

VIRGINIA: AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TAZEVELL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD MARCH 4, 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  
SUSAN JEWELL, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT  
MEMBERS OF THE PRESS: JIM TALBERT, RICHLANDS NEWS & PRESS,  
WARREN HINKLE, THE VOICE

ABSENT: None

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## MINUTES

Chairman, Aaron Gillespie 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 Plaster.

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 APPROVED AS AMENDED**

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

Supervisor Presley asked to add public comment from Donnie Linkous, Mayor of the Town of Bluefield, Virginia under the "Special Presentation" section of the agenda.

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 approved the March 4, 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 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 the revised minutes from the February 4, 2025 meeting. A copy is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

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 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. Consider authorizing the Tazewell County Chamber of Commerce to use Cavitt's Creek Park exclusively July 19 and July 20, 2025
- D. Ratify poll approving support letters for Gigabeam, Verizon and Point Broadband applications for BEAD grant funding to expand internet service in the County
- E. Consider transfer from the Contingent Grant Account 4-100-091050-7041 to 4-100-035050-8109 Capital Outlay - Grant Proceeds for payment of RES invoices for flood mitigation
- F. Consider transfer of \$30,254.25 from the Contingent grant account 4-100-091050-7041 to Engineering budget for coal road work

**Consent Calendar Items**  
**March 4, 2025 Meeting**  
**REVISED**

<b>Source</b>	<b>Check #</b>	<b>To Acct</b>	<b>Amt</b>	<b>Description</b>
Abingdon Auto Auction	141374	31020-6011	\$4140.00	TCSO sale of 2006 Fontaine trailer
Abingdon Auto Auction	141373	31020-6009	\$3600.00	Sale of 2007 generator
Abingdon Auto Auction	101375	31020-6009	\$3060.00	TCSO sale of 1901 Army item
Library of Virginia	EDI 82570136	21060-6021	\$23486.00	Grant for deed book preservation
Town of Cedar Bluff	6629	31020-6011	\$1310.00	Reimbursement to TCSO for equipment
DOC		31020-5510	\$16040.13	TCSO extradition reimbursements
CMCS	246864	31020-1150	\$1545.19	TCSO CITAC reimbursement
Natasha Hunt	5020	73010-1150	\$200.00	TCPL payroll reimbursement

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

***Engineering – Kenneth Dunford***

***New landfill cell***

Mr. Dunford announced that the new cell is now being used for waste disposal.

***Landfill waste diversion***

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 \$3,868.10 to pay Bluefield, West Virginia for diversion of waste to Mercer County.

***Safer Streets grant***

Mr. Dunford asked the members of the Safer Streets grant committee to provide available dates so interviews can be scheduled.

***Tires at landfill***

Supervisor Hrovatic inquired about tires being accepted at the landfill. Mr. Dunford advised they are not at this time but will be soon. He described the difficulty in getting a contractor to take away tires.

### ***Convenience stations***

Supervisor Gillespie asked Mr. Dunford to evaluate the Thompson Valley convenience center and see if there could be an additional dumpster there or whether the current arrangement might be altered for better use. Mr. Dunford advised he will need to confer with Capital Watse regarding the matter. Mr. Young also advised that the matter can be addressed at the upcoming budget committee meeting.

### ***TCSO parking area***

Supervisor Cruey asked when the hole in the TCSO parking lot is scheduled to be repaired. Mr. Dunford advised that it is on the schedule to be done.

### ***Transfer station***

Supervisor Hrovatic inquired about improvements/changes at the Cedar Bluff. Mr. Dunford advised that he has no updates at this time.

### ***Robert's Rules of Order***

The Chairman asked for consent suspend Robert's Rules of Order so that the Board might move freely through the agenda and the Board agreed.

The Chair announced that the GHS Cheerleaders will not be at the meeting for the resolution presentation.

Supervisor Cruey announced that Christina Shinall is still hospitalized and will not be at the meeting for the resolution presentation.

### **EXECUTIVE/CLOSED MEETING – 4:25 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( 7) Discussion regarding diabetes litigation
- A( 3) Property acquisition at Cavitt's Creek
- A( 5) Project FIND
- A( 3) Property acquisition near Richlands Elementary School
- A(29) Contract negotiations regarding project SKIP2
- A(29) Contract negotiations with SEH for school facility design

## **RETURN/CERTIFICATION/REPORT OF ACTION – 5:28 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**

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 agrees to move the following items to the second executive session:

- ▶ A(29) Contract negotiations regarding project SKIP2
- ▶ A(29) Contract negotiations with SEH for school facility design

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 entering into a retainer agreement with Chap Peterson & Associates, PLC for the purposes of representation of multi-state insulin litigation, as detailed in the retainer agreement as presented executive session.

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

#### ***Dr. Stacy sequestered school facilities funds***

The County Administrator advised that Dr. Stacy had informed him that he would not be attending the meeting to discuss the sequestered school facilities funds and explained that the Audit Report and the TCPS sequestered funds report will be placed on the April 2025 agenda. Supervisor Cruey made a motion to issue a subpoena for Dr. Chris Stacy to appear at the April meeting since he had canceled his expected appearance for this date. Mr. Young commented that the Board can indeed ask the Circuit Court Clerk to issue a subpoena, but suggested

extending professional courtesy and wait until the April meeting to see if Dr. Stacy complies with the request to appear at the meeting. The Board discussed at length its motion in January to request Dr. Stacy's attendance. Supervisor Hrovatic requested a resolution requesting Dr. Stacy's appearance at the April 2025 meeting.

Mr. Young stated that Dr. Stacy sent a spreadsheet showing expenditures he had made with the funds that TCPS carried over from last year as well as details of the funds that were sequestered; however, that prompted some questions he had hoped would have been addressed at this meeting.

Supervisor Gillespie stated that he feels informed enough to be able to discern hidden meanings in the documents.

Supervisor Hrovatic reiterated his request for a resolution requesting Dr. Stacy to appear at the April 2025 meeting.

The Chair noted that there are two motions before the Board: one for the issuance of a subpoena for Dr. Stacy's appearance at the April 2025 meeting and one for a resolution for Dr. Stacy's appearance at the April 2025 meeting.

Supervisor Cruey withdrew his motion requesting the issuance of a subpoena compelling Dr. Stacy's appearance at the April 2025 meeting and offered to second Supervisor Hrovatic's motion for a resolution requesting his appearance instead. Prior to a vote on the motion, the Chair suggested to include language in the resolution stating that should Dr. Stacy not appear at the April 2025 meeting, the issuance of a subpoena will be requested.

Upon amended motion of Supervisor Hrovatic, and 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 a resolution to request that Dr. Christopher Stacy appear at the April 2025 meeting to report on the status of TCPS sequestered funds, and that should Dr. Stacy not appear at the April 2025 meeting, the issuance of a subpoena will be requested.

### **Resolutions**

#### ***Red Cross proclamation***

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 resolution proclaiming March 2025 as Red Cross Month.

Christina Shinall resolution – this matter is deferred to the April 2025 meeting.

GHS Cheerleaders - this matter is deferred to the April 2025 meeting.

#### **TCSO fleet**

The County Administrator explained that the Board made a commitment to replace TCSO vehicles so that road deputies don't have to be concerned with breakdowns while patrolling in vehicles with high mileage. He invited Sheriff Hieatt to speak about the issue.

Sheriff Brian Hiatt spoke briefly about the condition of and mileage on the TCSO vehicles. He stated that several new vehicles have been received as part of a lease and are now being equipped with the necessary lights and equipment before placing them in service.

Mr. Young reminded everyone that the plan for the TCSO vehicle replacement schedule is to have all TCSO vehicles four years old or less and then keep that schedule and to do so will require leasing approximately six vehicles each year. He also reminded everyone that this plan comes with the need to find a revenue stream to make it happen.

Supervisor Gillespie added that the purchase/lease of a patrol vehicle is much different than purchasing/leasing a personal vehicle. He explained that the patrol vehicles because the vehicles must meet certain requirements, then be fitted with equipment, lights, etc. prior to being put into service.

#### **Chief Barry Brooks – fire prevention presentation**

Chief Barry Brooks presented information regarding how the county volunteer fire departments are affected by lack of funding in the budget. He shared that budget constraints put firefighters at risk when they operate with outdated and insufficient equipment or gear in disrepair. He followed the presentation with a video depicting how quickly a fire spreads through a house.

The County Administrator added that even if the county is able to acquire the necessary equipment and gear, the lack of people to respond to the emergencies presents a problem and we must rectify this before an event occurs that the county is completely unprepared for.

An unidentified female in the audience asked what money was used to build the new football field at Graham. Supervisor Hrovatic advised that money came from TCPS, not the Board of Supervisors.

Supervisor Gillespie thanked all the fire department members for their dedication.

#### **Red Cross proclamation**

Sharon Dixon of the America Red Cross appeared on behalf of the organization to accept the previously approved proclamation.

#### **Donnie Linkous presentation**

Donnie Linkous, Mayor of the Town of Bluefield, Virginia addressed the public and explained the numerous ways a meals tax has benefitted the Town of Bluefield. He stated that they receive approximately \$1m per year from the meals tax, which has enabled them to improve their fire and EMS services and purchase a newer, better fire truck than they had prior to the tax.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

#### **Public hearing regarding real estate tax rate**

The Chairman called to order a public hearing that was duly advertised according to law to establish the real property rate for FY25.

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

The Chairman called for public comments from the floor.

Laura Mollo, Richlands, Virginia asked the Board to lower the real property tax rate

Wanda Smith of 176 Gertrude Lane, North Tazewell, Virginia asked about delinquent tax property. Mr. Collins explained the process of delinquent tax collections.

\_\_\_\_\_ Hicks of Amonate, Virginia spoke about an issue she had with a piece of property she owns on Delaware Drive near Bandy that was damaged in the July 2022 flood event in Bandy. She stated she had asked the Commissioner of the Revenue's office to consider lowering the value of the property based on the damage, but nothing has been done yet. Mr. Collins offered to follow up with the COR office on that issue.

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

Mr. Collins reported that \$0.58 per hundred is the same tax rate that has been in effect since 2018. He asked that the Board vote on the tax rate at this meeting because tax billing is set to go out at the beginning of April.

Upon motion of Supervisor Hrovatic, seconded by Supervisor Presley and adopted by a vote of 4 to 1, with all members present and Supervisor Cruey voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby votes to set the real property tax rate at \$0.58 per hundred.

***Public hearing regarding closure of Amonate voting precinct***

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, explained the purpose of the public hearing, explaining that closure of the Amonate precinct would create a boundary adjustment which would send voters currently using the Amonate/Bishop/Mundy Town precincts to other precincts, but would not impose a burden of extended travel upon those voters. He also reported that there are several safety issues associated with the current Amonate voting precinct.

Supervisor Gillespie asked Brian Earls, Registrar of Tazewell County to confirm that the Electoral Board recommends closing the Amonate precinct. Mr. Earls confirmed the same. Supervisor Gillespie also asked if this change will allow enough time for required changes in the affected voting precincts to be made in time for the June 2025 primary. Mr. Earls confirmed the same.

The County Attorney recommended setting another public hearing for the April 2025 meeting and extend the public comment period.

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 holding a public hearing regarding the closure of the Amonate voting precinct on April 8, 2025.

***Public hearing regarding relocation of Mundy Town polling place***

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 the purpose of the public hearing and announced the new location of the polling place. Mr. Collins recommended setting another public hearing for the April 2025 meeting and extend the public comment period.

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 holding a public hearing regarding the relocation of the Mundy Town polling place on April 8, 2025.

***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.

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

The Chairman called for public comments from the floor.

- Laura Mollo, Richlands, Virginia spoke against the meals tax.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hicks, Amonate, Virginia spoke in favor of the meals tax.
- Fred Harman – 3289 Witten Valley Road, Tazewell, Virginia spoke against the meals tax
- Brian Shrader – 403 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, North Tazewell, Virginia spoke against the meals tax
- Otis Lester, Richlands, Virginia spoke against the meals tax, stating it would impose a hardship for his food business
- Russell Stowers, Tazewell, Virginia spoke of the need for the meals tax to help with equipment and gear for firefighters in the county.

Supervisor Cruey stated his opposition to the meals tax and made a motion to cancel the April hearing on the proposed ordinance. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Supervisor Plaster spoke about her experience as a former restaurant owner and the difficulties in operating that business and paying taxes. She stated she has been against a meals tax in the past but,

even though she hates the thought of the tax, she felt it is a way to fund the emergency services because they risk their lives to serve the county with inadequate equipment.

Supervisor Gillespie shared a personal story and his feelings related to fire/EMS.

An unidentified female commented on roof leaks and otherwise poor condition of the Richlands branch of the public library. Supervisor Gillespie asked library director, Erica Gallway to weigh in. Ms. Gallway did not acknowledge leaks by said county maintenance was working on them.

Supervisor Cruey shared his experiences of using old equipment and vehicles to do his job as a deputy. He stated he feels the question isn't whether or not we support our first responders, its whether we want a meals tax.

Laura Mollo, Richlands, Virginia asked for additional cuts to the budget.

Supervisor Plaster stated that emergency services are an essential part of government and the county needs to be prepared for the future. She shared that she would not have been in favor of a meals tax in the past, but this need has changed her mind.

Otis Lester, Richlands, Virginia asked if there is some other way to obtain the money needed without imposing the meals tax and asked how long it might be before Coronado Coal is mining in Tazewell County. Supervisor Hrovatic advised that it will still be a couple of years before Coronado is mining in Tazewell County.

Mr. Young stated that money from the Coal Severance Tax as a result of the Coronado mining will hopefully be used to fund the new schools. He stated that even though the fire problem is a huge problem, the condition of our schools is an even bigger problem.

Mr. Collins explained that the county can only implement taxes as directed by the Code of Virginia and read the meals tax language in its entirety.

Russell Stowers spoke regarding firefighter gear and conditions and the need for funding for these.

Barry Brooks urged the attendees to realize that the lack of proper gear and equipment will become a bigger problem at the point there is a major emergency and the departments won't be prepared.

Laura Mollo, Richlands, Virginia asked the Board to go on record promising that all revenue from the meals tax will go toward fire and rescue.

Supervisor Gillespie stated that should the meals tax be implemented, all revenue from that will go toward funding first responders.

Brandi Brewster of the Bishop VFD informed the public that the fire truck in use at that department is 38 years old.

Supervisor Presley spoke about the meals tax in the Town of Bluefield and the need for that same tax in the county.

An unidentified speaker from the audience spoke.

Supervisor Presley agreed with Supervisor Plaster's comment that \$1m isn't going to fix the problem and also agreed that, as Mr. Harman stated, it is a 40-year problem. Mr. Young explained that the county population continues to decline and local property values aren't keeping up with the national average so when the minimum wage increases to \$15.00 in 2026, which is almost double what it was six years ago, funding is going to be even more difficult. He said a drastic increase in the cost of goods and services has been a hurdle.

Supervisor Gillespie asked that the language in the upcoming advertisement for the public hearing more specifically describe what the money will be used for.

An unidentified female asked if the meals tax would be permanent. Mr. Collins responded that all ordinances and resolutions can be repealed by ordinance; however, the responsibility to fund fire/EMS is required by Virginia code.

Mr. Young advised that simply finding \$1m in the budget one year ***will not*** fix the problem. He said the problem is a future problem and must be addressed now.

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

#### **CITIZEN COMMENTS – SCHEDULED**

- ▶ Carolyn Wimmer – not present
- ▶ Michaelle Gravley 4869 Amonate Road asked if Tazewell County will agree to manage a grant for the purpose of purchasing the old Methodist Church in Amonate. Mr. Young advised that our grants management department will do that and a letter of support.
- ▶ Robert Carlson, North Tazewell, Virginia spoke regarding toxic chemicals associated with solar panels

#### **CITIZEN COMMENTS – UNSCHEDULED**

Erica Hall, Director, TCPL announced that contracts and paperwork is in progress for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to be active in each TCPL branch.

**EXECUTIVE/CLOSED MEETING – 8:36 pm**

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, 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) Proposal evaluations/negotiations for rehabilitative housing
- ▶ A(29) Contract negotiations with SEH for school facility design
- ▶ A(29) Contract negotiations regarding project SKIP2

**RETURN/CERTIFICATION/REPORT OF ACTION – 10:25 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: Two (2)

**ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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 amending the county's funding agreement with the Tazewell County IDA for Project Skip to provide that the maximum coal severance tax rebate to Coronado be increased from \$5m to \$7m in light of the increased cost they have experienced in constructing the facilities necessary to mine coal in

Tazewell County and produce a projected \$68m in coal severance revenue for the County over the next eighteen years and in addition, that the county request that the Tazewell County IDA approves a similar amendment to Coronado's economic development performance agreement with the IDA.

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 applying to the state opioid abatement authority for a \$2.7m grant, including a \$540,000.00 match from local opioid abatement settlement funds, for Fairview Housing to purchase and renovate a facility to operate rehabilitative housing for resident recovering from opioid addiction and further authorizes the County Administrator to sign any documents necessary for the grant.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCIAL/COUNTY PROJECTS UPDATE**

The county Administrator asked that all matters in the Administrative/Financial/County Projects Update section of the agenda be deferred to the April 2025 meeting, with the exception of the following:

5. Opioid Abuse Abatement Committee update
  - a. Communities in Schools

Upon motion of Supervisor Presley, seconded by Supervisor Cruey and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with all members present with Supervisor Plaster abstaining and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves a grant application in the amount of \$900,000.00 for at-risk youth. A total of \$26,000.00 will come from the opioid settlement funds.

8. Consider approving health care plan for FY26

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 the proposed employee health care plan for FY25. A copy is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

### **Appointments**

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

This matter is deferred until the April 8, 2025 meeting.

#### ***IDA***

This matter is deferred until the April 8, 2025 meeting.

#### ***Tourism***

This matter is deferred until the April 8, 2025 meeting.

### **Mowing bids**

Mr. Collins announced that it's the time of year to advertise for mowing bids for county properties.

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 advertisement for mowing bids for the 2025 mowing season.

## **BOARD CONCERNS**

### **Supervisor Presley**

None

### **Supervisor Plaster**

None

### **Supervisor Cruey**

None

### **Supervisor Gillespie**

#### ***Donation to Tannersville VFD***

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 \$4,500.00 from Southern District discretionary funds for the purpose of purchasing CPR equipment and/or improvements to the facility.

Upon amended 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 \$4,500.00 from Southern District discretionary funds to the Tannersville VFD for the purpose of purchasing CPR equipment and/or improvements to the facility.

#### ***Payment for mowing expense at Thompson Valley Community Center***

Supervisor Gillespie asked that the Thompson Valley Community Center be included in the upcoming mowing bid advertisement.

#### ***Additional dumpster at Thompson Valley convenience center***

This matter is deferred until the April 8, 2025 meeting.

### **Supervisor Hrovatic**

Supervisor Hrovatic announced that he has decided not to seek re-election to the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors once his current term expires, but desires to remain involved in a different capacity, such as serving on boards. Supervisor Gillespie expressed his appreciation to Supervisor Hrovatic for his service to the Board.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

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 recesses until March 20, 2025 at 4:30pm.

A copy teste:

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Aaron Gillespie, Chairman