

VIRGINIA: AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TAZEWELL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD SEPTEMBER 9, 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  
STEPHANIE RUSSELL, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT  
MEMBERS OF THE PRESS:  
JIM TALBERT, RICHLANDS NEWS PRESS  
WARREN HINKLE, THE VOICE

ABSENT: None

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## MINUTES

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

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

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, noting that any updates/changes were noted in red specifically under the Consent Calendar, Special Presentations, Executive/Closed Meeting, Public Hearings and the Administrative/Financial sections of the revised agenda.

Chairman Gillespie under 2.2-3711(A)3, made the motion to add property acquisition in Cove Creek to the executive session. The motion was 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 to executive session.

County Administrator Eric Young notified the Board that the public hearing for DHCD's grant application regarding leachate tank construction at the landfill has been postponed. However, since the hearing was advertised Mr. Young requested that it be called in case someone wanted to speak on the matter. Chairman Gillespie then made the motion to include in the agenda the public hearing which was stricken from the amended agenda. The motion was 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 calling the public hearing as previously advertised.

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 proposed September 9, 2025 amended agenda with additions/deletions approved by the Board, a copy of which is available at the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

**MINUTES APPROVED AS WRITTEN**

Upon motion of Supervisor Hrovatic, seconded by Supervisor 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 minutes from the August 5, 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, C, D and E, of the Consent Calendar. The County Administrator is authorized to issue warrants in accordance with this action and said warrants shall be converted to negotiable checks by the Treasurer of Tazewell County, Virginia.

**Consent Calendar**

(All items on the consent calendar are considered to be routine matters. The following items may be enacted by one motion, with the concurrence of the Board of Supervisors, a member may request that an item be removed for further discussion)

- A. Approval of Warrants
- B. County Departments - Transfer the following amounts from the Contingent Expenditures and Grant Account No. 91050-7041 to various department accounts as shown on the attached table:
- C. Ratify poll approving payment to Pocahontas Land Company for ATV trail easement in the amount of \$2,500.00 from contingency
- D. Declare surplus one (1) 9mm Glock service weapon from the Sheriff's Office, serial CBKA910 and sell same to retiring Deputy Michelle Conklin for \$1.00 pursuant to Virginia Code Section 59.1-148
- E. Declare surplus one (1) 9mm Glock 47 service weapon from the Sheriff's Office, serial CBKA929 and sell same to retiring Lieutenant Brian Triplett for \$1.00 pursuant to Virginia Code Section 59.1-148

**Consent Calendar Items  
September 9, 2025 Meeting**

Source	Check #	To Acct	Amt	Description
Natasha Hunt	5030	7301-1150	\$200.00	Payroll reimbursement
Natasha Hunt	5031	7301-1150	\$200.00	Payroll reimbursement
Natasha Hunt	5032	7301-1150	\$565.00	Payroll reimbursement

Kings Vineyard Ministries	3353	31020-5520	\$300.00	Donation for Sheriff's Office
Dominion Auto Auction	11603	31020-6009	\$1,265.00	2013 Ford (VIN 1FAHP2M8XDG124421)
E-Rate Reimbursement	ACH	7301-5230	\$1,511.57	Library
Donna M. Sayman	2405	7301-3099	\$100.00	Donation for Library
Johnny & Laura Calle	2788	31020-6001	\$25.50	Invoice 2025-2 Sheriff's Office
VAcorp	670087	31020-8105	\$1,430.00	Inland Marine Claim – 2020 Ford Interceptor
VDEM		35600-8109-12	\$2,370.19	EDI - FY25PEP-Grant
Courthouse Retrieval System	108264	12090-6001	\$250.00	Release of Tazewell County's real estate records to CRS Data4
Kofile		21060-6021	\$18,576.00	LVA Records Grant – Preservation of Deed Books
Town of Pocahontas General Fund	4021	32010-8109-1	\$15,000.00	Abbs Valley VFD #2 Capital Outlay
Walmart	ACH	31020-6010	\$1,000.00	Refund for Sheriff's Office
Franklin County BOS	557163	31020-8105	\$2,000.00	Payment for cage
CMCS	249390	31020-1150	\$3,090.59	Reimbursement for overtime for CITAC officers

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

#### ***Brandon Braveheart with the Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR)***

Supervisor Hrovatic gave a brief introduction for our District's Biologist, Brandon Braveheart with the Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR). Supervisor Hrovatic stated he had invited Mr. Braveheart to speak on the DWR's BearWise Community Cost-Share Program.

Mr. Braveheart gave a short presentation regarding the need for bear control in our area as well as the benefits of the BearWise Community Cost-Share Program. Currently, the DWR offers a 30/70 cost share program, for a minimum 30% match of the total project costs. Mr. Braveheart stated the funding may be used to purchase bear proof trash cans, bear signage and bear proof dumpsters. He further noted that the application deadline for the cost share program is October 1, 2025. Mr. Braveheart provided a handout detailing the program's background along with the application for funding. A copy is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

Supervisor Hrovatic requested that County Engineer Ken Dunford, work on a proposal to submit for the BearWise Community Cost-Share Program. Mr. Dunford agreed that he would work with the DWR and submit a proposal.

Mr. Braveheart closed with a few questions from Supervisor Hrovatic regarding the past coyote problem in the County as well as the “wasting disease” for deer in our area.

***David Larimer – Annual Financial Report***

Treasurer David Larimer provided the Annual Financial Report to the Board, which details the County’s current financial condition. A copy of which is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

Mr. Larimer stated that the general fund’s Annual Settlement Statement showed total committed funds of \$46.3 million as of June 30, 2025. Mr. Larimer provided a quick over view of the report, speaking specifically on the delinquent real estate tax portion. In 2024 the County showed an approximate 96% collection rate, tax year 2023 had a 98% collection rate and the 2022 and 2021 had 99% collection rates. The high collection rates are due in part to the tax sales we have throughout the year. Mr. Larimer explained by his staff working with the legal department, we have been able to clear up a lot of the abandoned properties and clean up the County in the process. Mr. Larimer stated the taxes and fees are paid from the tax sale proceeds. Any remaining amount is deposited into an excess funds account and after five (5) years if the funds are unclaimed the County receives those proceeds as well. Mr. Larimer said currently there is over \$230,000.00 in excess funds in the account.

***Brad Pyott – Billy Wagner Park Project***

Project Committee Member Brad Pyott provided a presentation for the Billy Wagner Park Project. Mr. Pyott provided a brochure and short handout to the Board detailing project plans and information on Billy Wagner’s career as a professional athlete. A copy of which is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

Mr. Pyott stated Billy Wagner was a graduate of Tazewell High School who played baseball in the major league and went on to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Mr. Pyott explained that .00001% of players accomplish making it into the Hall of Fame, it’s an actual one in a million scenario. Mr. Wagner is only the 7<sup>th</sup> Virginian to make it into the Hall of Fame. Due to Billy Wagner’s incredible accomplishments, a few of us formed a committee to discuss ideas on how to honor Mr. Wagner’s success. Mr. Pyott said the committee decided on a statue of Billy Wagner to be placed here on Main Street in the mini park. Mr. Pyott went on to explain they found a talented sculptor in South Carolina, Maria Kirby-Smith, who the committee has been working with and the total project will cost around \$250,000. Due to the large cost, the committee is raising funds from corporations, foundations, local businesses and citizens. Mr. Pyott closed by requesting a \$25,000 contribution from the Board to the project.

The Board members discussed briefly funding amounts and possible sources for funding. It was agreed to provide half of the requested amount at this time with a possible second donation at a later date.

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, the Board hereby moves to donate \$12,500 from contingency fund to the Town of Tazewell Wagner Project.

***Erica Galloway – Project Imagination Library***

Erica Galloway with the Tazewell County Public Library provided a short presentation on Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library program. Ms. Galloway distributed to the Board a brief description of the program detailing the benefits and current costs per child. A copy of which is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

Ms. Galloway stated that the Imagination Library program began Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup> and already had 300 participants. Ms. Galloway explained the program enrolls local children ages 0-5 years and each month the child is mailed an age-appropriate book. Ms. Galloway noted the cost per child is \$2.60 per month. However, the State of Virginia will cover half of the cost for each child. Ms. Galloway further stated that currently the Towns of Tazewell, Bluefield and Cedar Bluff are on board for the program and are covering the cost for the children in those areas.

Ms. Galloway requested the Board to sponsor the remaining \$1.30 per child, per month, for the participants who do not live in the Towns of Tazewell, Bluefield or Cedar Bluff. County Administrator Eric Young added that research has shown early rates of literacy was tied to lower number of incarcerations later in life. The Supervisors agreed unanimously that this was a wonderful program. Mr. Young, County Administrator, suggested going forward the library add this amount to the library’s budget request next year to cover future years’ costs.

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, the Board hereby moves to donate \$1,600.00, from the contingency fund to the library; covering the cost for the first year of the Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library program.

Supervisor Cruey inquired about the cost for the Town of Pocahontas. Ms. Galloway stated that currently there were two children registered, so it would cost approximately \$100.00 per year currently. Supervisor Cruey stated with the financial restrains the Town is currently facing, I would like to cover the cost of the first year for the Town of Pocahontas.

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruey, seconded by Supervisor Presley and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with all members present and voting in favor thereof, the Board hereby moves to donate \$500.00, from the Northern District’s Capital Improvement Fund to the library; covering the cost for the Town of Pocahontas’ first year of Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library program.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

***Engineering – Kenneth Dunford***

Supervisor Gillespie called Mr. Dunford forward to present his engineering report and wanted to take a moment to thank Mr. Dunford personally for taking care of the man hole problem on Mall Church Road so expediently.

***Landfill – Paving for Boissevain Transfer Station***

Mr. Dunford notified the Board that paving will soon be underway at the Boissevain Transfer Station. Mr. Dunford stated Dominion Paving was the low bidder at \$17,400. The Board previously authorized \$17,000 and the remaining \$400.00 will be made up from the Repairs and Maintenance funds in the landfill budget.

Supervisor Cruely advised that the Mayor of Pocahontas had already called to thank him for taking care of this problem for the citizens who use Boissevain.

Mr. Dunford stated that AAA Energy, Inc., has been authorized to clean up the stormwater pond at the landfill at a cost of \$45,000. Mr. Dunford stated, he believes they started last Friday on the cleanup.

### ***Cedar Bluff Transfer Station***

Mr. Dunford announced that only one (1) bid was received for renovations; A & A Energy bid \$976,500.00. Mr. Dunford suggests doing some geo tech work first and then put the job back out to bid.

The Supervisors discussed possible solutions for the transfer station; such as installing ramps, going back to the trailer and compactor setup or relocation of the site. However, due to monetary restraints the Board agreed with Mr. Dunford's suggestion of performing some geo tech work and then putting the job back out to bid and increasing the completion timeframe.

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, the Board hereby moves to reject the bid from A & A Energy for \$976,500.00.

### ***VDOT***

Mr. Dunford called the Supervisors attention to the Resolution for Revenue Sharing with VDOT found inside their agenda packet. A copy of which is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651. Mr. Dunford explained the Resolution is in reference to the Amonate drainage project. Mr. Dunford further explained the CST has already committed the funds and the Board previously approved the project. However, we did not put it in the form of a Resolution. The funds will not be needed until fiscal year 2027, but the Resolution is needed as part of the application process.

Upon motion of Supervisor Hrovatic, seconded by Supervisor Cruely and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with all members present and voting in favor thereof, the Board hereby moves to approve the Resolution for Revenue Sharing between the Board of Supervisors and the Virginia Department of Transportation.

### ***Safe Streets for all Grant***

Mr. Dunford stated the Engineering Department has been working on the Safe Streets for all Study and are on track to finish on time. In doing so, we are in the process of setting up a committee. Mr. Dunford explained that a member of the Board is needed to serve on the committee and is asking that a member be appointed.

Supervisor Gillespie volunteered for the committee.

Upon motion of Supervisor Hrovatic, seconded by Supervisor Cruely and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with all members present and voting in favor thereof, the Board hereby moves to appoint Supervisor Gillespie to the Safe Streets for all Committee.

County Administrator Eric Young injected that for the benefit of the record; a Motion is also needed appointing Sheriff Brian Hieatt or his designee, the Superintendent of Schools or his designee, Mr. Barry Brooks or his designee one member of the Planning Commission, Curtis Breeding from the Coal Severance Committee and a representative from VDOT to the Safe Streets for all Committee as well.

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruely, seconded by Supervisor Hrovatic and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with all members present and voting in favor thereof, the Board hereby moves to appoint Chairman Aaron Gillespie, Sheriff Brian Heatt or his designee, the Superintendent of Schools or his designee, Mr. Barry Brooks or his designee one member of the Planning Commission, Curtis Breeding from the Coal Severance Committee and a representative from VDOT to the Safe Streets for all Committee.

### ***Route 16 Billboard Contract***

Mr. Dunford stated that the bids had been received on the Route 16 billboard project. Mr. Dunford said the lowest bid came in at \$75,300 by Vance Graphics, LLC. He asked that the Board approve the bid pending legal review.

County Administrator Eric Young clarified that this project has been mainly funded through grants with the Shott Foundation and the Tobacco Commission. Mr. Young went on to state that the County has contributed approximately \$8,000 to this project.

Upon motion of Supervisor Gillespie seconded by Supervisor Plaster and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Hrovatic being absent from the vote and all others voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the Vance Graphics bid of \$75,300 pending legal review.

### ***Questions / Comments***

Mr. Dunford concluded his report and inquired if the Board had any questions or needed anything further.

County Administrator Eric Young queried Mr. Dunford if he had any comments concerning the upcoming Public Hearing regarding an ordinance to amend the 2023 Comprehensive Plan to include certain road improvements in Amonate?

Mr. Dunford replied, "This goes along with the Resolution you just passed; this is another requirement of VDOT. We have to have this in our plan in order to qualify. I took the wording straight from VDOT's Resolution. In order to amend the Comprehensive Plan, we must have a Public Hearing. But the Planning Commission already approved the changes in June."

### **EXECUTIVE/CLOSED MEETING – 6:05 pm**

Due to the second Executive Session only having one personnel matter to discuss, County Administrator Eric Young asked that the Board move that matter to the first Executive Session therefore eliminating the need for a second session.

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 hereby moves the personnel matter to the current meeting and enters into an Executive/Closed meeting and invites all persons necessary to conduct business in this session, pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711.

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

- ▶ A(29) Contract negotiations regarding Leachate Design Contract with Schnabel.
- ▶ ~~A(5) Discussion regarding the location or expansion of a business when incentive bargaining is involved regarding project RESORT~~
- ▶ A(29) Contract negotiations regarding PSA agreement for project JONAH
- ▶ A(7) Legal consultation regarding TCVFD
- ▶ A(7) Legal consultation regarding potential claim by Nicholas Richmond
- ▶ A(3) Property acquisition in North Tazewell Virginia
- ▶ A(1) Personnel in administration
- ▶ A(3) *Property acquisition in Cove Creek (added by Motion)*

**RETURN/CERTIFICATION/REPORT OF ACTION – 7:13 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: Three (3)

## **ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION**

### ***Approve contract negotiations regarding Leachate Design Contract with Schnabel***

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 approves the contract with Schnabel Engineering to design the new Leachate tank site and tank in the amount of \$94,000 and authorize them to proceed.

### ***Approve contract negotiations regarding PSA agreement for project Jonah***

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 approves the contract with Schnabel Engineering to inspect construction of that portion of the landfill damaged by Helene for \$224,000 but not authorize to not proceed at this time.

### ***Stipend for Flood Relief Program***

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 give Stephanie Russell the \$400 per month stipend for the Flood Relief Program that was previously approved for Susan Jewell who has left her position with the County.

In addition, County Administrator Eric Young expressed his gratitude to Stephanie Russell for helping to pick up the slack due to Ms. Jewell's departure and further thanked the Board for their help and guidance for Mrs. Russell.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### ***Public Hearing regarding an ordinance to amend the 2023 Comprehensive Plan to include certain road improvements in Amonate***

Supervisor Gillespie asked County Administrator Eric Young for any debrief on this matter. Mr. Young explained this was the project County Engineer Ken Dunford spoke of before he left earlier in the meeting. VDOT wishes to make improvements to certain roads in Amonate and they are able to get grant funding to do this if it's included in the County's Five-Year Comprehensive Plan. Therefore, VDOT has asked us to amend our plan to include the project in the plan.

Chairman Gillespie opened the floor for public comments. Hearing none, Supervisor Gillespie called a second time for public comments, either in person or over the phone. Hearing none, Supervisor Gillespie made a third and final calling for public comments either in person or over the phone. Being none, Supervisor Gillespie closed the Public Hearing.

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 voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the ordinance to amend the 2023 Comprehensive Plan to include certain road improvements in Amonate. A copy of the Ordinance is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

***Public Hearing regarding application to DHCD for a grant for Leachate Tank construction at the Landfill***  
County Administrator Eric Young previously requested that this Public Hearing be added back into the agenda with the Board approving the request via a unanimous Motion.

Chairman Gillespie opened the floor for public comment. Hearing none, Supervisor Gillespie called a second time for public comments, either in person or over the phone. Hearing none, Supervisor Gillespie made a third and final calling for public comments either in person or over the phone. Being none, Supervisor Gillespie closed the Public Hearing.

Supervisor Gillespie went on to explain it was his understanding that this matter will be advertised again and will be heard at next month's Board meeting as well. County Administrator Eric Young replied in the affirmative and said, "actually we will have two (2) additional Public Hearings regarding this matter. One at the end of September and one in October at the next Board meeting."

### **CITIZEN COMMENTS - SCHEDULED**

*None*

### **CITIZEN COMMENTS - UNSCHEDULED**

Chairman Gillespie having opened the floor for citizen comments.

#### **Emily Combs Davis, Tazewell, VA**

Emily Combs Davis, Executive Director with Tazewell Today, comes before the Board to discuss the Community Walking Visioning Tour. Partnering with Main Street and Friends of Southwest Virginia, Ms. Davis has set up a walk down Main Street on Thursday, September 18, 2025, beginning at 6:00 p.m. This walk with fellow residents, business owners and community leaders is for sharing your ideas for vacant and underutilized properties. Ms. Davis's hope is to turn vacant properties into potential projects or ideas for new businesses and invites the Board members to attend or share their thoughts and comments. Ms. Davis provided a handout to the Board detailing the program. A copy of the handout is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

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

#### ***Robert Duff – Personalized Drawings***

County Administrator Eric Young explained that this matter was carried over from the August Board meeting at the Supervisors' request. Mr. Young further explained Robert Duff was the artist who created the drawings of the high schools in the County for upcoming graduates. The total cost for all high school graduates in Tazewell County to get a personalized drawing of their respective high school is \$3,866. Mr. Young continued by saying Mr. Duff has said he would also like to donate a drawing of the Courthouse to the County as a thank you.

Supervisor Gillespie inquired to the Board, "how many years has the Board been doing this for the students?" Supervisor Plaster responded, "4 or 5 years, my son graduated in 2021 and received one, but I don't believe my daughter did in 2019."

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 purchase the personalized school drawings for graduates from Robert Duff; \$773.20 from the Eastern District Fund, \$773.20 from the Western District Fund, \$773.20 from the North Western Capital Improvement Fund, \$773.20 from the Southern Capital Improvement Fund and \$773.20 from the Northern Capital Improvement Fund.

***Consider renewing Merchant McIntyre contract for one year at the same fee as 2018***

Supervisor Gillespie stated Merchant McIntyre helps the County to navigate the turbulent waters of finances and grants how the County can get the best bang for our buck on projects. They have been a tremendous asset.

County Administrator Eric Young stated that the handout inside the packet shows 12 million dollars in grant funds the County has received for projects due to Merchant McIntyre since 2018. Mr. Young further stated he thought it was remarkable that Merchant McIntyre have not gone up on their rate since 2018.

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 against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves to renew the contract with Merchant McIntyre for one year at the same fee as 2018.

***Consider renewing the Merchant McIntyre Grant Representation Agreement***

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruvey, 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 renewing the Merchant McIntyre Grant Representation Agreement.

***Consider approving AASC Four County Transit Contract for FY26***

County Administrator Eric Young stated the County pays Appalachian Agency for Senior Citizens annually to run the Four County Transit service. This year the fee is \$77,091 and we budgeted \$77,500. Mr. Young further stated that this is a wonderful service for the citizens; college students use it to get to school, seniors to do their shopping, people who don't have transportation. The County has had this program for a long time and it has been very beneficial.

Supervisor Cruvey agreed stating this really helps the under privileged in our society and gives people the opportunity to get to work or get to the store.

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 against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the contract with AASC Four County Transit for FY26.

***Baptist Valley Convenience Center Lease***

County Administrator Eric Young explained he wanted to bring this matter before the Board. Mr. Young stated he has spoken with David Kidd, who's the son of the owner of the land we lease for the Baptist Valley Convenience Center and they no longer want this on their land. Mr. Kidd told Mr. Young that they are trying to sale the property and this is hindering it. Administrator Young said they offered to sale the County the property and we looked at it as a possible site for the fire station, but we felt like it was overpriced by about a million dollars for what we would have used it for. Mr. Young stated he believes it's time to look at possible new sites and has asked Mr. Dunford to look at a couple areas; one being the Fairgrounds, since we have a dumpster there

now and it has an access road where you can come in on the backside or potentially the front side of the damn at Cavitt's Creek, you can't see it from the park, it's flat and accessible.

Supervisor Cruvey injected that he believed the residents in that area would have a major problem with Cavitt's Creek being the new site of the convenience center. Supervisor Cruvey asked if it was possible to purchase just the area that the convenience center sits at now, without buying the whole property.

Administrator Young replied that he did not believe the owner would do that, as the current tenant on the property is always complaining that he is unable to come and go because people always have that bay blocked. Actually, I have a few pictures for everyone. Mr. Young explained that the signs posted specifically state household trash only. As you can see from the pictures, this is not household trash. We get a lot of contractors who come out and dump anything and everything. Mr. Young went on to say that this site's traffic was the same or more than Cedar Bluff.

Supervisor Cruvey stated this site probably had traffic from people coming from the West Virginia side as well. However, Mr. Cruvey agreed that this location was definitely needed as it services many residents in that area; Grassy Spur, Dry Fork, Mud Fork, Baptist Valley, Stoney Ridge, etc. If we shut down or move that site, people are just going to start dumping it wherever and then that puts a strain on the Sheriff's Office also.

County Administrator Eric Young replied that in 2014 when we acquired this spot, we looked for a long time and had trouble finding a suitable area. However, money does solve a lot of problems, so maybe we could go back to the owner and offer to raise the rent. Mr. Young continued that twice before when this issue presented itself that seemed to solve the issue. Mr. Young said currently he believed the rent is \$3,000 a year.

Supervisor Cruvey agreed maybe we could up the rent a little bit. If we had to do litter pick-up that would probably cost more than \$3,000 alone.

Supervisor Gillespie reminded the Board that only covers the rent, the County still has to pay Republic for hauling the trash, the landfill has costs once it is received, and so on.

A discussion among the Board members ensued regarding having the sites manned by someone, but decided it was cost prohibited.

Supervisor Cruvey suggested Material Drive as a possible new site. Administrator Young countered with the option to ride through Baptist Valley with Mr. Dunford and look at possible alternatives one afternoon. Supervisor Cruvey agreed.

### ***Abbs Valley Sewer Project***

Administrator Young stated he brought this issue up due to a citizen, David Phipps, inquiring about the status of the Abbs Valley sewer project. Mr. Young said the County looked at this project twelve (12) years ago and then eight (8) years ago we looked again, and the major problem we found was Abbs Valley is very far from a sewer plant and we would have to run a lot of lines in order to pump the sewer. The estimate twelve years ago from T & L was around 10 million, according to Young. However, after speaking with Mr. Chitwood and he said that number has easily doubled and we would be looking at 20 million.

Supervisor Cruvey asked if grants could be a possible answer? Administrator Young stated grants could be a possible source, as well as low interest loans. However, the last time we spoke to residents in that area at a

Community Event they were very hostile and did not want to pick up a sewer bill, replied Young. Mr. Young offered to have another Community Meeting to gauge the response and need. Supervisor Cruvey agreed and asked to let him know when it was and he would attend.

***Consider declaring surplus and disposing of certain office items in the courthouse***

Administrator Young stated the Clerk of the Courts had submitted a list of outdated/surplus office equipment that needs to be disposed of. Mr. Young said the list was inside the agenda packet and the Board must vote before anything can be discarded. A copy of the surplus office equipment is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

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 against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves declaring the office equipment as surplus and disposing same. A copy of the surplus office equipment is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

***School board facilities funding request***

County Administrator Eric Young stated for a couple years we have had the school board facilities fund and requested that the school board come to us before that money can be spent. Mr. Young stated the invoices for the needed school repairs are inside the packet. These funds will cover an engineering study to repair the wall at Tazewell High School (\$74,950), restroom renovation design for the restrooms in all three high schools (\$126,500) and to replace the heating system at Tazewell Middle School (1.32 million).

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 against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the County Administrator to pay the vendors directly with the school board facilities fund, i.e. Thompson and Litton for the engineering study to repair the wall at Tazewell High School (\$74,950), Thompson and Litton for the restroom renovation design (\$126,500) and (1.32 million) to Trane for the replacement of the heating system at Tazewell Middle School.

***Consider advertising to borrow up to \$5m for construction costs: {leachate tank at the landfill; repair and renovation of existing fire stations; construction of a new fire station; road improvements and water and sewer improvements}***

Administrator Young stated the County has a few projects that are going to be big cost items. One of these is going to be a new Leachate Tank at the Landfill. Young said, the one we have now is working, but it is 30 years old and not big enough. Another issue is the line connecting the tank to the PSA can only take so much at a time. Mr. Young continued that currently when no more Leachate can be taken, we have to haul it to Bluefield, West Virginia and they charge us 20 cents a gallon to take it whereas Tazewell charges us 1 cent to take it. An invoice I signed in July was \$77,000 to the Sanitary Board in Bluefield, West Virginia, because we reached our limit. Mr. Young stated that on average the County usually spends between \$200,000 to \$300,000 per year to haul Leachate. So, in theory if we had a second tank that would hold it and drain slowly to the Town of Tazewell and be treated for a penny a gallon instead of 20 cents a gallon. Mr. Young stated that after discussing with a few contractors and Mr. Dunford getting a couple estimates, we feel like it's going to cost around 2.1 to 2.5 million dollars. This is counting engineering, permitting, site design, etc. We are applying to the State for a \$500,000 grant and are hopeful.

Knowing this was needed, Mr. Young stated he reached out to Davenport who is the County's financial advisor. Since there is a cost to borrow money, typically around \$30,000, Davenport suggested borrowing the 5 million;

using 2.5 for the Leachate tank and the other 2.5 for the Fire Station or for water and sewer projects, this would save us the closing costs to borrow later. Mr. Young went on to say, currently we have debt payments that drop off after 2026; so, Davenport suggested structuring the loan so we don't borrow until the Spring and they could defer our payments out to where our current payment goes away and this payment will take its place.

Mr. Young stated he believes this can wait until February to be voted on, since after talking with Schnabel once we get the design the permitting process with the DEQ is 6 months for the Leachate tank to get approved.

***Debt reimbursement resolution***

Administrator Young explained this resolution ties in with the borrowing 5m for construction costs. Mr. Young said voting on this resolution gives the County the ability to pay itself back for any money we spent on those projects before the loan closes, should we get the loan.

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 debt reimbursement resolution. A copy of the debt reimbursement resolution is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

***Consider ratifying a poll to donate \$2,5000 from the Northwestern District and \$2,500.00 from the Western District to the Cedar Bluff Fall Festival payable to the town of Cedar Bluff***

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 donating \$2,5000 from the Northwestern District and \$2,500.00 from the Western District to the Cedar Bluff Fall Festival payable to the town of Cedar Bluff.

***Consider ratifying poll to extend SVCC scholarship programs for students enrolled as of September 1<sup>st</sup>, even if they missed May 1<sup>st</sup> application deadline***

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 extending SVCC scholarship programs for students enrolled as of September 1<sup>st</sup>, even if they missed May 1<sup>st</sup> application deadline.

***Consider Commissioner of Revenue request to abate erroneous tax assessment of \$9,288 for LCTA Investments.***

County Administrator Eric Young stated he spoke with David Anderson the Commissioner of Revenue, and Commissioner Anderson was the one who requested this abatement. Mr. Young continued that LCTA filed a personal property tax return on these mobile homes, but Commissioner Anderson had already taxed them as real estate.

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 against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the Commissioner of Revenue's request to abate the erroneous tax assessment of \$9,288 for LCTA Investments.

***Flood grant update***

Administrator Young provided an update on the flood grant. Mr. Young stated there were 32 applications from property owners; of those we have issued 7 denial letters with 1 appealing the denial and we have approved 10

which we have forwarded to DHCD. Currently, the DHCD has reviewed and approved 4 and are working on the other 6 we submitted. Mr. Young went on to say that the remaining 15 are currently being worked on. Mr. Young continued that he had received notice from the State that we were approved for a grant for flood mitigation which we applied for back in the summer. We had applied for generators, satellite phones, string beacons and some rental assistance. Mr. Young stated the approval did not specify which items the County was approved; I'm unsure whether it was all or only some. Mr. Young told the Board he would keep them updated on any subsequent notice.

#### ***Cavitt's Creek grant update / CPROP application***

Mr. Young explained to the Board that the CPROP grant at Cumberland Plateau is something the County could use for broadband service, I feel it would benefit economic development and some degree tourism. Mr. Young continued that last year we were awarded a CPROP grant to build bathhouses at Cavitt's Creek and then we received a donation from the Thompson Foundation for \$120,000 for a beach at Cavitt's Creek.

Mr. Young further stated that he met with Scottie Wampler regarding another possible CPROP grant for widening the roadway for easier access to the beach or possibly building two (2) more rental cabins.

Upon motion of Supervisor Gillespie seconded by Supervisor Cruet 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 request to apply for CPROP grant for two (2) more rental cabins.

#### ***Landfill tire update***

County Administrator Eric Young advised the Board that the landfill was still struggling with tires. Mr. Young explained that Lusk was the one we went to, but they are no longer accepting tires. This leaves Bland County as an option since they have a tire shredder. Mr. Young expressed he was having Mr. Dunford work on getting a number on what it is going to cost to shred the tires if we take them to Bland. Mr. Young said currently the landfill charges \$2.00 per tire, so we are probably looking at \$40,000 a year or more for shredding.

Supervisor Gillespie mentioned that the number will just keep increasing year after year.

#### ***Consider surplus of 1996 Ford F-250 (VIN # 2FTHF26G6TCA36516) and donate to Bishop Volunteer Fire Department***

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruet 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 surplus of the 1996 Ford F-250 (VIN # 2FTHF26G6TCA36516) and donate to Bishop Volunteer Fire Department.

#### ***Virginia Enterprise Zone***

Administrator Young stated there has been a committee working since January adding areas to the enterprise zone and deleting others from it. Mr. Young explained the Code states that if you add jobs or invest in taxable business assets that you qualify for incentives from the County as well as the State, i.e. personal property tax breaks on the local level and sales tax incentives on the State level if you build in one of these enterprise zones. He said, the problem we face is we are only allowed a certain amount of acreage, so if you add an acre here, you have to take out an acre somewhere else. Currently, we are maxed out on our acreage and have to remove some.

A discussion between Board members ensued regarding which areas were removed and which were added. All agreed it was hard to tell with the current handout of the updated map.

Mr. Young stated he would have Economic Director Tim Danielson at the hearing to answer any questions.

Upon motion of Supervisor Presley seconded by Supervisor Gillespie and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Cruey being absent from the vote, and all others voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the request to hold a public hearing on the updated Virginia Enterprise Zone.

***Supplemental budget request***

County Administrator Eric Young called the Board's attention to the updated supplemental budget spreadsheet. A copy of the Supplemental Budget Request spreadsheet is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

Mr. Young explained that we had some revenues come in a little higher than we previously anticipated; the casino revenue we budgeted \$900,000 and received \$941,860, the Regional Jail we budgeted \$746,000 and we received \$316,000 in return on that one above the estimate. Young continued by saying, we received \$151,000 back from the Health Department unexpectedly. Mr. Young stated everything totals 1.639 m. that we have, which we did not budget for and I am asking to spend that money on a couple things. Firstly, he said, we committed to spend the Casino revenue on public safety so the \$41,860, I would like to spend on fire station repairs. Also, if you remember Barry Brooks came in right after our budget was finalized and requested three (3) Life Track Monitors, so I would like to purchase one (1) of those since we have the new ambulances.

Mr. Young went on to say the Sheriff's Office has reported that their Tasers are expiring and to replace half now it's going to cost \$125,000. Mr. Young noted funds are needed to pay late invoices submitted for Richlands and Tazewell EMS services. Mr. Young further stated he was hopeful we could use the health department money on the late invoices. Mr. Young concluded by saying the remainder would be placed into a Capital Improvement Fund for projects that may go over budget.

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 request to set a Public Hearing for the Supplemental Budget Appropriations.

**SUPERVISOR CONCERNS**

***Supervisor Presley***

Supervisor Presley noted, he had one thing to discuss, the ESC Dinner in October has that been budgeted? Mr. Young replied he thought it had been; maybe three or four thousand dollars, but I will check and let you know.

***Supervisor Cruey***

Supervisor Cruey commented, Virginia Tech recently came to Amonate for the World History Grant work. However, while there one of the members from Virginia Tech's team left their car in drive and it pinned them against a building. No matter what we tried be it the radio, landline or cell phone we could not get a signal out. Is there any way we could get a satellite phone for that area? Mr. Young answered the County could buy one but you would have to have the subscription that goes along with it every month and it is rather pricey. Mr. Young advised he would follow up and let Supervisor Cruey know the amount of the subscription.

### ***Supervisor Gillespie***

Supervisor Gillespie stated, the only thing I have to discuss is that the Tazewell County Bar Association requested and then passed a Resolution to eliminate the Law Library Fund. This fund also serves the Court Improvement Fund as well and I believe it was a little short sighted to get rid of that fund.

County Administrator Eric Young replied that an average of \$8,400 was received per year from the filing surcharge. However, the County paid \$12,000 to \$13,000 for the online subscriptions for the public's use. Mr. Young continued, so the Board was actually paying the \$5,000 per year difference to fund the law library. However, he was not aware that this covered the Court Improvement Fund which provides the security, repairs, etc. Administrator Young stated once the Resolution is sent, he would take a look at it and then we can discuss it further.

Supervisor Gillespie agreed and said he thought it was a mistake to get rid of the fund since it does cover the security aspect for the Courthouse and it may even bring some type of civil liability in the future.

### **Appointments**

#### ***Planning Commission***

The Chairman directed that this matter be deferred to the October 7, 2025 meeting.

#### ***Tourism***

The Chairman directed that this matter be deferred to the October 7, 2025 meeting.

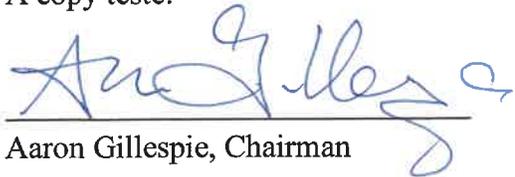
#### ***Tazewell County Fire-Rescue***

The Chairman directed that this matter be deferred to the October 7, 2025 meeting.

### **ADJOURN**

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruet, 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, October 7, 2025 at 4:00 pm.

A copy teste:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Aaron Gillespie". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Aaron Gillespie, Chairman

