

VIRGINIA: AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TAZEVELL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD MAY 6, 2025 AT FOUR O'CLOCK P.M. IN THE TAZEVELL COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 197 MAIN STREET, TAZEVELL, VIRGINIA 24651

PRESENT: AARON GILLESPIE, CHAIRMAN (arrived late)
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

In the Chairman's absence, Vice-Chairman, Kyle Cruey, called the regular 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.

Vice-Chairman Cruey 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.

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 May 6, 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 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 approves the minutes from the April 8, 2025 meeting. A copy is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Upon motion of Supervisor Presley 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 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.

Consent Calendar Items May 6, 2025 Meeting

Source	Check #	To Acct	Amt	Description
Natasha Hunt	5022	73010-1150	\$200.00	TCPL payroll reimbursement
Natasha Hunt	5023	73010-1150	\$200.00	TCPL payroll reimbursement
CMCS	247749	31020-1150	\$1115.76	CITAC OT reimbursement
Bedford Co., Va	9093593	31020-6010	\$298.99	TCSO
C of VA	26100278	31020-6010	\$120.00	TCSO
Richlands Funeral Co.	99127	31020-5230	\$100.00	Donation for Admin Asst Day meal
UVA	3130655	12130-5510	\$70.00	Refund for class registration
Intrado	42102	035600-5230	\$2044.22	Revised amount – TCSO refund

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Engineering – Kenneth Dunford

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 the list was approved by the Coal Severance Tax Committee (CST) at their regular meeting on 2 May 2025. Mr. Dunford pointed out that the estimate came in a bit higher than expected because a culvert must be replaced on Park Lane prior to paving. He also pointed out that three roads were added to the list, which increased the estimate.

County Administrator, Eric Young, noted that upon completion of the 2025 paving, the seven-year paving cycle will conclude, with each road in the county system having been paved.

4:08 pm - Chairman Gillespie arrived at the meeting and presided

Upon motion of Supervisor Presley, 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 advertisement of 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. A copy of the list is available in the County Administration Office at 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia.

Mr. Young asked the Board to approve the paving in the spirit of saving time, contingent upon approval of the CST within the \$458,980.10 given by Mr. Dunford.

Upon amended motion of Supervisor Presley, 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 advertisement of the 2025 orphan road paving list as well as the paving list cost up to \$458,980.10, to include any roads admitted into the county road system within two to three months of approval of this list should the bids be less than the approved amount. A copy of the list is available in the County Administration Office at 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia.

PSA

Mr. Dunford stated that the CST Committee had approved the amount of \$262,498.00 from CST funds for the PSA. He advised that \$258,498.00 will be applied to old projects and \$4,000.00 will be applied to new debt.

Mr. Young advised that it is permissible to spend up to 25% of the CST funds on water/sewer projects. He said that the larger amount is for leachate line, commonly referred to as the Greater Tazewell Sewer Project, which was built several years ago and payments are made from CST funds. The Board also asked the PSA to include funding requests for these projects: Richlands Wastewater Project, Richlands Water Project, Tazewell Water Project and the Jonah Project, hence the additional \$4,000.00 request from CST funds (\$1,000.00 per project).

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 \$262,498.00 to the Tazewell County PSA from the CST fund.

Safer Streets

Mr. Dunford asked the Board to approve 2XCell as the high-ranking engineering firm of the seven firms that submitted proposals, based on the interviews conducted and to approve negotiations with 2XCell.

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 2XCell as the high-ranking engineering firm for the Safer Streets Grant project and further approves negotiations with 2Xcell.

The County Attorney expressed concern regarding a difference in the number of interviewees present for the interviews, which, depending on potential scoring, could create grounds for a suit against the County under the Virginia Public Procurement Act because all the judging was not equivalent. Supervisor Cruey advised he was not present for all interviews and Mr. Collins noted that Supervisor Gillespie was present for all interviews and scored 2XCell higher.

Mr. Young recommended a motion to award ATCS scoring equal to that of 2XCell but stating that after discussion, the Board still opted for 2XCell, if that was who they wanted.

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 scoring ATCS equal to 2Xcell (making ATCS #2 ranking proposer); however, following discussion, the Board chose 2XCell as the highest ranked.

Safer Streets

Mr. Dunford reminded the Board that the County received a \$464,000.00 grant for the Safer Streets for All Grant, which requires a match of \$92,904.00. He asked the Board to approve \$92,904.00 to come from CST funds.

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 amount of \$92,904.00 from CST funds for the purpose of a match for the Safer Streets for All Grant.

Coal Severance Tax Committee

Mr. Dunford explained that the CST Committee approved the amount of \$60,000.00 for VDOT paving on Jewell Ridge Road, which will provide a total of ¼ mile of paving (not necessarily all in one spot).

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 the amount of \$60,000.00 from CST funds for the purpose of paving on Jewell Ridge Road for a total of 18/4 mile of paving (not necessarily all in one spot).

Supervisor Hrovatic asked Mr. Dunford to look at the condition of Arrow Street in the Claypool Hill area in relation to a drainage situation.

Supervisor Cruey asked about the status of tires being accepted at the landfill. Mr. Dunford stated tires still aren't being taken but there is an upcoming meeting to ask about that situation.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Dunford for his time and moved to the next item on the agenda.

EXECUTIVE/CLOSED MEETING – 4:30 pm

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, 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) Project FIND
- ▶ A(1) Personnel regarding Tazewell County VFD
- ▶ A(29) Contract negotiations: Town of Richlands Fire Agreement
- ▶ A(29) Contract negotiations: Western Gas feasibility study contract
- ▶ A(3) Property acquisition: Fairview

RETURN/CERTIFICATION/REPORT OF ACTION – 6:05 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: Four (4)

ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

Fire Protection Agreement

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 the extension of the Fire Protection Agreement with the Town of Richlands to July 2027 as previously approved in May 2024 with amendments to include certain dispatch protocol requirements as presented in executive session.

Western Gas

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 Blue PSI Ventures to be the highest qualified applicant for the DHCD grant for the Western Tazewell County Feasibility Study and authorize the County Administrator to negotiate with them.

Fairview Housing

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 voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approve entering into a 90 day option agreement with the owner of the former CNX office property on Clinic Road in Claypool Hill, Virginia for a purchase price not to exceed the price discussed in executive session and to authorize the County Administrator to negotiate with Fairview Housing to help the finance their purchase of the property with Opioid Abatement funds to develop rehabilitative housing for persons recovering from opioid addiction.

Fire/EMS expenditures

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 voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approve that as a matter of policy, effective 1 July 2025, all fire departments or EMS agencies provide itemized account to the Board for all purchases or expenditures made as a condition precedent to receiving funding from the Board.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

GHS Cheerleaders resolution

The Chair directed that this matter be deferred to the June 3, 2025 meeting.

CART resolution

The Chair directed that this matter be deferred to the June 3, 2025 meeting.

Discussion regarding Tourism Zone

Eric Young, County Administrator, presented information regarding the current Tourism Zone and asked the Board to help determine what changes might be needed. He informed the Board that the Tourism Zone is a locally funded incentive program for businesses that operate a tourism business within the Tourism Zone. He said that the Tourism Zone isn't currently funded and he'd like the Board to consider doing so through the IDA. He showed a map to demonstrate the areas currently in the Tourism Zone.

Supervisor Cruey asked that the Boissevain/Abbs Valley Road area be included in the Tourism Zone because of the ATV trails.

Supervisor Gillespie asked whether the area across from Crab Orchard Museum is currently included in the Tourism Zone. Mr. Young stated that area can be included if it isn't currently included.

Supervisor Hrovatic asked that each of the Board members receive a paper copy of the map due to visibility issues.

Supervisor Plaster asked whether the Raven area is included in the Tourism Zone. Mr. Young advised that the area can be included.

IDA Language

Mr. Young brought about the point of how to identify a tourism related business. He said, for example, a restaurant might serve a unique menu or tradition, etc., giving the IDA some idea of the language to be used.

Enterprise Zone – Tim Danielson

Economic Development Director, Tim Danielson, explained that the Enterprise Zone expires in 2025 and renewal must be done thru DHCD, at which time the boundaries may be changed. He stated there are approximately 300 acres that can be added for expansion but there are only three "islands" may be designated as Enterprise Zones in the County. He added that those "islands" are currently Richlands/Claypool Hill, Tazewell and Bluefield and that expansion of the Enterprise Zone is anticipated this year, pending state approval.

Mr. Young pointed out that businesses must apply to be included in the Enterprise Zone and that incentives are both locally and state funded.

Older Americans Month proclamation

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 voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approve a proclamation designating the month of May as Older Americans Month. A copy is available in the County Administrator's Office at 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

Rabies Vaccination Clinic

Clay Yearins requested permission and funding from the Board to support his Eagle Scout project. He shared his plans for the free one-day clinic. The Board commended his goal and asked him to complete his plans and present additional information to the Board.

THS Class of '73

Debra Wilson of the THS Class of '73 spoke of the goals and accomplishments of the THS Class of 1973 and shared a PowerPoint presentation for the same.

Upon motion of Supervisor Gillespie, seconded by Supervisor Cruvey 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 of \$2,500.00 from Southern District funds to THS Class of '73 Foundation (PO Box 73, Tazewell, Virginia 24651) for the Roots to Real Program in connection with the Virginia Extension Office.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

DHCD Urgent Need Flood Relief Grant

The Chairman called to order a public hearing that was duly advertised according to law to submit application for the DHCD Urgent Need Flood Relief Grant.

Eric Young, County Administrator, read a prepared statement and description of the grant program. The Chairman called for public comments from the floor.

Scott McCormack of 2730 Bandy Road, Cedar Bluff, Virginia 24609 spoke of the devastation their home sustained during the flood of July 2022. He shared that their home sustained tremendous damage and they lost all their belongings and furnishings as a result. Mr. McCormack described the path of the water, stating that water had backed up at culverts blocked by debris across the road from their home, causing the water to travel across the road, over an embankment and into their home. He said what had been described as a “100-year flood” was repeated in 2025, when water once again was blocked by debris at culverts across the road from their home, causing water to travel across the road, over an embankment and up to the entrance of their home. Mr. McCormack pleaded for any assistance available to help prevent the same from happening again in their community and surrounding communities.

Michael and Sherry Smith of 1190 Orange Street, Richlands, Virginia told the Board that as a result of more than one flood event, their mobile home was moved off its foundation and they have been without a home of their own since 2020. Mr. Smith advised they have been staying with family members and have attempted to find an agency to help them but have been unable to do so.

Barry Muzzleman of 2174 Bandy Road, Cedar Bluff, Virginia shared his experiences stemming from flood events in Bandy. Mr. Muzzleman stated that the flood of June 2022 caused damage to his home and garages and the loss of many tools as well. During that event, his wife was trapped inside their home and he was physically washed away in swift waters but thankfully rescued by a local deputy. He also shared that just as he was getting things cleaned up and replaced, his property was hit by another flood event, damaging his garages yet again. Mr. Muzzleman declared that he feels that debris that is blocking culverts near his home caused the water to come across the road and affect his property.

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

Supervisor Plaster commented on the shortage of rental housing in the county.

Supervisor Hrovatic presented an email he received from Jamie Tuggle, a Tazewell County resident who was unable to appear in person at the public hearing and asked that the written comments be made a part of the minutes.

The Chairman directed that Ms. Tuggle’s email be made a part of the minutes.

The Chair directed that all written comments received by the Board be made a part of the minutes. A copy of those comments is attached.

Mr. Young read a list of items for which the DHCD Urgent Need Grant may be used and the Board discussed how to best allocate the money to be applied for and asked for a resolution to apply for \$1.2m. Supervisor Gillespie asked to take up this matter later in this meeting. The Chair tabled the Urgent Need Grant topic until later in the meeting.

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 approves dispensing with Roberts Rules of Order to be able to move about the agenda more efficiently.

VDOT Six-Year Plan

Jeff Buchanan of VDOT described the proposed six-year plan to attendees.

The Chairman called to order a public hearing that was duly advertised according to law to approve a resolution to approve the FY26 Six-Year Plan. A copy of the plan is available in the County Administration Office at 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia.

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.

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 a resolution to adopt the VDOT Six-Year Plan for FY26 as presented.

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 a resolution to designate Route 810, Route 760 and Route 808 as part of the Rural Rustic Route system.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – SCHEDULED

Cathy McClanahan, 812 Sage Hill Road, Cedar Bluff, Virginia 24609 distributed a fact sheet related to the effects of Medicaid/Medicare cutbacks may have on Tazewell County and requested that the Board ask the Weldon Cooper center conduct a study to determine that effect.

Ginger Cates, Pocahontas, Virginia 24635 requested that the Board include Historic Pocahontas, Inc., in the budget as it was in past years. Ms. Cates outlined the successes of the organization and it's benefit to the community.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – UNSCHEDULED

Bob Carlson, 1142 Lake Witten Road, North Tazewell, Virginia 24630 spoke regarding amendment of the solar ordinance.

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 to amend the Tazewell County Solar Ordinance to require the inclusion of a Safety Data Sheet in future solar project in Tazewell County.

Mr. Collins advised that the company currently under the solar ordinance is exempt from compliance with changes to the solar agreement because it is “grandfathered”.

Recess – 8:10pm

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 a brief recess.

ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCIAL/COUNTY PROJECTS UPDATE

Storm recovery update

United Way grant – Hurricane Helene

County Administrator, Eric Young, asked that this matter be deferred.

DHCD Urgent need grant

Mr. Young advised that the County is prepared to apply for the DHCD Urgent Need Grant funds.

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 authorize application for the CDBG through DHCD Urgent Need Grant funds as follows:

\$ 600,000.00	– generators
\$ 400,000.00	– housing rehabilitation
\$ 70,000.00	– debris removal
\$ 60,000.00	– river beacons
\$ 10,000.00	– satellite communication equipment
\$ 60,000.00	– rental assistance
\$1,200,000.00	- Total

FEMA update

Mr. Young updated the Board regarding an application made by the County to FEMA for damage sustained to public buildings and property during Hurricane Helene. He also reminded the Board that a decision is pending from the insurance company regarding the damage to the liner at the new landfill cell. Mr. Young apprised the Board of a new FEMA\$10m program for home elevation for flood resistance improvement to properties deemed by FEMA to be repeatedly flooded and have flood insurance, three of which have been selected by FEMA: Raven Assembly of God in Raven, one property on Kirby Road in Doran and one property on Industrial Drive in Tazewell.

Upon motion of Supervisor Plaster, 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 authorize submitting an application for the FEMA/VDEM home elevation grant.

Opioid Abuse Abatement Committee update

VASAP

Mr. Young explained that the Committee met in April and recommended approval of a request from VASAP for \$10,000.00 to help expand their programs to include driver drug resistance training. He said funds are included in the budget but approval is needed a \$10,000.00 contribution from the Opioid Abuse Abatement fund for VASAP.

The Chair directed that this matter be deferred to the June 3, 2025 meeting.

Fairview Housing

Mr. Young stated that this matter was discussed in executive session.

Recovery Court Administration

Mr. Young announced that funding is needed for the Recovery Court Administration and it has been placed in the budget for FY26 at \$60,000.00.

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruey, seconded by Supervisor Presley and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with all members present and Supervisor Gillespie abstaining, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approve \$60,000.00 for Recovery Court administration from the Opioid Abuse Abatement funds.

Budget update

Approve budget for advertisement

According to Mr. Young, the FY26 draft budget is ready for advertisement as is customary in the month prior to its approval in June. He announced at, at the moment, it appears that there are approximately \$98,000.00 less in expenditures than revenue, which is subject to change of course.

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 advertisement of the draft FY26 budget.

TCPS funding

Each year, the state declares the amount of funding they provide for TCPS and, according to Mr. Young, there is a minimum amount the County is required to match in order to get the state funding. He stated that the amount for FY26 is \$15,637,897.00.

Upon motion of Supervisor Plaster, 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 approve \$15,637,897.00.

EMS collections

Chase Collins, County Attorney, explained that the EMS collection rate is below 50%, which affects the funds available to operate the EMS departments. He suggested that a courtesy letter be sent to individuals who owe money.

Mr. Young stated that the County loses \$350,000.00-\$400,000.00 annually due to unpaid EMS billing, partially due to low Medicaid reimbursement.

SECOR proposal

Mr. Young shared information regarding a new program SECOR offers wherein Opioid Abuse Abatement funds can be used for the County to pay SECOR participants to work in County positions. He said he had suggested to SECOR that Tazewell County might be interested in paying one of the SECOR participants to do some part time work but SECOR is only interested in a full-time position for their participants.

Mr. Presley asked what the cost of one employee would be. Mr. Young said he did not know but would get that information.

After discussion by the Board, the Chair directed that the matter be deferred to the June 3, 2025 meeting pending further information to be gathered by Mr. Young.

SVCC scholarships

Mr. Young announced that SVCC scholarship program has been reinstated at a fixed contribution annually with priority given to volunteer firefighters and their children. Once any volunteer firefighter applicants or their children have been covered 100%, the remainder of the funds will be pro-rated among other eligible applicants. He said review of the contract is pending and the matter should be ready for a vote at the June 3, 2025 meeting.

Cordelia Street

Mr. Young reminded the Board that some residents of Cordelia Street have attempted for some time to have the street taken into the orphan road system, but not all property owners are in agreement. Mr. Young suggested sending the heirs of a particular property on that street a petition and if those heirs are agreeable, it may be possible to take the road into the system. The consensus of the Board was that Mr. Young request a petition.

CST committee report

This item was previously addressed in Mr. Dunford's engineering report.

Tactical Retreat Unplugged – exemption request

Mr. Collins stated that Tactical Retreat Unplugged has requested a personal property tax exemption for the vehicle currently owned by the non-profit organization on which the current tax liability is \$42.00. Mr. Collins suggested making a donation to the organization rather than spend \$150.00 for advertising for a public hearing for tax exemption.

Upon motion of Supervisor Gillespie, seconded by Supervisor Crucey 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 a donation from Southern District funds in the amount of \$150.00 to Tactical Retreat Unplugged, pending further information to be gathered by Supervisor Gillespie.

SonShine Day Care funding request

This matter was addressed at an earlier meeting.

Tazewell Baseball Boosters funding request

The Chair directed that this matter be deferred to the June 3, 2025 meeting.

Tazewell Little League Baseball/Softball funding request

The Chair directed that this matter be deferred to the June 3, 2025 meeting.

Other

Storm Recovery

Mr. Young explained that for the Bandy Flood Relief Grant project, the estimated amount budgeted to receive from DHCD and pay applicants was \$753,380.00 from DHCD; however, an additional \$26,895.00 is necessary to cover all the proceeds from DHCD and payouts to applicants.

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 and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approve an additional \$26,895.00 in revenue from DHCD and payouts to applicants for the Bandy Flood Relief Grant project.

Dog ordinance

Mr. Collins stated he was approached by Tazewell County Code Enforcement regarding some of the language in the County's dog-funning-at-large ordinance is causing some problems in General District Court, namely, the concept of whether someone "permitted" their dog to run loose as opposed to whether the dog somehow accidentally broke free from an enclosure. Mr. Collins advised a public hearing is necessary to change the ordinance.

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 authorize a public hearing regarding language in the current Tazewell County ordinance for dogs running at large.

Appointments

Fire/Rescue Board

The Chairman deferred this matter to the June 3, 2025 meeting.

IDA

The Chairman deferred this matter to the June 3, 2025 meeting.

Tourism

The Chairman deferred this matter to the June 3, 2025 meeting.

BOARD CONCERNS

Supervisor Presley

Graham Foundation

This matter is deferred to the June 3, 2025 meeting.

Supervisor Presley gave updates regarding various committees and activities and suggested making a plan for how much each EMS department will receive when the meals tax revenue starts to roll in. Mr. Young updated Supervisor Presley regarding Mr. Brooks' plan to have VDEM come to the May 22th ESC meeting and explain how emergency management works at the state and county levels for elected officials.

Supervisor Presley stated he would like to see an incentive program for Tazewell County students who train for a trade so they would remain in the county. Mr. Young added the idea of the IDA giving a voucher to students who graduate from the career and technical center that the graduate can present to a prospective employer which would give the Tazewell County employer a break on, for example, machinery and tools tax for hiring that graduate.

Supervisor Plaster

None.

Supervisor Hrovatic

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 voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approve a donation in the amount of \$21,000.00 from Western District Capital Improvement funds to the Cedar Bluff Fire Department for the purchase of turnout gear.

Supervisor Cruey

Bandy Community Center

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 and no one voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approve a donation up to \$13,500.00 from Northern District Capital Improvement funds to Bandy Community Center for the purchase and installation of a generator to be used in emergencies for a warming station.

Supervisor Gillespie

Additional dumpster at Thompson Valley convenience center

Mr. Young announced that Mr. Dunford has arranged for an additional dumpster to be at the Thompson Valley site on weekends at no additional charge to the County. Supervisor Gillespie asked to be kept updated about the “stairway” up the dumpster.

EXECUTIVE/CLOSED MEETING – 9:40pm

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, 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 Maintenance
- ▶ A(1) Personnel in Administration
- ▶ A(1) Personnel in legal department (2)

RETURN/CERTIFICATION/REPORT OF ACTION – 10:56 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

Personnel in Maintenance

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 voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approve a promotion for Rex Davis to pay Tier 8 – Operations Assistant I Maintenance and adjust his compensation accordingly; also, the Board approves the elimination of the vacant part-time position at the Animal Shelter.

OTHER BUSINESS

The County Attorney advised that Fred Lawless requested that he and Barry Brooks be appointed as fire marshals for Tazewell County, mainly for the purpose of having a fire marshal present at fireworks events. Mr. Collins stated that both gentlemen have the experience and background to serve as such.

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 voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approve the appointment of Barry Brooks and Fred Lawless as fire marshals for Tazewell County.

ADJOURN

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 adjourns until Tuesday, June 3, 2025 at 4:00 pm.

A copy teste:

Aaron Gillespie, Chairman