 meeting. A copy is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Supervisor Gillespie asked for clarification regarding the Tazewell Square request and the J&S Transport request. Mr. Collins explained the reason for each request.

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 approves all items of the Consent Calendar. 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 approve tax assessment abatement for Tazewell Square Virginia, LTD from \$14,794.00 to \$532.00, a difference of \$14,262.00 to Tazewell County, Virginia
- D. Ratify poll to approve refund of \$6330.00 to Capital Waste for overpayment of personal property assessment
- E. Ratify poll to approve holiday closure of administrative offices on 26 December 2024
- F. Approve resolution of appreciation for TCSO Major Harold Heatley
- G. Approve refund/abatement in the amount of \$12,605.88 for J&S Transport 2024 apportionment

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURING

Election of Chairman

County Administrator, Eric Young, took the floor and asked for nominations for a Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for a term of one year or until his/her successor is duly elected.

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruey, seconded by Supervisor Hrovatic and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors nominated Supervisor Aaron Gillespie to serve as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

The County Administrator called for additional nominations. Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Young asked Supervisor Cruey to amend his motion to indicate that Supervisor Gillespie should be chosen by acclamation.

Upon amended motion of Supervisor Cruey, and amended seconded by Supervisor Hrovatic and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby elects Supervisor Aaron Gillespie by acclamation to serve as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

Chairman Gillespie thanked staff and fellow board members for their cooperation and support.

Election of a Vice-Chairman

Chairman Gillespie called for nominations for a Vice Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

Upon motion of Supervisor Hrovatic, seconded by Supervisor Presley and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors elected Supervisor Kyle Cruely to serve as Vice Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

Adoption of Robert's Rules of Order

Upon motion of Supervisor Hrovatic, seconded by Supervisor Presley and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby adopts Robert's Rules of Order as the official rules for conducting county business.

Appointment of Clerk

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruely, seconded by Supervisor Presley and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors appointed C. Eric Young to serve as Clerk to the Board of Supervisors.

Appointment of Director of Emergency Management

Upon motion of Supervisor Plaster, seconded by Supervisor Presley and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby appoints Eric Young, County Administrator, as the Director of Emergency Management for Tazewell County.

Appointment of Deputy Director of Emergency Management

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruely, seconded by Supervisor Hrovatic and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby designates Dave White as Deputy Director of Emergency Management.

Appointment of Coordinator of Emergency Management

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruely, seconded by Supervisor Presley and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby designates Barry Brooks as Coordinator of Emergency Management.

Consider setting a date, time and place for the 2025 regular meetings of the Board of Supervisors

Upon motion of Supervisor Hrovatic, seconded by Supervisor Cruely and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the dates previously approved at the December 2024 meeting, such time being 4:00 o'clock p.m. at the County Administration Building located at 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia and the dates are as follows:

- ☼ January 7, 2025
- ☼ February 4, 2025
- ☼ March 4, 2025
- ☼ April 8, 2025
- ☼ May 6, 2025
- ☼ June 3, 2025
- ☼ June 26, 2025
- ☼ August 5, 2025
- ☼ September 9, 2025
- ☼ October 7, 2025
- ☼ November 6, 2025

☞ December 2, 2025

Appointment of VaCo representative

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruey seconded by Supervisor Gillespie and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby designates Supervisor Presley to serve as Tazewell County's legislative contact with VaCo during the upcoming 2025 General Assembly.

Consideration of appointing a budget committee

Upon motion of Supervisor Presley, seconded by Supervisor Plaster and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby ratifies the appointment of Supervisors Hrovatic and Cruey to serve on the 2025 Budget Committee.

Consideration of appointment a personnel committee

Upon motion of Supervisor Presley, seconded by Supervisor Hrovatic and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby appoint Supervisor Plaster and Supervisor Cruey to serve on the Personnel Committee.

Consideration of appointing ESC members

Upon motion of Supervisor Plaster, seconded by Supervisor Hrovatic and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby appoints Supervisors Presley and Cruey to the Emergency Services Committee.

Consideration of appointing IDA liaison

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruey, seconded by Supervisor Hrovatic and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby appoints Supervisor Presley to serve as Board liaison to the Industrial Development Authority.

Consideration of appointing PSA liaison

Upon motion of Supervisor Presley, seconded by Supervisor Hrovatic and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby appoints Supervisor Cruey to serve as Board liaison to the Public Service Authority.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Engineering – Kenneth Dunford

Landfill waste diversion

Supervisor Gillespie reminded the public that the landfill *is* open to the public despite social media chatter. Mr. Young added that any recent convenience area closures are strictly weather related.

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 approves up to \$6,784.90 to pay BWJPSA for diversion of waste to Pulaski landfill.

Safer Streets Grant

Mr. Dunford announced that a committee is necessary to evaluate proposals from firms applying to implement the Safer Streets Grant.

Upon motion of Supervisor Hrovatic, 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 appoints Supervisor Gillespie and Supervisor Cruey to serve on the procurement committee for the Safer Streets grant.

2025 Paving List

Mr. Dunford announced that the list for paving certain county roads is now complete and includes approximately 48 roads. He advised that Martin Street, which was admitted to the county road system during this meeting will be included in the paving for 2025.

Supervisor Gillespie asked Mr. Dunford to confirm whether certain streets near the top of Buskill Subdivision are town or county roads, prompted by complaints of potholes on some of those streets. Mr. Dunford said he would look into it.

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 approves the 2025 orphan road paving list, to include any roads admitted into the county road system within two to three months of approval of this list. The list is available in the County Administration Office at 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia.

DEQ

Mr. Dunford advised that DEQ has deemed the County's Erosion and Sediment Ordinance enforcement deficient, which requires a consent order. He updated the Board with respect to administrative issues pointed out in the audit. Mr. Young asked when the program was last audited. Mr. Dunford believed it was last audited 10 years ago.

Upon motion of Supervisor Presley, 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 consent order and authorizes former Chairman Hrovatic to execute the same on behalf of the County. A copy is available in the County Administration Office at 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia.

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruey, 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 approves suspending Roberts Rules of Order for the current meeting to allow moving through the agenda more efficiently.

ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCIAL/COUNTY PROJECTS UPDATE

Consider extending State of Emergency

County Administrator, Eric Young, announced that county officials are still evaluating storm damages and FEMA claims being prepared and asked that the state of emergency be extended until February 5, 2025.

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 approves extension of the State of Emergency until February 5, 2025.

FEMA claim update

The County Administrator announced that the emergency management team will meet with FEMA sometime next week to review the claims that have been filed for hurricane damages to county property. Mr. Young stated that the county has up to a year to file a storm damage claim with FEMA but management is gathering information to get that done as soon as possible.

Springville fire station

Mr. Young advised that he and members of the emergency management team presented a grant proposal to the Shott Foundation recently and have been informed that the matter has been tabled, pending some additional questions and information requested by the Foundation.

Landfill Phase 4(B) update

Mr. Young stated that Mr. Dunford provided information relating to this matter during his report.

TCSO vehicle update

Mr. Young advised that five (5) new vehicles have been leased for TCSO at an approximate cost of \$146,000.00. He advised that the vehicle leasing will be more efficient once there is a dedicated revenue stream and replacement schedule in place.

Supervisor Cruey praised Sgt. Chuck McNerlin for his money-saving efforts in obtaining the vehicles.

Resolution for Carilion kidney transplant facility

Mr. Young explained that Carilion Roanoke Hospital has applied for a certificate of need for a kidney transplant facility at that location and asks for a resolution of support from Tazewell County. Mr. Collins added that 2,300 Virginia residents are awaiting a kidney transplant.

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 approves a resolution in support of a kidney transplant facility at Carilion Roanoke Hospital, Roanoke Virginia. A copy is available in the County Administration Office at 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia.

EXECUTIVE/CLOSED MEETING – 4:47 pm

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

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

- ▶ A(5) Potential new business or expansion: Project FIND
- ▶ A(29) Contract negotiations with SEH regarding school facilities contract
- ▶ A(1) Personnel in Administration
- ▶ A(1) Personnel in Administration
- ▶ A(1) Personnel at County Garage
- ▶ A(1) Personnel in Building Inspection
- ▶ A(5) Potential new business: Project DOOR

RETURN/CERTIFICATION/REPORT OF ACTION – 6:08 pm

The Board of Supervisors returned to public session and Chairman Cruey 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 votes 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: Two (2)

ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

Personnel in Building Inspection

Upon motion of Supervisor Plaster, 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 changing the Building Official position from a Tier 5 to a Tier 4 position and increase the Building Official's pay accordingly. Also, that the County Administrator be authorized to create one additional Building Inspector position and solicit applications for the position.

Personnel in County Garage

Upon motion of Supervisor Plaster, 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 reducing the operations at the county garage to oil changes, tire changes and inspections for county vehicles while continuing to provide service for fire and EMS vehicles and to divert garage employee time to maintenance and removal of dilapidated, condemned structures un the Property Maintenance Code..

Project FIND

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 voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves entering into a funding agreement with the Tazewell County Industrial Development Authority (IDA), whereby the Board of Supervisors will issue a moral obligation resolution for the IDA in support of the IDA borrowing up to \$1,000,000.00 to reloan to Project FIND, conditioned upon Project FIND entering into a performance agreement whereby they create at least thirty (30) jobs with an average pay of \$35.00 per hour and lease the Bluestone shell building from the IDA for at least five years.

Other matters

Upon amended motion of Supervisor Plaster, and an amended second 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 moving the following items to Second Executive/Closed Session:

Personnel in Building Inspection

Mr. Young asked that the motion regarding the building officials be amended to make the change be effective on February 1, 2025

Upon amended motion of Supervisor Plaster, and an amended second 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 changing the Building Official position from a Tier 5 to a Tier 4 position and increase the Building Official's pay accordingly, effective February 1, 2025.

Upon amended motion of Supervisor Gillespie, and an amended second 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 approves moving the following items to Second Executive Session:

- ▶ A(29) Contract negotiations with SEH regarding school facilities contract
- ▶ A(1) Personnel in Administration
- ▶ A(1) Personnel in Administration

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

John Blankenship – Tazewell Soil and Water Conservation District

Mr. Blankenship, along with Greg Rasnick, presented options for equipment that Tazewell County might purchase for rental by the farming community that would be of help to the farmers who suffered damage from Hurricane Helene. The Board viewed the presentation and discussed the equipment at length.

It was Mr. Blankenship's recommendation that the Board simply authorize the money to be used as a reimbursement to farmers who apply for the assistance, as presented in the December 2024 proposal.

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 voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves a donation in the amount of \$20,000.00 to the Soil and Water Conservation District. The donation is to be used as a pro-rata reimbursement to farmers who apply for assistance due to damage sustained during Hurricane Helene. In accordance with the proposed guidelines presented to the Board by Mr. Blankenship. A copy is available in the County Administration Office at 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia.

Upon motion of Supervisor Crucey, 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 voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves a donation in the amount of \$4,000.00 from Northern District capital improvement funds to the Tazewell Soil and Water Conservation District for the purpose of purchasing a Mud Mixer (piece of equipment).

Jeff Hess – Heart of Appalachia

Mr. Hess gave an overview of the mission and goals of the organization.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – SCHEDULED

Robert Carlson, North Tazewell, Virginia spoke regarding toxic chemicals associated with solar panels. The County Attorney asked that Mr. Carlson's written material be made a part of the minutes of this meeting. A copy is available in the County Administration Office at 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia.

Matthew Ratliff, Tazewell, Virginia spoke regarding a non-profit veteran equine therapy organization he created named HOSS.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Martin Street

The Chairman called to order a public hearing that was duly advertised according to law for an ordinance to accept the northern part of Martin Street into the county road system in Tazewell County.

Chase Collins, County Attorney, explained the purpose of the public hearing.

The Chairman called for public comments from the floor.

- William Anders, 288 Martin Street, Pounding Mill, Virginia, spoke in favor of taking Martin Street into the county road system

- Lena Whitt, 175 Carol Street, Pounding Mill, Virginia, spoke in favor of taking Martin Street into the county road system
- Robert Whitt, 175 Carol Street, Pounding Mill, Virginia, spoke in favor of taking Martin Street into the county road system

Mr. Young explained that the northern part of Martin Street had was not a county road on our list but the southern part was and not paving the northern portion was not any ill will of the Board toward those who lived there.

The Chairman called a second and third time for additional public comments from the floor. Hearing none, the Chairman closed the public hearing. Supervisor Hrovatic recommended that the Board vote to accept the northern portion of Martin Street into the county road system and thanked the residents for coming to speak at the public hearing.

Upon motion of Supervisor Hrovatic, 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 accepting the northern portion of Martin Street into the county road system.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – UNSCHEDULED

Gail Cook, Bluefield, Virginia, a representative of Sanders House, appeared at the meeting to ask why the request for funding they submitted had not been granted. She provided copies of emails and claimed her organization had been singled out. Supervisor Presley responded that he had requested multiple times for a representative from Sanders House come to a board meeting and provide information to the board as to the mission, goals and activities the organization engages in so he could educate the other Board members. Supervisor Gillespie added that he also took offense to the accusatory attitude taken by Ms. Cook and supported Supervisor Presley's request for a personal appearance by a representative of Sanders House. Supervisor Cruey noted that the organization began and ended the year with approximately \$30,000.00 and commented that the organization appears to be in pretty good shape financially.

Laura Mollo, Richlands, Virginia spoke via telephone in support of requiring organizations to present to the BOS when requesting funding from the Board.

ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCIAL/COUNTY PROJECTS UPDATE

Falls Mills PSA Project

Mr. Collins explained the need for improvements to pump stations in the Falls Mills area. He further explained that the PSA has inquired to VRA for funding and VRA agrees to fund a portion through grants; however, the PSA will need to borrow approximately \$2,112,414.00 by issuing bonds and asking for a resolution for moral obligation between the Board and the PSA. Mr. Collins shared that the PSA requests that the Board issue a resolution authorizing the Board enter into a support agreement to include the PSA, Tazewell County Board of Supervisors and the VRA regarding the \$2.1m loan. Mr. Young stated that basically, the Board would be co-signing the loan.

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 voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves a resolution authorizing the execution of an agreement providing for a non-binding undertaking of the Board of Supervisors of Tazewell County, Virginia to consider certain appropriations

to the Tazewell County PSA, and agreeing to certain matters relating to the issuance and sale by the authority of a revenue bond for the Falls Mills pump station project; and to authorize the Chairman to execute a support agreement between the PSA, Board of Supervisors and VRA for the purpose of updating, repairing and improving the pump stations in the Falls Mills area in accordance with documents prepared by bond counsel for the Board.

Consider surplus of 2000 Explorer (VIN 1FMZU73X0YUB01682)

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 voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the surplus of a 2000 Explorer (VIN 1FMZU73X0YUB01682) to donate back to Bishop VFD.

Appointments

CMCS

Upon motion of Supervisor Hrovatic, 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 voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby reappoints Cathy McClanahan to serve on CMCS.

Community Criminal Justice Board

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 voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby reappoints Crystal Crouse to serve on the Community Criminal Justice Board.

Fire/Rescue Board

The Chairman deferred this matter to the February 4, 2025 meeting.

IDA

Mr. Young commented that Suzanne Brinegar has only attended one meeting since being appointed to the IDA. Supervisor Cruey stated he will make contact with her and emphasize the importance of attending the meetings.

Tourism

The Chairman deferred this matter to the February 4, 2025 meeting.

BOARD CONCERNS

Supervisor Presley

Sanders House

This matter was addressed earlier in this meeting.

Supervisor Presley announced a meeting at Bluefield Town Hall on January 15, 2025 at 11:00am regarding dilapidated structures in the town. He also announced a visit from Lt. Governor hopeful from Fairfax County on January 10, 2025 from noon til 2pm.

Supervisor Plaster

Supervisor Plaster stated she had inquiries regarding senior citizen real estate discounts but realizes now that the county already has this. Mr. Collins stated he would work with the Commissioner to see if any further adjustments can be made.

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 voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approve a donation in the amount of \$434.24 from Northwestern District discretionary funds to Raven Theater.

Supervisor Hrovatic

Supervisor Hrovatic shared information from a letter regarding the lease renewal of the Virginia DOC Probation and Parole Office near Cedar Bluff/Claypool Hill.

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 voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approve a donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Western District discretionary funds to CART (Citizens for the Arts).

Supervisor Cruey

Supervisor Cruey thanked his fellow board members for selecting him to serve as Vice Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

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 voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approve a donation in the amount of \$5,000.00 from the Northern District capital improvement funds to the Bishop VFD for the purpose of light bars for the department vehicles.

Supervisor Cruey expressed interest in establishing an Animal Cruelty Registry in Tazewell County, which would be similar in nature to Virginia's existing sex offender registry. He stated that individuals convicted of felony animal abuse, dog fighting and other animal related crimes would be on the registry. He stated there should be no expense to maintain the registry. Mr. Collins agreed and stated that the registry list would be posted on the Tazewell County website. Mr. Collins stated a public hearing would be necessary to establish the registry and he will have that prepared for March 2025.

Supervisor Cruey requested an ordinance exempting retired or working military and police K9 officers from the rabies tag fee in Tazewell County. The County Attorney advised this would require a public hearing at the next meeting.

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruey, 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 voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves a public hearing on February 4, 2025 to exempt retired or working military and police K9 officers from the rabies tag fee in Tazewell County.

Supervisor Cruey requested a resolution be prepared to honor retiring TCSO dispatcher Crystal Shinault after 27 years of service.

Supervisor Gillespie

Legal representation regarding insulin litigation

Supervisor Gillespie asked that this matter be deferred to the February 4, 2025 meeting at which time it will be a topic discussed in executive session.

Supervisor Gillespie advised he has received numerous reports of out-of-state vehicles dumping at the Tazewell County convenience stations. He asked that the current ordinances be reviewed for the purpose of addressing this problem. Mr. Young stated that, in the past, offenders received little or no punishment after being charged by TCSO. Supervisor Cruey mentioned that if people are charged with a violation for out of state residents using the Tazewell County dumpsters, those people will begin to dump illegally on roadsides and over hills.

EXECUTIVE/CLOSED MEETING – 8:30 pm

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

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

- ▶ A(29) Contract negotiations with SEH regarding school facilities contract
- ▶ A(1) Personnel in Administration
- ▶ A(1) Personnel in Administration

RETURN/CERTIFICATION/REPORT OF ACTION – 9:50 pm

The Board of Supervisors returned to public session and Supervisor Cruey 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 votes 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: Two (2)

ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

Contract negotiations with SEH

Upon motion of Supervisor Hrovatic, 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 voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves a resolution to construct a new elementary school as presented in Executive Session. A copy is available in the County Administration Office at 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia.

Upon motion of Supervisor Hrovatic, 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 voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves a resolution regarding TCPS sequestered public education funds as presented in Executive Session. A copy is available in the County Administration Office at 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia.

Mr. Young clarified that both of the previous resolutions pertain to the approval of a contract with SEH for the design of the new facility which is incorporated in the first of the resolutions.

OTHER BUSINESS

The County Attorney requested that Mr. Young be ratified as the FOIA Officer for Tazewell County.

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 voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby ratifies Eric Young, County Administrator as the FOIA Officer for Tazewell County.

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 voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves that the County Administration offices open at 10:00am on January 8, 2025 due to inclement weather.

ADJOURN

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 voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby adjourns until Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 4:00 pm.

A copy teste:

Aaron Gillespie, Chairman