

VIRGINIA: AT THE RECESSED MEETING OF THE TAZEVELL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD MARCH 20, 2025 AT FOUR THIRTY 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

ABSENT: None

MINUTES

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

AGENDA

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

County Administrator, Eric Young asked to add the following items to Executive Session:

A(8) Discussion of legal advice that does not involve litigation regarding landfill construction
A(7) Opioid Litigation

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 addition of the following to the March 20, 2025 recessed/amended agenda, a copy of which is available at the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

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 inclusion of any individuals necessary to conduct business in executive session.

The Chair asked if everyone listed in the Scheduled Citizen Comments section of the March 4, 2025 agenda spoke at that meeting. Susan Jewell, Executive Assistant to the Board of Supervisors informed Mr. Young and the Chair that Carolyn Wimmer was not present at the March 4, 2025 meeting but Michaelle Gravely and Bob Carlson did speak at that meeting. Mr. Young advised he told Mr. Campbell the meeting time was 4:30pm.

The Chair returned to Administrative updates on the agenda and recognized the County Administrator.

ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCIAL/COUNTY PROJECTS UPDATE

Storm update

Mr. Young announced the following in regard to the most recent storm:

- * Emergency services evacuated 57 residents, 27 of whom utilized the emergency shelters in the county
- * 11 people had stayed for three (3) days and by weeks' end, all of those had found temporary shelter/housing
- * There is still a need for 27 long term housing situations
- * There were 177 affected homes, 63 with moderate damage and 46 with major damage
- * There was significant damage to some roads and bridges

Mr. Young stated that the county requested that FEMA consider the most recent flooding event a "cascading event" and tie it to the damage from Hurricane Helene, which could mean increased recovery funding from FEMA.

He also announced that DHCD has opened a \$5m statewide "urgent need" storm related grant and the county will apply for funds to purchase large commercial generators, additional "flood beacons" for streams and to fund a rental assistance program for those whose homes are damaged beyond repair. He stated he spoke with DSS Director David Taylor, who agreed that DSS would administer the rental assistance program for the county.

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 approve application for the DHCD urgent grant to include \$300,000.00 for rental assistance program (\$500.00 per month for 3 months), \$267,000.00 for generators.

Upon additional 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 approve application for the DHCD urgent grant to include \$60,000.00 for additional river monitoring flood beacons.

Earmark applications

Mr. Young stated he isn't sure if earmark applications will be funded, although the county's grant consultants recommend continuing to apply for grants in the event the programs go forward.

Mr. Young stated that Congressman Griffith's office is open to a grant for a leachate tank for the county landfill, which would be approximately \$1m. He suggested submitting an application for a tank. Supervisor Gillespie asked if funding for new leachate lines can be included. Mr. Young said he would broaden the language of the request.

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 approve application for a grant for a leachate tank and new leachate lines.

Budget update

Mr. Young shared that the budget committee is making a lot of progress with budget planning and he feels it's in a better place at this point in the planning than at this point last year.

4H camp

The Chair stated that this matter would be addressed after Executive Session.

Bristol District Regional Transportation Improvement Commission (Casino Revenue)

The County Administrator recommended that 100% of the casino revenue received for Tazewell County go toward public safety in FY26.

Upon motion of Supervisor Gillespie, seconded by Supervisor Hrovatic and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes that 100% of the casino revenue received by Tazewell County for FY25 to toward public safety.

Appointments

Fire/Rescue Board

The Chair deferred this matter until the April 8, 2025 meeting.

IDA

Mr. Young informed the Board that IDA member, Suzanne Brinegar did not attend the recent IDA meeting and has only attended one meeting since her appointment last spring. Supervisor Cruey advised he will speak with her to determine whether she wishes to continue as a member. Tim Danielson, Economic DEvelopent Director commented that her continued absences from IDA meetings constitutes a lack of representation for the Northern District.

The Board did not take any action.

Tourism

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

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

A(7) Discussion regarding diabetes litigation

A(3) Property acquisition at Cavitts 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

A(5) Project DOE

A(5) Project FIND (revisit)

A(29) Proposal evaluations/negotiations for rehabilitative housing

A(8) Discussion of legal advice that does not involve litigation
regarding landfill construction

A(7) Opioid Litigation

EXECUTIVE/CLOSED MEETING – 4:59 pm

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, 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.

RETURN/CERTIFICATION/REPORT OF ACTION – 5:52 pm

The Board of Supervisors returned to public session and County Administrator, Eric Young 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: Four (4)

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 increasing its match from \$540,000.00 to \$900,000.00 from the Opioid Abatement funds for Project Fairview Housing.

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 that the Board concur with the recommendation of the National Opioid Litigation counsel, Wagstaff & Cartnell, pertaining to counsel's recommendation on defendant, Pharmacy Benefit Managers.

The County Attorney explained that the purpose of this is to dismiss two (2) certain cases that this Board had authorized litigation counsel to implead in August 2024.

Upon motion of Supervisor Gillespie, seconded by Supervisor Hrovatic and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes retainer of Christian & Barton, LLP pertaining to claims by and between the Board of Supervisors of Tazewell County, Virginia and Republic Waste Management Services. Santek, LLC, and the county's insurance carrier as discussed in Executive Session.

The County Administrator clarified that the Board isn't attempting to enter into litigation, rather this is an avenue to determine whether the contractor or the county's insurance carrier will bear the cost of the materials and costs of damage/delay at the landfill due to the effects of Hurricane Helene.

Upon motion of Supervisor Presley, seconded by Supervisor Plaster and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes the Chairman and/or the County Administrator to execute a moral obligation in support of a line of credit in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 from Legacy Bank to the Industrial Development Authority of Tazewell County, Virginia.

Administrative/Financial/County Projects Update

4H camp

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 the following donation to the Virginia Cooperative Extension Tazewell County Office for the purpose of scholarships for 4H camp:

\$500.00	Southern District discretionary funds
\$250.00	Northwestern District discretionary funds
\$500.00	Eastern District discretionary funds
\$250.00	Western District discretionary funds
\$250.00	Northern District discretionary funds
\$1750.00	Total

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 to dispense of Robert's Rules of Order to allow moving about the agenda more freely.

BOARD CONCERNS

Supervisor Plaster

Jewell Ridge Community Center

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 a donation in the amount of \$1,200.00 to the Jewell Ridge Community Center from Northwestern District discretionary funds for July 4th celebration or improvements to building.

Supervisor Hrovatic

Richlands Wrestling Club

Supervisor Hrovatic stated he had received a call from a citizen asking if the Board can assist in funding the Richlands Wrestling Club in building a new facility, specifically requesting for assistance in cajoling the TCPS

into more funding for the project, which is in need of an additional \$50,000.00. Mr. Young suggested this be addressed at the April 8, 2025 meeting during Dr. Stacy's presentation.

Caleb Hollow Road

Supervisor Hrovatic spoke about maintenance and ROW and property owner difficulties associated with Caleb Hollow Road. He asked if the road can be looked at to see if there are any solutions for repairing the draining on the portion of the road the county maintains. Mr. Young recommended that Ken Dunford, County Engineer, take a look at the road for possible solutions.

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.

Supervisor Cruely

Supervisor Cruely asked for a moment of silence in memory of Dispatcher Chrissy Shinall, who passed away this week after having retired from the Tazewell County Sheriff's Office.

Supervisor Presley

None

Supervisor Gillespie

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

Upon motion of Supervisor Gillespie, seconded by Supervisor Cruely 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 April 8, 2025 at 4:00pm.

A copy teste:

Aaron Gillespie, Chairman