

VIRGINIA: AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TAZEWELL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD JUNE 27, 2025 AT FOUR O'CLOCK P.M. IN THE TAZEWELL COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 197 MAIN STREET, TAZEWELL, 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
SUSAN JEWELL, PARALEGAL
MEMBERS OF THE PRESS: JIM TALBERT, BLUEFIELD DAILY TELEGRAPH

ABSENT: None

REVISED MINUTES

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

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

The Chairman 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 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 June 27, 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 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 minutes from the June 3, 2025 meeting. A copy is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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 items A, B and 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.

Upon motion of Supervisor Gillespie seconded by Supervisor Hrovatic and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with all members present and Supervisor Cruey abstaining and all others voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves item D, of the Consent Calendar.

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 ratifying poll to donate \$2,000.00 from Southern District discretionary funds to Tannersville VFD for July 4th celebration
- D. Consider ratifying poll to declare K9 Officer Reni and kennel as surplus and sell to his former partner for \$1.00
- E. Approval of Supplemental Appropriations for the following funds for FY25 due to expenses exceeding authorized appropriations: Coal Severance Fund: \$169,500; Law Library Fund: \$5,075; Coal Road Economic Development Fund: \$45,165

**Consent Calendar Items
June 27, 2025 Meeting**

Source	Check #	To Acct	Amt	Description
VaCorp	656119	31020-6009	\$96.99	2003 Suburban windshield repair (Bishop VFD)
CMCS	248419	31020-1150	\$577.89	TCSO CITAC overtime

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Engineering – Kenneth Dunford

Landfill interviews

Mr. Dunford announced that all interviews have been completed, with Schnabel Engineering as the highest-ranking firm from all proposals received in response to the RFQ for engineering services at the landfill. Mr. Dunford requested the board's approval to begin contract negotiations with Schnabel.

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 Mr. Dunford's request to begin contract negotiations with Schnabel Engineering.

Streets and Roads - Citizen complaint on Sparrow Street and Songbird Lane

Mr. Dunford provided to the Board status updates for Sparrow Street and Songbird Lane in Falls Mills, Virginia. Mr. Dunford explained that he did go out and take a look at these two (2) roads. He advised that there are major drainage problems in that road system, they do not have proper ditches and the roads slope toward Falls Mills Road which causes water to rush over the road and then go into somebody else's properties. There are a lot of issues with this road, the road only has twenty (20) foot of right of way and only measures approximately 9 feet wide. This would be a very expensive project to undertake.

Supervisor Cruey inquired what exactly needs to be done in order to fix the drainage issues? Mr. Dunford replied that we need drainage easements and right of ways, then we could dig out ditches and install trench drains. Supervisor Cruey then asked how much would everything cost? Mr. Dunford said off the top of his head, maybe thirty thousand (\$30,000) up to forty thousand (\$40,000).

Supervisor Cruey requested that Mr. Dunford prepare an estimate for the cost of repairs and present it at the August meeting.

Paving Schedule

Mr. Dunford advised the Board that the paving bids had been returned under budget. The Board previously voted to approve the paving contract at \$438,980.10. However, Dominion Paving came in as the lower bidder at \$415,563.

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 paving contract with Dominion Paving in the amount of \$415,563.

With the remaining \$43,000.00 in the account, the Coal Severance Committee also voted to approve \$20,000 for the Western Gas Feasibility Study and \$23,000 for paving of gravel roads. Mr. Dunford provided a chart in his report, which lists the ten (10) gravel roads to be paved. Mr. Dunford then requested that the Board approve the two (2) motions.

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 approves \$20,000 for the Western Gas Project Feasibility Study.

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 list of roads along with the \$23,000. A copy is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

Airport

Mr. Dunford advised the Board that he has received the Engineers' Detail to fix the sink hole at the airport. Mr. Dunford requested permission to advertise via the newspaper to solicit quotes/bids to repair the depression at the airport.

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruely, 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 Mr. Dunford's request to advertise for bids needed to repair the depression at the airport.

Robert's Rules of Order

Due to noise concerns from the live band expected to begin playing outside on Main Street, County Administrator Eric Young asked that the Board shorten the first Executive Session and carry over any unheard business to the second Executive Session.

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 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.

EXECUTIVE/CLOSED MEETING – 4:33 pm

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruely, 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(5) Potential location/expansion of business involving incentives;
Project Resort
- ▶ A(8) Legal consultation regrading landfill construction contract
- ▶ A(29) Contract Negotiations with BluePsi for Western Gas Study;
Project Resort
- ▶ A(7) Legal consultation regarding Richlands campus drainage
litigation;

RETURN/CERTIFICATION/REPORT OF ACTION – 5:46 pm

The Board of Supervisors returned to public session and Chairman Cruely 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

Contract with BluePsi for Western Gas Study

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 approves the contract with BluePsi. BluePsi will perform a feasibility study for the construction of a natural gas distribution line from the Pounding Mill tap to Southwest Virginia Community College, for an amount not to exceed \$135,000. Furthermore, the Board approved use of the \$100,000 DHCD Gas Feasibility Study Grant, the \$20,000 approved by the Coal Severance Tax Committee for this purpose, \$10,000 from the Western District Capital Improvement fund and up to \$5,000 from FY26 contingency funds if necessary. Supervisor Hrovatic further moved that the Board transfer the same into the Capital Projects fund for this purpose.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

VDOT project adjustment

VDOT will present at the August 5, 2025 Board meeting.

TAZEWELL COUNTY BUDGET FY25-26

Budget Committee update

County Administrator Eric Young explained that the public hearing held during the June 3, 2025 Board meeting had been recessed until tonight to consider any amendments to that budget. He said as of this afternoon at the Budget Committee meeting, we have an ending balance of \$6,505,000. The committee met and considered several amendments, most of which had been proposed by staff.

Presentation /Discussion of staff proposed changes to the advertised budget

Mr. Young provided a detailed breakdown of the proposed changes and demonstrated with a PowerPoint display. Some of the figures were adjusted from the advertised budget to allow for tax revenue variances, possible grant reimbursement and reductions in retirement accounts. A copy of the proposed staff changes is available at the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651. Mr. Young asked the Board to consider amending the advertised budget to include the proposed staff amendments.

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 staff recommended amendments to the FY2025-2026 proposed budget.

Board requested changes to proposed FY2026 budget

Young continued, during the Budget Committee Meeting of this afternoon, the committee also addressed the additional 1.55 million we have at the end of the year. Mr. Young explained that the committee has requested to add \$800,000, into additional contingency, with the remaining \$750,000, going to the reserve fund.

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 amending the proposed FY26 budget to increase the beginning balance to \$6,550,000.00 and add \$800,000 to contingency and \$750,000 to the reserve fund.

Mr. Young explained that the budget committee would also request a \$17,000 appropriation to the landfill for tires. He said, since Lusk Disposal is no longer taking our tires, we reached an agreement with Capital: Capital will pay the disposal fee if we provide the cost for transportation, at approximately \$12,000. The additional \$5,000 would cover the cost to host a possible event at the fairgrounds to catch up on some of the backlog.

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 an increased budgeted appropriation to the landfill of \$17,000 for tire disposal.

Approve tax levies

Mr. Young advised the board that a motion to approve the tax levies as advertised for calendar year 2025, the only difference being the meals tax that was enacted earlier this year with all other taxes remaining the same.

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 Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the 2025 tax levies as advertised.

Board member amendments

Mr. Young asked if any board members wanted any further amendments. There were not any requests.

Ordinance approving the FY25-26 amended budget

Mr. Young requested adopting the proposed ordinance approving the FY26 budget ordinance, adopting local tax levies, and budget for the County of Tazewell, Virginia, for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026, to be effective on July 1, 2025 at 12:01 a.m. as amended.

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 adopt the budget for the County of Tazewell, Virginia, for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026, to be effective on July 1, 2025 at 12:01 a.m. as hereby amended, excluding the appropriation for the Care Center.

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 and all others voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the appropriation for the Care Center for FY25-26.

Order approving annual appropriation

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 the annual appropriation for the operation of all General County Agency budgets, for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026 at 12:01a.m.

Order approving budget transfers/appropriations

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 budget transfers/appropriations as may be necessary from surplus accounts, etc. to close all such accounts for the fiscal year, FY25-26.

Order approving categorical funding for Tazewell County School Budget

Mr. Young advised the Board that Superintendent Dr. Chris Stacy, had sent the school board's proposed budget for approval. A copy of which is available at the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

Mr. Young discussed with the Board approving the school board's funding categorically, so that money allotted in one area specifically cannot be moved/transferred to another area to cover costs without the Board's approval. Young pointed out that Dr. Stacy had earmarked 3.5 million for capital outlay facilities (capital improvements), when questioned about this expense I was told it was for asbestos at Abbs Valley without providing a specific amount. Additionally, I am requesting approval for a supplemental audit during the school year to make sure the monies allocated for certain areas are being spent within those categories.

Mr. Young asked the Board to move \$2 million from Capital Outlay Facilities to Debt Service.

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 categorical funding for Tazewell County School Budget FY25-26 as presented by Dr. Stacy except that Capital Outlay is reduced to \$1,043,323 and Debt Service is increased to \$3,168,393 and authorizes a supplemental category audit during the school year.

Order approving sequestration of School Facilities Fund

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 budget and sequester the School Facilities Fund according to the “Sequestered Unencumbered Projects List” and hereby sequesters said fund subject to future appropriation. A copy of which is available at the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

Order approving 3% COLA for all employees

Upon motion of Supervisor Hrovatic, seconded by Supervisor Presley and adopted by a vote of 3 to 0, with all members present and Supervisors Cruey and Plaster abstaining and all others voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves a 3% COLA for all employees for FY26.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

County employee bonuses

The Chairman called to order a public hearing that was duly advertised according to law regarding county employee bonuses.

The Chairman called for public comments from those present or listening via telephone.

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

Mr. Young asked that the Ordinance be amended to provide that any employees still employed as of July 15th be eligible for the bonus.

Upon motion of Supervisor Presley, seconded by Supervisor Hrovatic and adopted by a vote of 3 to 0, with all members present and Supervisors Cruey and Plaster abstaining and all others voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby adopts the ordinance to approve the one-time 1.5% bonus for all county employees employed as of July 15, 2025.

TAZEWELL COUNTY BUDGET FY25-26

Order approving 6% pay increase for all dispatchers

(Including the already approved 3% COLA this would be a 9% total increase)

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 a 6% pay increase for all dispatchers; in addition to the 3% COLA previously approved.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public hearing regarding DSS employee bonuses

The Chairman called to order a public hearing that was duly advertised according to law a public hearing regarding DSS employee bonuses.

The Chairman called for public comments from those present or listening via telephone.

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 Crucey, seconded by Supervisor Gillespie and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves a one-time 1.5% bonus for all DSS employees as advertised.

TAZEWELL COUNTY BUDGET FY25-26

Order approving pay scale adjustment minimum wage increase compression

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 approves the pay scale adjustment to offset minimum wage increase compression including a \$1,000 increase for lower tiers and a \$750 increase for middle tiers. A copy of the pay scale adjustment is available at the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCIAL/COUNTY PROJECTS UPDATE

Storm recovery update

FEMA/VDEM

County Administrator, Eric Young, explained that county officials spent approximately three (3) days with representatives from FEMA, going around the county and looking at some of the various properties that sustained damage due to Helene. Mr. Young provided a few photographs taken of debris which is now clogging sewer lines throughout the County.

According to Young, the County has been approved for a few grants through FEMA: Currently, we were approved for \$60,000 to cover damage to public roads and we were approved for \$300,000 for our Lechate tanks.

DHCD Individual relief grant

The DHCD flood grant is now open. Young stated, we are planning to have a link on our website so residents can apply. However, this grant is only for damage/loss to residences/structures; Has to have suffered major damage or total loss. We will be advertising on our website for upcoming meetings in the community or you can come by the County Administration Building located at 197 Main Street, Tazewell, to apply in person, Young said.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – SCHEDULED

► *Robert Carlson*, North Tazewell, Virginia

Mr. Carlson asked questions and made comments regarding the data sheets and toxic materials associated with solar controls, such as environmental and worker safety.

County Attorney Chase Collins, explained that requirements were passed last month requiring that any data sheets with MSDS or PSDS for any solar project must come through the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Carlson made additional comments related to local ordinances stating you can not have forever chemicals.

Mr. Collins stated he does not believe the County can restrict the forever chemicals based on local ordinances alone, it would depend on the zoning restrictions.

► **Clay Yearins**, Tazewell, Virginia

Mr. Yearins originally came before the Board at the June 3, 2025 meeting to request monetary donations for animal vaccines. The Board requested Mr. Yearins provide more information and possibly secure a portion of the requested funds by outside sources.

Mr. Yearins has returned to deliver his findings to the Board as requested. Mr. Yearins said he now believes he will only need \$4.38 per vaccine and with the 500 vaccines previously allotted the total needed would be approximately \$2,190.00. As of today, Mr. Yearins has secured the following donations:

Farm Bureau - \$400

Town Council - \$200

Moose Lodge - \$500

Leaving a balance of \$540 to fully fund his vaccine project.

Supervisor Hrovatic was pleased with all of Mr. Yearins updates and pledged \$110 from Western District's discretionary fund; Supervisor Plaster pledged \$110 from North Western District's capital fund; Supervisor Gillespie pledged \$110 from Southern District's discretionary fund; Supervisor Cruvey pledged \$110 from Northern District's capital fund and Supervisor Presley pledged \$110 from Eastern District's discretionary fund.

Mr. Young said, the donation will be given to the Animal Shelter and they will pay Crab Orchard in return.

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 donation to the Animal Shelter in the amount of \$540.

BREAK – 6:47 p.m.

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 short 10-minute recess.

RETURN - 7:01 p.m.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – UNSCHEDULED

► **Nicole Collins**, North Tazewell, Virginia

Mrs. Collins questioned the specifics of the one-time 1.5% bonus for county employees. Mrs. Collins was unhappy with the employed as of July 15, 2025 requirement in order to receive said bonus. Mrs. Collins believed the stipulation was made due to her husband, County Attorney Chase Collins, separating from employment as of July 1, 2025.

ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCIAL/COUNTY PROJECTS UPDATE

Fairview Housing

Mr. Young stated, we have been working with Fairview to assist in finding financing for the project. Currently, they are working with a bank in Cincinnati, Ohio, which offers grants. The bank believes Fairview would qualify for \$700,000 in grants. Mr. Young reiterated that a \$900,000 local contribution had already been approved by

the Opioid Committee. Mr. Young stated that between the grant and contribution Fairview should have the funding needed to purchase the building and begin renovations.

Mr. Young further explained that due to the timeframe needed to apply for the grant, we will need to extend the option to purchase with the landowner and are required to pay \$10,000 in order to extend another sixty (60) days.

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 approves payment of the \$10,000 to extend the option from Opioid Abatement Funds.

Tourism Zone

Mr. Young stated that Supervisor Hrovatic had inquired at the June 3, 2025 meeting if we could include all of Tazewell County in the tourism zone. Mr. Young said if that is what the Board would like to do, then yes, the whole of Tazewell County could be included in the tourism zone. Young reminded the Board that the Board would have to provide all of the funding or the IDA would not have any money to hand out.

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 ordinance as amended to include the entirety of Tazewell County within the tourism zone.

Landfill – tires

This matter was addressed earlier in this meeting.

Consider ratifying poll to transfer \$100,000 to the FY25 EMS equipment for the purchase of two life pack monitors and remove \$60,000 expense from the proposed FY26 budget revisions

County Administrator Young had previously conducted an email poll to approve the purchase of two (2) life pack monitors for \$137,000, whereby the Board paid \$100,000 out of contingency and the remaining \$37,000 was paid out of the FY25 EMS budget.

To offset part of the cost, the poll removed the \$60,000 Ambulance Grant Match expense from the proposed FY26 budget.

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 to ratify the poll to transfer \$100,000 from FY 25 contingency for the purchase of two life pack monitors and remove \$60,000 expense from the proposed FY26 budget revisions for ambulance grant match.

Funding request – Camp Joy

Deferred to the August 5, 2025 meeting. Mr. Young will request their attendance to the meeting and possible presentation.

Funding request – Feeding Southwest Virginia

A funding request was submitted by Feeding Southwest Virginia in the amount of \$2,000. Upon discussion, Supervisor Hrovatic noted that the FY26 budget already allotted \$2,000 for Feeding Southwest Virginia.

Consider ratifying poll to donate \$3,500 to Tazewell County Chamber of Commerce for Cavitts Creek concert

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruey, seconded by Supervisor Presley and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0 with all

members present and voting in favor thereof and no one voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves to ratify an email poll wherein \$3,500 was approved for the Tazewell County Chamber of Commerce for the Cavitts Creek concert.

Dogs running at large

Sheriff Brian Heatt and First Sergeant Davis of the Tazewell County Sherriff's Department spoke briefly about some of the issues they are facing with repeat offenders and the recently adopted ordinance. First Sgt. Davis said the main issue is the word "permit" in the ordinance. The Judge has been dismissing our cases since the owners are not "permitting" their dog to run at large as opposed to the dog getting out on its own. County Attorney, Chase Collins advised that the language comes directly from the Code of Virginia and is not specifically something that can be amended or changed. This ordinance could provide clarification to the Judge on the definition of permit.

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruet, seconded by Supervisor Gillespie and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0 with all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves a revision to the ordinance with the language the verb permit shall mean owning or possessing any dog running outside the property of the owner, or custodian of any dog not under the owner's immediate control as advertised.

Consider approving \$5,000 from FY25 contingency for law library fund deficit

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 approves \$5,000 from FY25 contingency for law library fund deficit.

Sandoz Subdivision Settlement

Chase Collins spoke briefly regarding the opioid litigation and subsequent settlement agreement provided in the supplemental agenda.

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 approves the opioid settlement agreement as presented and to execute any and all documents necessary. A copy of the settlement agreement is available at the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651

Donating an ambulance to Endless Opportunities

This matter has been deferred to the August 5, 2025 meeting.

Other

Southwest Virginia Community College MOU

A discussion ensued regarding the current MOU and a newly funded private donation of \$50,000 for the next three (3) years. Since the new private donation does not go into effect until January 2026, the Board would like to continue using the current MOU through the 2025 school year. Beginning in January 2026, the Board would like the following revisions be made to the MOU: ***For a qualified firefighter of child of a firefighter that their tuition would be paid in full and any remaining funds would be paid towards the tuition of Tazewell County residents in the discretion of SWVCC.***

Upon motion of Supervisor Hrovatic, 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 voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves to amend the MOU in January 2026 with the following language; For a qualified firefighter of child of a firefighter that their tuition would be paid in full and any remaining funds would be paid towards the tuition of Tazewell County residents in the discretion of SVCC.

Mr. Young stated he would begin working with the college to draft the revised MOU for 2026-27.

Appointments

IDA

Supervisor Crucey asked if Mr. Young had received Suzanne Brinegar's letter of resignation. Mr. Young stated he received an email stating Mrs. Brinegar resigned from the town council but not specifically mentioning the IDA.

Upon motion of Supervisor Crucey, seconded by Supervisor Gillespie and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0 with all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby reappoints Rick Chitwood to the IDA, contingent on Suzanne Brinegar's resignation.

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 reappoints Darrell Cantrell to the IDA.

Tourism

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 reappoints LaRonda Lindsey to serve on the Tourism Committee for the Western District.

Cumberland Plateau Housing Authority

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 reappoints Ramona Simmons to serve on the CPHA.

Planning Commission

The Chairman directed that this matter be deferred to the August 5, 2025 meeting

Library (resignation of Connie Bailey)

The Chairman directed that this matter be deferred to the August 5, 2025 meeting.

BOARD CONCERNS

Supervisor Presley

Supervisor Presley expressed his appreciation to Mr. Collins for his work as County Attorney.

Supervisor Plaster

Supervisor Plaster expressed her appreciation to Mr. Collins for his work as County Attorney.

Supervisor Hrovatic

Supervisor Hrovatic expressed his appreciation for Mr. Collins impartiality in politics and the job he has done as County Attorney.

Supervisor Cruey

The Town of Pocahontas is facing a hardship due to mowing the eleven (11) acres at the Historic Cemetery.

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruey, seconded by Supervisor Presley and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0 with all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approve transferring \$5,000 from the Northern District’s capital improvement fund for the purpose of mowing.

Supervisor Cruey expressed his appreciation to Mr. Collins for his legal advice and his work during his time with the county.

Supervisor Gillespie

None.

Mr. Collins expressed his sentiments regarding his employment as County Attorney. He went on to quote Walter Kronick, “A moment for which he has planned but still comes with some sadness”. I am certainly going to miss each and every one of you.

EXECUTIVE/CLOSED MEETING – 8:10pm

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

- | |
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| <p>Executive/Closed Meeting – Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ A(1) Personnel – County Administrator annual evaluation ▶ A(1) Personnel in Legal Department ▶ A(1) Personnel in Operations |
|--|

RETURN/CERTIFICATION/REPORT OF ACTION – 9:32 pm

The Board of Supervisors returned to public session with the meeting called to order by Chairman Gillespie 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.

Chairman Gillespie called for a roll call vote on the Certification:

Ayes: Four (5)

Nays: None (0)

Absent: None (0)

Absent during vote: None (0)

Report of Action: Three (3)

ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

Personnel in Operations

Upon motion of Supervisor Presley, 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 move to increase the compensation for the Director of Operations and Emergency Management by five percent (5%).

Personnel in legal department

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruvey, seconded by Supervisor Hrovatic and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0 with all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby move to authorize the County Administrator to contract with outside legal counsel to perform legal services for the county on an as needed basis and appoint Eric Young Interim County Attorney until such time as we may solicit applications, interview and appoint qualified legal counsel to fill the position.

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 voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby move to increase the compensation for the County Administrator by three percent (3%).

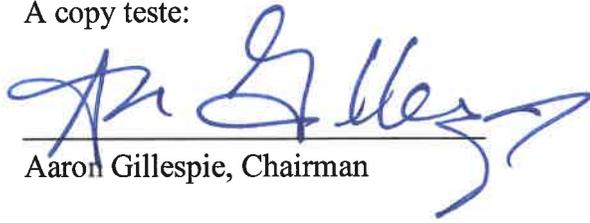
OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURN

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruvey, 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 recesses until Tuesday, August 5, 2025 at 4:00 pm.

A copy teste:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Aaron Gillespie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Aaron Gillespie, Chairman