

VIRGINIA: AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TAZEVELL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD APRIL 8, 2025 AT FOUR O'CLOCK P.M. IN THE TAZEVELL COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 197 MAIN STREET, TAZEVELL, VIRGINIA 24651

PRESENT: AARON GILLESPIE, CHAIRMAN
KYLE CRUEY, VICE-CHAIRPERSON
ANDY HROVATIC, MEMBER
CHUCK PRESLEY, MEMBER
SHANNA PLASTER, MEMBER
C. ERIC YOUNG, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
CHASE D. COLLINS, COUNTY ATTORNEY
STEPHANIE RUSSELL, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
MEMBERS OF THE PRESS: JIM TALBERT, RICHLANDS NEWS & PRESS,
WARREN HINKLE, THE VOICE, WVVA

ABSENT: None

MINUTES

Chairman, Aaron Gillespie called the meeting to order and presided with all other members present.

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

Chairman Gillespie 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

The Chairperson called for any additions/deletions to the agenda.

County Administrator, Eric Young asked the following item be moved to the first Executive Session:

A(8) Legal consultation regarding Tazewell County Volunteer Fire Department

County Attorney, Chase Collins requested the following item be added under the Consent Calendar: Personal Property Abatement for Enterprise FM Trust

Supervisor Presley requested that the Sanders House be added under his Board Concerns.

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 additions/amendments to the April 8, 2025 agenda including the requests made by Mr. Young, Mr. Collins and Supervisor Presley, 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 Crucey, 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 meeting minutes from March 4, 2025.

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 approved the meeting minutes from March 20, 2025.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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 items A through C 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. Consider approval of supplemental appropriation for \$75,000.00 to the opioid fund regarding SECOR
- D. Personal Property Abatement – Enterprise FM Trust submitted 26 refund requests for vehicles they had sold in 2023. The total refund amount totals \$5,954.00 for taxes and license fees

Consent Calendar Items April 8, 2025 Meeting

REVISED

Source	Check #	To Acct	Amt	Description
Tyler Ruble	362200	31020-5510	\$125.00	TCSO employee training reimbursement
CMCS	247221	31020-1150	\$1287.71	TCSO CITAC reimbursement

Natasha Hunt	5021	73010-1150	\$200.00	TCPL payroll reimbursement
Dominion Auto Auction	10898	31020-6009	\$1265.00	Sale of TCSO 2012 Dodge Ram #2703
Gerald Lambert		7301-3099	\$100.00	TCPL Donation
VaCorp		31020-6009	\$6825.00	TCSO 2013 Taurus #4971 (total loss)

Mr. Collins advised the Board regarding item D and told them Commissioner Anderson recommended it.

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 item D. The County Administrator is authorized to issue warrants in accordance with these actions and said warrants shall be converted to negotiable checks by the Treasurer of Tazewell County, Virginia.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Engineering – Kenneth Dunford

Tires at landfill

Mr. Dunford announced that he has spoken with Capital and once the repairs to their trailer are finished, they should start taking tires within two (2) weeks.

Cedar Bluff Transfer Station

Mr. Dunford is working on plans/designs at the present time. Once finished he plans to have a set up similar to what we currently have at the landfill.

Approvals for Invoices

Diversion of Waste from Bluefield, WV - \$7,490.19

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 approve to pay the invoice from Bluefield, WV, for waste diverted to Mercer County in the amount of \$7,490.19.

County Administrator, Eric Young did inject that he has plans to meet with Ginny Dawson now that all of the diversion invoices have been paid. Mr. Young advised that FEMA should reimburse approximately 75% of the total diversion funds the Board have paid.

Diversion JPSA (Bland/Wythe January and February invoices) - \$8,420.36

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 against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approve to pay the invoice from Bland/Wythe JPSA for waste diverted during January and February to Bland and Wythe Counties in the amount of \$8,420.36.

IT Report

The conversion projects for both Novell and the network have been completed. Mr. Dunford thanked the IT department for their hard work on these projects and finishing ahead of schedule.

Paving Schedule

Mr. Dunford reported that he is currently working on the paving schedule and should have a list of the roads by May and start paving.

Safe Streets for All

The interviews have been completed and Mr. Dunford has the ranking sheets for Supervisor Gillespie but not for Supervisor Cruey. Mr. Young said the Board will work on getting these sheets to Mr. Dunford.

Supervisor Hrovatic mentioned that the winter was particularly rough on our roads. Supervisor Gillespie agreed and noted some of his constituents have voiced concerns over the current condition of our roadways. Mr. Dunford agreed and said he has been in contact with VDOT on this issue.

Supervisor Plaster voiced her concern with Route 67 and the accompanying ditches being full. Supervisor Hrovatic concurred and said he has been in touch with VDOT and they advised they have a plan in place to address the drainage issues. Mr. Dunford advised he would follow-up with VDOT and report back to the Board.

Teen Venture Presentation

Rosetta Hale, Executive Director for Teen Venture made a brief presentation, expressing their gratitude to the Board for their support.

Robert's Rules of Order

Chase Collins asked for consent to suspend Robert's Rules of Order so that the Board may hear Jan Cordle with the Tazewell County PSA before the closed executive session.

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 suspension of Robert's Rules so the Board could more easily move about the agenda.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

PSA – Jan Cordle

Ms. Cordle made a presentation regarding various ongoing projects by the PSA.

****Pure Salmon***

According to Ms. Cordle the user agreement was sent, but has not been returned. Mr. Young interjected that the debt for the waterline will be the responsibility of Pure Salmon and since we are still waiting on the final numbers this is the cause of the delay in signing the user agreement.

****Town of Richlands – Water Treatment/Sewer Treatment Upgrade***

Ms. Cordle advised that the PSA, Mr. Young and the Richlands Town Manager met regarding this project. Mr. Young concurred and explained the meeting was constructive and they understand the significance of VRA financing and their accompanying rules.

****Tazewell Wastewater Treatment Plant***

Ms. Cordle announced that this project is moving forward and the PSA's debt share is \$7.6 million.

****Falls Mills Rehabilitation***

According to Ms. Cordle, the debt has been brought down to \$1.513 million and the project is running on schedule.

****Town of Tazewell 460 Waterline***

Ms. Cordle announced there is an 18-month deadline for this project.

****Pocahontas Waterline***

Ms. Cordle said four (4) condemnations will be required for this project and the bids should open in July.

****Falls Mills Wastewater Treatment Plant***

The cost for this project will be \$1.6 million and is currently on schedule.

****Cornado Coal***

Ms. Cordle advised this project is on hold.

****Raven/Doran 19 Inflow and Infiltration***

Ms. Cordle stated the PSA received a \$50,000 grant from CPPDC for this project.

The Chair thanked Ms. Cordle for her report. He then asked if there was a motion to enter into executive session.

EXECUTIVE/CLOSED MEETING – 4:45 pm

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, 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 Tazewell Horse Show, LLC

A(29) Contract negotiations with Town of Richlands for fire protection services

A(5) New business/expansion of existing business: Project DOE

A(8) Legal consultation regarding Tazewell County Volunteer Fire Department

RETURN/CERTIFICATION/REPORT OF ACTION – 6:09 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: Four (5)

Nays: One (0)

Absent: None (0)

Absent during vote: None (0)

Report of Action: One (1)

ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

Project DOE

Upon motion of Supervisor Gillespie, seconded by Supervisor Presley and adopted by a vote of 4 to 1, with Supervisor Plaster voting against and all other members present and voting in favor thereof, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the real and personal property tax incentive packages for James River Equipment. Being values above the current and real personal property tax values for year 2024 as the lease year, and set forth as follows:

Year 1 - 100% abatement

Year 2 - 80% abatement

Year 3 - 60% abatement

Year 4 - 40% abatement

Year 5 - 20% abatement

It was further moved that the Board approve a \$500 grant per net new full time equivalent (FTE) job created over five (5) years not to exceed \$5,000.00 total after each employee subject to this program is on the payroll for James River Equipment.

Tazewell Horse Show Contract

For benefit of the record, County Attorney, Chase Collins did specify that the Tazewell Horse Show, LLC, contract negotiations had been moved to the second executive session.

Special Presentations

GHS Cheerleaders Resolution

Supervisor Presley asked that this matter be deferred to the June meeting.

Scott Stiltner Resolution

A resolution was read into the record by Supervisor Presley, for Scott Stiltner's many years of distinguished service and dedication to Tazewell County. Supervisor Cruey further noted that the resolution would be presented to the family on Saturday, April 12th during Mr. Stiltner's Memorial Service.

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, the Board hereby approves a resolution for Scott Stiltner. A copy is available at the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

Spot Steele – Labor of Love

Spot Steele appeared on behalf of Labor of Love and made a brief presentation, expressing their gratitude to the Board for their support and prior donations. However, due to the current financial strains faced by the County, Labor of Love has decided to withdraw their donation request for \$7,200.

Audit Presentation

Scott Wickham of Robinson, Farmer Cox Associates, presented to the Board Tazewell County's financial report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

Mr. Wickham spoke briefly on the Independent Auditor's Report, wherein he expressed the importance of timeliness of reimbursement requests at the School Board; saying it is a federal requirement that the grant requests be submitted timely, to make sure your revenues match your expenses. Mr. Wickham did note this year had been much improved, but work could still be done in this area. He said the County needs to be able to reconcile the reports to expenditures claimed, instead of waiting for many months on the needed information.

Mr. Wickham noted an increase in general operating expenditures for the County. The report also showed significant growth in the general fund balance, approximately 27%. However, he noted to keep in mind the County usually has to fund the landfill significantly using that amount.

Mr. Wickham expressed concern on health insurance payments made by the school board. He said it appears an invoice was paid twice in the twelve (12) month period. Health insurance premiums need to be paid consistently in order to ensure accurate reporting, Mr. Wickham said.

Overall, Mr. Wickham expressed the report looks better with fewer findings this year than with prior years.

Mr. Young asked Mr. Wickham whether grant reimbursements were local money. Mr. Wickham said yes and compared this to a loan repayment.

The Board thanked Mr. Wickham for his time. A copy of the audit report is available at the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

TCPS Sequestered Funds Status Report

Dr. Chris Stacy

Dr. Stacy presented a short status update in regards to the sequestered school facilities funds currently in excess of five (5) million dollars.

Dr. Stacy also touched on his earlier meeting with Mr. Young, Supervisor Presley and Supervisor Hrovatic, wherein he wanted to clarify that the bathroom estimate he previously gave only included a total of four (4) bathrooms at one (1) school, not four (4) bathrooms per school. Furthermore, the estimate did not include asbestos removal.

Mr. Young wanted to clarify for the benefit of the public that the sequestered funds in question, were technically repayment of a loan from the County as described earlier by the Auditor, Mr. Wickham. Mr. Young said, these funds were paid to TCPS by the County then reimbursed by the State. However, during an independent audit it was discovered that the reimbursements from 2021, 2022 and 2023, were not reported by the school system to the auditors. He said, we see this as the taxpayer's money and the funds are not just to be used for various projects as the school board desires, such as the football stadium. Mr. Young went on to say we feel like the Board and County were misled regarding these funds.

Dr. Stacy agreed with the Board the importance of keeping the lines of communication open and being more transparent. Currently, he is gathering all of the pertinent FOIA information previously requested and will have that available soon. Dr. Stacy suggested he would be open to asking permission before any of the sequestered funds are spent, whether that means emails, public hearings or whatever the Board has in mind. He said, the School Board members also came tonight to show we are willing and open to working together.

Supervisor Hrovatic spoke on the importance of working together for the benefit of our kids and the county. In addition, Supervisor Hrovatic inquired about any upcoming projects, in which Dr. Stacy planned to use the sequestered funds.

Dr. Stacy mentioned the biggest priorities currently are structural issues at Tazewell High School, security cameras and doors at the schools and two (2) coal boilers that are going to need maintenance or replacement.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearing regarding relocation of Mundy Town voting precinct

The Chairman called to order a public hearing that was duly advertised according to law to move the Mundy Town polling place.

The Chairman called for public comments from the floor.

The Chairman called a second and third time for additional public comments from the floor. Hearing none, the Chairman closed the public hearing.

Chase Collins, County Attorney, explained that currently the Mundy Town voting location is in the S & K Welding Building, 8596 Baptist Valley Road. However, the owner of that building has expressed a desire that we no longer use the building for that purpose. Brian Earls and the Electoral Board have found an alternate site, identified as Adria Truck and Auto Repair located at 1727 Adria Road, North Tazewell, VA.

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruey, seconded by Supervisor Presley and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Gillespie abstaining from the vote due to a conflict, voting against and all other members present and voting in favor thereof, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the ordinance to relocate the polling place for Mundy Town Precinct (103) to Adria Truck and Auto Repair. A copy of the ordinance is available at the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

Public Hearing regarding closure of Amonate Voting Precinct and consolidation thereof into the Bandy Precinct, Bishop Precinct and Mundy Town Precinct, with boundary adjustments

The Chairman called to order a public hearing that was duly advertised according to law to close the Amonate voting precinct.

The Chairman called for public comments from the floor.

The Chairman called a second and third time for additional public comments from the floor. Hearing none, the Chairman closed the public hearing.

Chase Collins, County Attorney, spoke on the issues plaguing the Amonate Precinct such as mold, a wet slippery film on the ADA accessible ramp and the lights continually being destroyed. Voting is the only activity which occurs at this facility and it has the highest cost per vote of any precinct in Tazewell County due to the low voter turnout. Mr. Collins stated this Ordinance will close the Amonate Precinct and assigning those voters to either the Bandy Precinct, Bishop Precinct or Mundy Town Precinct.

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 the ordinance to relocate the polling place for the closure of the Amonate Voting Precinct, consolidating into the Bandy Precinct, Bishop Precinct or Mundy Town Precinct, with boundary adjustments. A copy of the ordinance available at the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

Public Hearing regarding implementation of a meals tax

The Chairman called to order a public hearing that was duly advertised according to law to impose a meals and drink tax within the County of Tazewell.

The Chairman called for public comments from the floor.

- Rees Bowen VII, Richlands, Virginia, spoke against the meals tax.
- Earnest Purdue, Tazewell, Virginia, spoke against the meals tax.
- Yvonne Thompson, Cedar Bluff, Virginia, spoke against the meals tax.
- David Wolford, Bluefield, Virginia, inquired if the county's proposed meals tax was in addition to the current meals tax in place within the Town of Bluefield. Eric Young, County Administrator advised that it is not.
- Fred Harmon, Tazewell, Virginia, spoke in opposition to the meals tax.
- Jim Campbell, Baptist Valley, Virginia, spoke against the meals tax
- Otis Lester, Pounding Mill, Virginia, spoke against the meals tax with two (2) separate comments.
- Fred Lawless, Burke's Garden, Virginia, spoke in favor of the meals tax.
- Russell Stowers, Bastian, Virginia, spoke in favor of the meals tax.
- Barry Brooks, North Tazewell, Virginia, spoke in favor of the meals tax.
- Aaron Roberts, Tazewell, Virginia, came forward with comments but did not state a definite position.

Otis Lester returned before the board to inquire how much this tax would bring in to the County for EMS services. Eric Young, County Administrator stated the tax would bring in approximately \$1 million to \$1.2 million per year for EMS. Mr. Young also provided a proposed breakdown of the use of those funds which included a new ambulance, much needed repairs to multiple fire stations, six (6) new cruisers for the Sheriff's Office, stipends for the volunteer fireman.

Mr. Young further stated the County currently pays \$100,000 (one hundred thousand) dollars to the Town of Richlands to cover fire department services and \$200,000 (two hundred thousand) dollars to cover EMS services for their area.

The Chairman called a second and third time for additional public comments from the floor. Hearing none, the Chairman closed the public hearing.

Supervisor Presley moved to approve the meals tax as presented in the public hearing, Supervisor Hrovatic seconded.

A discussion ensued regarding the meals tax rate and penalties for late payments by eating establishments to the Treasurer. Supervisor Plaster inquired if the board could lower the interest rate and extend the payment time frame when restaurants cease doing business.

Supervisor Presley then moved to amend his motion to approve the meals tax ordinance with modifications; lowering the meals tax to 5%, lowering the interest and penalty rate to 5%, extending the 30-day deadlines to 90 days for restaurants going out of business and providing payment plans for those businesses should it be needed. Supervisor Hrovatic seconded the motion to amend the motion.

Supervisor Gillespie asked if the Board would agree to reduce the rate to 4%. Further discussion arose with Supervisor Plaster disagreeing with the tax rate of 5% and recommending the meals tax rate be lowered to 4.7%, since the State of Virginia's sales tax rate is 5.3%.

Supervisor Presley moved to amend his motion to amend his earlier motion to cut the tax rate to 4.7% and Supervisor Hrovatic seconded the motion and the amendment was adopted by a vote of 4 to 1, with Supervisor Cruey opposing the vote, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approve the food and beverage tax ordinance with a meals tax rate of 4.7%, a 5% interest rate on penalties and late payments, payment plans for establishments going out of business, giving 90 days for payment on restaurants going out of business.

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 approve to conduct a Public Hearing at the May 6, 2025 Board Meeting to make adjustments to the enterprise and tourism zones.

Mr. Young asked for clarity of the record that the Board vote again on the ordinance.

Upon motion of Supervisor Hrovatic, seconded by Supervisor Presley and adopted by a vote of 4 to 1, with Supervisor Cruey voting in opposition, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approve the ordinance as advertised with amendments to reduce the tax rate to 4.7% from 6%, to extend the 30-day deadlines to 90-days and providing payment plans for those businesses which are closing should it be needed.

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS - SCHEDULED

THS Project Graduation

Jill O'Quinn spoke briefly on the benefits of Project Graduation for seniors. Ms. O'Quinn also requested donations from the board for Tazewell High School's Project Graduation for the 2025 graduating class.

Upon motion of Supervisor Presley, seconded by Supervisor Plaster and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Gillespie abstaining, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approve the amount of \$600.00 for Tazewell High School's 2025 Project Graduation, as indicated below. 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.

\$ 500.00 Southern District funds
\$ 100.00 Eastern District funds
\$ 600.00 Total

THS DECA

Terri Stiltner spoke briefly on Tazewell High School's DECA program. Ms. Stiltner also requested donations from the board for travel expenses to the upcoming DECA competition.

Upon motion of Supervisor Presley, seconded by Supervisor Plaster and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Gillespie abstaining, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approve the amount of \$600.00 for the DECA competition and travel expenses, as indicated below. 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.

\$ 500.00 Southern District funds
\$ 100.00 Eastern District funds
\$ 600.00 Total

Jim Campbell

Jim Campbell spoke regarding his previously filed FOIA requests with Baptist Valley Fire Department and Tazewell Fire and Rescue. Mr. Campbell stated he has only received approximately 50% of the documentation requested. Mr. Campbell further stated he has found a frivolous trips to convenience stores, Wal-Mart and restaurants. Mr. Campbell requested that the county suspend funding until his FOIA request is answered in its entirety, all the frivolous trips cease and until they are more transparent with the public on their spending.

Juneteenth

Veda Ferguson spoke on the upcoming Juneteenth plans for Tazewell County. Ms. Ferguson also explained there were a few improvements needed on Main Street in order to accommodate the event. Ms. Ferguson requested donations for the upcoming event and improvements needed.

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 approve the amount of \$1200.00 for Tazewell Today, as indicated below. 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.

\$1000.00 Southern District funds
\$ 100.00 Eastern District funds
\$ 100.00 Western District funds
\$1200.00 Total

Yvonne Thompson

The Chair noted Yvonne Thompson had spoken earlier in the night when the Chairman called for public comments during the meals tax hearing.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – UNSCHEDULED

David Wolford, Bluefield, Virginia

David Wolford inquired on the County's position regarding the sale of the Sanitary Board to West Virginia American Water. According to Mr. Wolford, currently there is a 6% to 7% increase every year and this is not sustainable. I did not notice anyone from the County at the public meeting held in Bluefield.

Eric Young, County Administrator, stated the County was aware of the sale and are in contact with West Virginia American Water.

RECESS – 9:47 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 and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves a brief recess.

ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCIAL/COUNTY PROJECTS UPDATE – 10:00 pm

Due to time restraints, County Administrator, Eric Young and Chairman Gillespie suggested limiting the items discussed to those which require board action and deferring the remainder to the May 6, 2025, board meeting.

1. Storm recovery update

- a. United Way grant from Hurricane Helene
- b. DHCD Urgent Need Grant

These matters are deferred until the May 6, 2025 meeting.

2. Opioid Abuse Abatement Committee update

This matter is deferred until the May 6, 2025 meeting.

3. Budget update

This matter is deferred until the May 6, 2025 meeting.

4. Water Supply Planning Grant resolution for PSA

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 the resolution on behalf of the PSA for the water supply planning grant for Cumberland Plateau.

5. *Consider ratifying poll to transfer \$125,000 in funds appropriated in FY25 from Capital Improvements fund for the Springville Fire Station to the IDA to repair/replace the roof on the Workforce Training Center on Camp Joy Road that was damaged by Helene.*

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 to transfer \$125,000 from the Springville Fire Station fund to the IDA to repair/replace the roof on the Workforce Training Center. The budget for next year will reflect the \$125,000 going back to the Springville Fire Station fund.

6. *EMS collections*

This matter is deferred until the May 6, 2025 meeting.

7. *Consider ratifying poll regarding 2025 mowing bids*

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 the mowing contract for 2025 at a rate of \$7,490 per month, including the Thompson Valley Community Center.

8. *Consider surplus of TCSO 2011 Chevrolet Traverse (VIN# 1GNKVGED3BJ169044 - 200,000+ miles & bad transmission)*

Upon motion of Supervisor Gillespie, seconded by Supervisor Presley and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, voting in favor thereof, with Supervisor Cruey abstaining and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the request to surplus the 2011 Chevrolet Traverse.

9. *SECOR proposal*

This matter is deferred until the May 6, 2025 meeting.

10. *SWCC scholarships*

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 \$100,000 (capped) to cover scholarships with SWCC, provided the scholarships shall include the previous years' parameters, in addition each recipient's FASFA must show their AGI is below \$120,000 per year and furthermore, any dependents of volunteer firefighters will be given priority and will be funded at 100% before all others.

11. *Western Natural Gas selection committee*

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 Supervisors Hrovatic and Gillespie as members of the selection committee.

12. *Cordelia Street*

This matter is deferred until the May 6, 2025 meeting.

13. Consider allowing funds appropriated for Warhawk Park in FY25 for "water and sewer lines" to be used for "utilities, including but not limited to water, sewer, and electric"

Upon motion of Supervisor Hrovatic, seconded by Supervisor Plaster and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, voting in favor thereof, with Supervisor Gillespie abstaining and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves that the funds appropriated be used for water and sewer lines for Warhawk Park.

14. SonShine Day Care funding request

This matter is deferred until the May 6, 2025 meeting.

15. Tazewell Baseball Boosters funding request

This matter is deferred until the May 6, 2025 meeting.

16. Tazewell Little League Baseball/Softball funding request

This matter is deferred until the May 6, 2025 meeting.

17. Other

a. OTR Invoice

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 \$7,500 be paid from the contingency fund to fund the OTR event at the Fairgrounds.

b. Wayfarer

18. Appointments:

a. Fire/Rescue Board

b. IDA

c. Tourism

These matters are deferred until the May 6, 2025 meeting.

BOARD CONCERNS

Supervisor Presley

Graham Foundation

This matter deferred until the May 6, 2025 meeting.

Sanders House

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 a donation in the amount of \$2,000.

Supervisor Plaster

None.

Supervisor Cruey

Supervisor Cruey suggested granting holiday time for Good Friday, April 18th. 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 that the County offices be closed in observance of Good Friday and holiday time be given to employees.

Supervisor Gillespie

Thompson Valley Community Center Mowing

The Chair deferred this issue as it was included in the 2025 Mowing Contract.

Thompson Valley Convenience Center

Supervisor Gillespie stated he is considering only adding an additional dumpster on busy days/weekends. Currently, there is \$10,000 per year available to cover the added expense, I will need to confer with Ken Dunford to figure how many days this amount can cover.

Supervisor Hrovatic

Cedar Bluff Festival

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 against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves a donation in the amount of \$5,000 to the Town of Cedar Bluff from Western discretionary funds for the upcoming Cedar Bluff Festival.

Stream Sweepers

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 against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves a donation in the amount of \$8,000 to Stream Sweepers to cover costs for stream clean-up. The breakdown is as follows:

\$2500.00 Western District funds
\$2500.00 Northwestern Capital funds
\$1500.00 Southern Capital funds
\$1500.00 Northern Capital funds
\$8000.00 Total

EXECUTIVE/CLOSED MEETING – 10:40 pm

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, 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(1) Personnel in legal department
A(29) Contract negotiations with Tazewell Horse Shows, LLC

RETURN/CERTIFICATION/REPORT OF ACTION – 11:32 pm

The Board of Supervisors returned to public session and Supervisor Hrovatic 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: One (1)

ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

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 terminates its rental agreement with Tazewell Horse Show, LLC, effective immediately, pursuant to mutual agreement.

OTHER BUSINESS

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 May 6, 2025 at 4:00pm.

A copy teste:

Aaron Gillespie, Chairman