

VIRGINIA: AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TAZEWELL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD NOVEMBER 6, 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
BRAD GIBSON, ASSISTANT
MEMBERS OF THE PRESS:
JIM TALBERT, RICHLANDS NEWS PRESS
WARREN HINKLE, THE VOICE

ABSENT: NONE

MINUTES

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

Supervisor Hrovatic 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 Chairman called for any additions/deletions to the agenda. County Administrator Eric Young explained that Stephanie Russell, Executive Assistant to the Board of Supervisors, is on vacation this week and Brad Gibson is covering the meeting tonight in Mrs. Russell's absence. Mr. Young stated, due to Mrs. Russell's absence, there is not a revised agenda but there are a few items to add to the agenda; under Executive Session A(1) personnel matter regarding the Tazewell County Volunteer Firefighter Chief, item A(8) legal consultation regarding the Tazewell County Volunteer Fire Department, item A(1) personnel matter in Maintenance.

Chairman Aaron Gillespie stated he would like to add to Mr. Young's request by adding to the Consent Calendar, item 6, subsection D, to reflect the surplus of a vehicle - 2014 Ford Explorer VIN 1FM5K8B80EGA38646, with approximately 170,000 miles.

The Chairman made a second call, for any additional 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 proposed November 6, 2025 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 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 October 7, 2025 meeting. A copy is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Supervisor Cruely requested that the added item of D be removed for a separate vote.

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 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 Presley and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0 with all members present and Supervisor Cruely 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. 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.

1. 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. Refund for erroneous payment – Now Applications, LLC, in the amount of \$500.00
- D. Declare surplus a 2014 Ford Explorer from the Sheriff’s Office, VIN 1FM5K8B80EGA38646, with approximately 170,000 miles.

**Consent Calendar Items
November 6, 2025 Meeting**

Source	Check #	To Acct	Amt	Description
Natasha Hunt	5034	73010-1150	\$200.00	Payroll reimbursement
Natasha Hunt	5035	73010-1150	\$200.00	Payroll reimbursement

Public Safety Grant		31020-1150	\$23,808.13	Compensation July – Sept 2025
Black Knight Data & Analytics	1000002626	12090-6001	\$250.00	Release of Tazewell County’s Real Estate Records
Susan Weaver	5082	035600-8109-15	\$100.00	TCSO Donation – Project Lifesaver
Zillow Group	29868	12090-6001	\$250.00	Release of Tazewell County’s Real Estate Records
Fostina Byrd	3494	7301-3099	\$100.00	Donation to the Library
Cody Rowe	Cash	31020-6010	\$500.00	Purchase of used kennel
CMCS	249989	31020-1150	\$2,262.38	Reimbursement for overtime for CITAC officers

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Sheriff Brian Hieatt – Pinning Deputies for the National EMT Board

Sheriff Brian Hieatt with the Tazewell County Sheriff’s Office (TCSO) was in attendance to recognize five (5) Tazewell County Sheriff Deputies for completing their National EMT Boards. Sheriff Hieatt spoke briefly on the importance of the EMT program and working side by side with our rescue squads, namely when the Sheriff’s Department are first on the scene, the deputies are able to access the situation and, in some cases, begin treatment while rescue services are in route.

Sheriff Hieatt stated that with the \$15,000 grant received from Norfolk and Southern the TCSO was able to send these five deputies through the EMT class in addition to paying for the books and training materials. Sheriff Hieatt further stated that since implementing the EMT program, he has received numerous calls throughout the country seeking guidance on how they can establish a similar program in their individual jurisdictions.

Sheriff Hieatt then called the five (5) new EMTs to come forward for their pin. In closing, Sheriff Hieatt wanted to personally thank Barry Brooks, EMS Director, for all of his help, knowledge and support.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Engineering – Kenneth Dunford

Cavitt's Creek

Mr. Dunford advised the Board that the annual inspection of the dam at Cavitt's Creek had been completed. Mr. Dunford stated that the inspection received a satisfactory rating, which is the highest rating you can receive.

Touchstone Road

Mr. Dunford noted that the Touchstone Road sign has been put in place.

Richlands School Drainage Issue

Mr. Dunford reported to the Board that he was currently working on getting a contractor for the drainage problem at the elementary school in Richlands. Mr. Dunford notified the Board that there had been some revisions made to the plans, so we have had to go back and forth with the contractor. Mr. Dunford stated that a plan should be in place relatively soon to carry us throughout the winter months, until we can get to the main part of the work needed for the project.

County Administrator Eric Young injected for the benefit of the public, the Board approved an Emergency Procurement at last meeting, up to \$100,000 for this project. Mr. Young continued that the low bid we received for this project came in at \$277,000, thus the need for revisions to bring the project back under budget. Mr. Young went on to say that working with RES, our engineering firm; in addition to work the Town of Richlands has completed, we have made some head way on this project which should ensure that those schools do not flood this winter.

Safe Streets for All

Chairman Gillespie requested that County Engineer, Ken Dunford, give a summary of last month's Safe Streets for All meeting.

Engineer Ken Dunford obliged and gave a high-level overview of the meeting with consultants to Xcel. Mr. Dunford advised that the consultants looked at several items and they created a high-injury network of the County's roadways. The consultants were looking at five areas of interest, listing various injuries and debts and then breaking it down even further with distracted drivers, impaired drivers, speeding, etc. Mr. Dunford further advised that the consultants also looked at cell coverage in our area, since some places do not have radio and cell coverage. Mr. Dunford stated that he would forward via email a copy of the report to each supervisor, along with several ideas/solutions which were discussed during the meeting.

Chairman Gillespie further spoke on the attendance at the meeting, advising that a plethora of groups either attended or had representation, such as first responders, Board of Supervisors, school systems and business owners. Supervisor Gillespie concluded by saying the consultants were looking at doing some speed limit studies.

Mr. Dunford stated that the next meeting is currently scheduled for December. Mr. Dunford also stated that this data can be used to apply for implementation for other grants.

Questions / Comments

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

Supervisors Presley and Crucey inquired about a possible list of the roadways which currently have gravel and/or drainage issues.

Mr. Dunford responded that his goal is to have a list ready for the December Board meeting so the list can be submitted to the Coal Severance Committee. Mr. Dunford said he tried to make sure that either a road or group of roads from each district was included on the list and he believes currently his list consists of eight (8) roads. Mr. Dunford went on to say that all of the roads that were on the paving list for this year have been completed.

Supervisor Presley requested that Covington be added to the list and Mr. Dunford agreed.

Administrator Young requested that Mr. Dunford stay for the Executive Session to discuss a few outstanding matters.

EXECUTIVE/CLOSED MEETING – 4:32 pm

Upon motion of Supervisor Hrovatic, seconded by Supervisor Cruet 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(3) Easement acquisition Clear Fork
- ▶ A(3) Property acquisition Baptist Valley
- ▶ A(3) Property acquisition North Tazewell
- ▶ A(29) Contract negotiations Jonah Water Agreement
- ▶ A(29) Contract negotiations Richlands Water Agreement
- ▶ A(1) Personnel matter – County Attorney
- ▶ A(29) Contract negotiations with VLM
- ▶ A(1) Personnel matter regarding the Tazewell County Volunteer Firefighter Chief
- ▶ A(8) Legal consultation regarding the Tazewell County Volunteer Fire Department
- ▶ A(1) Personnel matter - Maintenance

RETURN/CERTIFICATION/REPORT OF ACTION – 6:46 pm

The Board of Supervisors returned to public session and Supervisor Cruet 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: Six (6)

ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

Revise grant offer to Victory Life Ministries, LLC

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 voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby moves to revise the grant offer to Victory Life Ministries LLC, to extend the time in which they have to construct their facility from December 31, 2027 until March 31, 2028 and to provide that, should they be required to repay the grant, or any portion of the grant, according to the terms of the agreement, they be permitted to do so in five equal annual payments beginning July 1, 2028 without interest.

Resignation of Scott Cornwell

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 and no one voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby moves to accept Scott Cornwell's resignation as Chief for the Tazewell County Volunteer Fire Department.

Temporarily suspend operations for the Tazewell County Volunteer Fire Department

Upon motion of Supervisor Hrovatic, seconded by Supervisor Presley and adopted by a vote of 4 to 1 with all members present and Supervisor Gillespie voting against, all others voting in favor thereof, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby orders the Tazewell County Volunteer Fire Department to temporarily suspend operations pursuant to Virginia Code Section §27-10 until January 15, 2026.

Solicit for applications for the position of County Attorney

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruely 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 moves to solicit applications for the position of County Attorney with such applications being due from interested parties by no later than November 30, 2025, such that we may conduct interviews and select a qualified candidate by the end of the calendar year. I further move that we solicit proposals from qualified attorneys and law firms to perform county legal work on a contractual basis, with such proposals being due November 30, 2025.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearing for an Ordinance to prohibit all-terrain vehicle travel on public rights of way in Burkes Garden Fire District

Chairman Gillespie opened the floor for public comments.

Mike Hinsley – 6050 Burkes Garden Rd

Mr. Hinsley is a four-year resident, with his wife's family living in Burkes Garden since 1810. Burkes Garden is pastoral and we intend to keep it that way. Mr. Hinsley agrees with this Ordinance for the most part, he has fears that the new resort could use some of the vague language in the Ordinance as a loop hole to allow an ATV resort.

Chairman Gillespie opened the floor a second time for public comments as it relates to this Ordinance.

Tamara Blackburn – 259 Blackberry Ln, Tazewell, VA

Ms. Blackburn has been in Burkes Garden since 1987. Ms. Blackburn wanted to know who was going to enforce the Ordinance.

County Administrator Eric Young advised that the Tazewell County Sheriff's Office would enforce the Ordinance.

Ms. Blackburn questioned if the residents had to call the Sheriff's Office?

Supervisor Presley answered in the affirmative.

Supervisor Cruely further stated it would be the same if any one was breaking the law, the resident would have to call to report the crime.

Ms. Blackburn wanted to know the fee for the misdemeanor violation?

Supervisor Gillespie answered that the crime was classified as a Class IV misdemeanor and the fine could be between \$250 - \$500.

Ms. Blackburn said she has family from North Carolina who come to ride ATVs in Burkes Garden. Will they need written permission?

Administrator Young advised that no one should be on the roads with ATVs in Burkes Garden or any state roads for that matter. Under the current laws they cannot operate ATVs on public roadways at all.

Ms. Blackburn responded, what if they are licensed and insured?

Supervisor Cruely stated there are few exemptions allowed under VA Code 46.2-915.1, such as for farming, but ATVs are not allowed on public roadways.

Ms. Blackburn went on to ask about if you have to have a license to drive an ATVs for farm use and giving people written permission to ride ATVs.

Administrator Young advised that while on your property you can give someone permission to ride ATVs, but they can not ride on the public roadways, whether they are licensed or insured.

Ms. Blackburn stated that there were a lot of people who already ride ATVs in Burkes Garden and its not for farm use. The Amish ride them up and down the road, the kids ride them, everybody does it. The real reason for this meeting is for the resort, not the ATVs. It's the fear of what might come with the resort. You can't use the Amish as an excuse of not riding the ATVs when they ride the ATVs themselves. My property borders where the resort is going to be so I am very interested in this matter. I think it needs to be said that Burkes Garden is not McDowell County, the residents of Burkes Garden work a job every day and people there use ATVs every day. I think we need to be careful as a whole, when we place an ordinance because it could be seen as zoning.

Discussion between the County Administrator and the Chairman ensued and for benefit of the record, reminded the public that there is a two-minute limit to all unscheduled public comments.

Justin Thomas – 154 Mountain View Ln

I am for ATVs on the road, it promotes tourism. If a resort in Burkes Garden means that it brings growth then I am for it. Burkes Garden will not be McDowell County and that comes from a man with family in both McDowell County and Burkes Garden. Tazewell County is a red state. We are a free country. If I can legally operate a vehicle, I should be able to drive in Tazewell County. As long as people drive respectfully and follow the law, I am for it.

Jody White – 2554 Banks Ridge Rd

My husband and I make our living in Burkes Garden. We own a cattle farm and we use ATVs to operate the farm. Just this morning I came across a sheriff's car with its lights on. I knew that this meant an 18-wheeler was coming. A tourist might not be aware of that. We do not need more people on our roadways than what we can help. We do not know who these people are, or what their intentions are.

Fred Lawson – 3230 Goose Mill Rd

There is a state law that protects farmers that allows them to traverse roadways using their farm equipment. They can travel up to 20 miles from point to point. As well as the large Amish community that represent 38% of the Burkes Garden population. They use scooters, horse & buggy, and foot as a means of transportation. This community would be in danger if ATVs were allowed on the roadway. I grew up in McDowell County. I hear how much money is being brought in, yet the roads are a mess and they don't have adequate drinking water. The taxable revenue isn't benefiting the people of McDowell County.

Kyle Kinser – 226 Pickett Hollow Rd

For the record, my grandmother on my dad's side came out of the east end of Burkes Garden. If they come out of Burkes Garden (the ATV riders), are you going to let them come over Cove Creek, come unto 61? Are you going to tie into Bluefield, into Tazewell so they can eat at Hardee's. We were up in Cove Creek waiting 3 hours for the fire department to respond to an incident. Sheriff Hieatt will need more deputies to catch violators, more EMS, more everything. Are we starting down a road that we can't come back from by doing this?

Jack Thompson – 905 Nye Valley Rd, Cove Creek, VA

The wrecks coming out of Bluefield, VA on the side-by-sides, the drunks and what not. My wife was run out of the road on Mountain Rd between Bluefield and Cove Creek, I just spent \$3800 out of my own pocket to fix the car. Some of the ATV riders went and torn down the fences and let the cattle out and it took 3 weeks to get all of the cattle put back up. Is this what you want to be bringing in here?

Chairman Gillespie having already opened the floor a second time for public comments, asked if anyone had any comment as it relates to this Ordinance.

Michelle Perkins – 440 Round Mountain Rd, Tazewell, VA

I've been riding ATVs in Pocahontas and Falls Mills, but I don't think this is appropriate for Burkes Garden. We want to preserve what we have there now. We are an agricultural area, so I support the ordinance.

Russell Stowers – 6949 Clearfork Rd

My mother was born in Burkes Garden. I have always considered Burkes Garden a second home. You have to look at this as the citizens who live there. Is it going to be worth what these citizens have to deal with day in and day out. Go in to McDowell County, pick a spot, and sit and listen and see if you want this in Burkes Garden. Tourism is going to stop coming into Burkes Garden if you allow this. They want to see the Amish community, not ATVs from down the road.

Melissa Lynch – 6172 Burkes Garden Rd

My family lives in Burkes Garden. When they get away, they like to come back and get refreshed from Burkes Garden. It is so peaceful. ATVs, we don't need that over there. They want the beautiful scenery, not ATVs.

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 expressed his gratitude to County Administrator/Interim County Attorney Mr. Young for drafting the ordinance. Supervisor Gillespie continued by saying, we don't often have a chance to draft actual legislation and this is a response to citizens actual concerns. In addition, I am satisfied with what you have submitted, I don't think this is overreaching as state code also follows through with this, Supervisor Gillespie stated. Many people brought up that this might have ties to a resort, I am not involved with any land acquisition that might be happening and we had an obligation to respect the citizens who came in to voice their support, Supervisor Gillespie concluded.

Upon motion of Supervisor Gillespie, seconded by Supervisor Crucey and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0 with all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby moves to approve the Ordinance as written. A copy of the Ordinance is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

Public Hearing to amend the Tazewell County Food and Beverage Tax Ordinance to exempt meals sold to charities, churches and non-profits

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.

Supervisor Hrovatic inquired on how this Ordinance was going to work, who does the burden of proof fall upon?

Administrator Young responded that he had spoken to Commissioner of Revenue, Dave Anderson, about this and he is going to audit the data his office receives. Commissioner Anderson can ask for any proof due to discrepancies between what is submitted to the state for sales tax and what is submitted to the county for meals tax, Mr. Young said.

Supervisor Gillespie mentioned that it will shift the burden onto the restaurant owners to keep more meticulous accounting.

Supervisor Plaster responded that the burden of the cost is on the business owner.

Upon motion of Supervisor Gillespie, seconded by Supervisor Hrovatic and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0 with all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby moves to approve the Ordinance as written. A copy of the Ordinance is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

CITIZEN COMMENTS - SCHEDULED

Kim Lawson – 118 Mutter Rd

I am asking for the street name to be changed from Mutter Rd to Lawson Dr in honor of my father-in-law and mother-in-law. They have purchased all of the property along the roadway and Ms. Lawson is asking that the road be renamed.

Administrator Young replied to Ms. Lawson, that the County would need a petition signed by all of the residents on Mutter Road in order to change the name, for example if there are any property owners along that road who do not have an address, but still own property.

Ms. Lawson responded that there are a total of five families/people on that road, three being Lawson and the other 2 are people who rent from property owned by The Lawsons'.

Mr. Young continued by saying the process in order to change the name of the road, would be the signed Petition and then the Board would have to vote to hold a Public Hearing. Mr. Young went on to say that Ms. Lawson could bring the signed petition to the December 2nd Board meeting. Mr. Young did mention that the Engineering Department would have to complete a 911 search to make sure that no other roads already had that name.

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 moves to hold a Public Hearing regarding the name change of Mutter Road to Lawson Drive at the December 2nd Board of Supervisor meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS - UNSCHEDULED

Chairman Gillespie having opened the floor for citizen comments.

BREAK - UNSCHEDULED

Chairman Gillespie stated that there is a need for a brief recess for ten (10) minutes.

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 moves to recess for ten (10) minutes.

Break – 7:34 p.m.

Reconvened – 7:51 p.m.

Robert's Rules of Order

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 suspension of Robert's Rules so the Board could more easily move about the agenda.

EASEMENT – CLEARFORK FIRE DEPARTMENT

Upon motion of Supervisor Gillespie, seconded by Supervisor Hrovatic and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0 with all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby moves we approve an easement agreement with Mr. and Mrs. Kelly Kidd for rights to a well and water lines to the well, for the benefit of the Clear Fork Fire department; that the County property may draw water from the well to serve the Department's property for so long as the property is used for a Fire Department; that the County will be responsible for maintaining lines serving the department's property; that the County is responsible for operating, maintaining, repairing and replacing the water pump serving both the Kidd property and the Department property for so long as the County maintains the property for the Department; and such other terms as are in the deed of easement discussed in executive session. I further request that the proposed deed be made a part of this motion. A copy of the Deed is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCIAL/COUNTY PROJECTS UPDATE

Consider ratifying a poll to cover short falls in drug court therapy program in the event of federal funding cuts

County Administrator Eric Young advised the Board via an earlier email poll of a potential short fall of \$30,000 in the drug court therapy program. While the program has been approved for federal funding, they are concerned with the ongoing federal cuts, Mr. Young continued. Mr. Young stated they are requesting that the Board cover any decrease in federal funding should that happen, to help cover any short falls. In my earlier poll to the Board, it had been agreed that the Board would cover up to \$30,000 from the Opioid Abuse Abatement Fund in the event federal funds were cut and now we need a Motion to ratify that poll, Mr. Young concluded.

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruey seconded by Supervisor Plaster and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Gillespie abstaining from the vote and all other members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves funding the drug court therapy program up to \$30,000 from the Opioid Abuse Abatement Fund, in the event of federal cuts to the program's federal funding.

SWVCC Festival of the Arts \$2,500 funding request

Administrator Eric Young notified the Board that South West Virginia Community College is requesting \$2,500 to help fund the Festival of the Arts. Mr. Young stated, he along with the Budget Committee, had been under the impression that these funds had been given to SWVCC last year to fund this request. However, we are unable to find that these funds were actually sent to the college, Mr. Young said.

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 paying the \$2,500 Festival of the Arts funding request to SWVCC, from the contingency fund.

Consider surplus of two 2013 Ford Taurus' VIN# 1FAHP2M84DG144969 & VIN#1FAHP2L85DG175892)

County Administrator Eric Young stated the TCSO has requested that the Board surplus two (2) vehicles.

Upon motion of Supervisor Hrovatic seconded by Supervisor Plaster and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Cruet abstaining from the vote and all other members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves to surplus the 2013 Ford Taurus, VIN #1FAHP2M84DG144969 and the 2013 Ford Taurus, VIN#1FAHP2L85DG175892.

Repeal Law Library fee charged for certain court filings

Administrator Young advised the Board that this matter had been carried over from the last meeting, this is the proposed Ordinance to eliminate the library fee charged for certain court filings and to close the law library at the Courthouse. Mr. Young stated he had spoken to Regina Roberts; since Ms. Roberts requested time to speak to the Bar Association on this matter.

Erica Galloway with the Tazewell County Library was in attendance and notified the Board that a meeting with the Tazewell County Bar Association had been set for November 18th and they were waiting to speak to them regarding this matter.

The Chairman directed that this matter be deferred to the December 2, 2025 meeting.

Consider Public Hearing to restructure Fire Protection Services

County Administrator Young reminded the Board that the County requested a study in 2012, conducted by the State, of our Fire Protection Services. In 2013, when we received the results, it stated that we lacked organization and coordination, the departments were spread too far apart and that each one individually was underfunded. Mr. Young said at that time we decided to hire a Chief, Barry Brooks, who came in and tried to fix the organizational process, to make sure that everyone was using the same radios, the same equipment. Mr. Young continued that the long-term project was to consolidate all of our smaller departments into a single department, so we could have more uniformity in training, more uniformity in procedures, in record keeping and so we could locate certain equipment quicker.

Mr. Young explained that over the last decade we have been working towards this goal. However, it has been more apparent that due to reduction in population and the lack of volunteerism in the County, it has been much harder to accomplish this goal. Mr. Young stated that the State's guidelines to qualify have changed and there are stricter state fire-fighter legislation, which means many who once qualified, no longer do and therefore cannot volunteer. Due to these changes, a part-time paid fire service has been the plan for many years, Mr. Young said. There was a watershed event earlier this year that could make this happen, when the Board enacted the meals tax, Mr. Young stated.

Mr. Young continued, working with the necessary committees we have prepared a proposed Ordinance and with this Ordinance we will establish three (3) types of fire departments; Article I. a part-time fire department, funded by the County using the meals tax; Article II. the consolidated fire company, this would replace the fire departments we have now, divided into three battalions with each having four districts, mirroring the twelve districts we currently have now and this would be staffed by volunteer firefighters, being the primary responder to incidents with the part-time station to back them up if needed; Article III Legacy Departments, allows the existing departments to still exist as a legal entity, providing support services to their district. This Ordinance

has an effective date of July 1, 2026, in order to resolve some of the issues such as; ownership of equipment, ownership of the station houses, gives time to elect their District Chiefs, prepare their roster and to decide what equipment is going to which department, Mr. Young said. There is an extensive set of by-laws, that every department will follow, instead of each department having their own individual by-laws, in addition the fire chiefs, Mr. Brooks and myself have added a Grievance clause to the by-laws to provide an avenue for firefighters to appeal certain decisions, Mr. Young stated. Mr. Young ended by saying, these by-laws were prepared over the last two years by the Fire Chiefs Association and were recommended by unanimous vote at their last meeting; with that in mind I have a red lined version of what was established at the meeting (hands out red-lined version), all I am asking for tonight is a motion to hold a public hearing on the Ordinance.

Upon motion of Supervisor Presley, 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 moves to hold a Public Hearing regarding the proposed Ordinance.

Flood grant update

Administrator Young provided an update on the flood grant. Mr. Young explained there were 45 applications from property owners; of those we have issued 16 denial letters, with 2 appealing the denial and we approved 1 of the appeals. Mr. Young stated we have forwarded 24 to DHCD. So far, 11 have been approved and we have distributed \$189,000 to those 11 applicants and we do still have 5 outstanding and hope to wrap it up by Christmas, Mr. Young said.

Richlands Elementary storm water update

Mr. Young stated that this matter had been discussed earlier this evening during Ken Dunford's engineering report.

Sinclair Crossing waterline extension design grant

Administrator Young explained that the cost for the Sinclair Crossing waterline extension would be approximately \$20,000. Mr. Young stated that Supervisor Hrovatic asked that these funds be spent out of his district road money funds, which I believe stands around \$18,900. Mr. Young further stated that the Baptist Valley convenience area will have to be relocated and I recommend that the Board makes an appropriation of \$100,000 from contingency, for the relocation of the convenience area, the roads that that Supervisor Hrovatic approved at the last meeting for the Sinclair Crossing design and add \$20,000 each to the Southern and Northwestern District Capital Funds.

Upon motion of Supervisor Hrovatic, seconded by Supervisor Presley and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves allocating \$100,000 from contingency fund for the relocation of the convenience area, the roads that that Supervisor Hrovatic approved at the last meeting for the Sinclair Crossing design and add \$20,000 each to the Southern and Northwestern District Capital Funds.

Ratify poll to amend VLM grant agreement

County Administrator Eric Young explained this matter had been taken care of during Executive Session earlier this evening.

Consider appropriating \$25,000 to RDA for Spearhead Trails FY25

County Administrator Eric Young requested \$25,000 to the RDA for the Spearhead Trails fiscal year 2025. Administrator Young explained this money had been budgeted but do to not having a quorum at the RDA meeting, to approve that appropriation, the money was not transferred.

Upon motion of Supervisor Plaster, seconded by Supervisor Crucey and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves allocating \$25,000 from contingency to the RDA for Spearhead Trails FY25.

AEP Lifepak grant

Mr. Young stated that we applied for a grant from AEP for first responders, to cover the cost of the Lifepak. Mr. Young continued, the supplemental budget approved in October included the cost of the Lifepak, so he asked the Board transfer \$35,000 of the funds approved for the Lifepak into contingency.

Upon motion of Supervisor Crucey 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 accepting the AEP grant of \$35,000 for the Lifepak and moving \$35,000 of the funds previously appropriated for the Lifepak into contingency.

Consider donating ambulance to EO

Administrator Young asked that this matter be deferred to the December 2, 2025 meeting

Flood mitigation grant update

Mr. Young stated that last summer we applied for flood mitigation monies for string beacons, satellite phones, rental assistance for persons flooded and for generators for our water and sewer pump stations for the PSA. We received notice last month that we were approved for \$597,000 for generators for our water and sewer pump stations. Mr. Young noted he is working with the PSA on this matter and that Cumberland Plateau is going to administer the grant for us.

Personnel policy revisions

Mr. Young explained he emailed a draft of the personnel policy revisions to the Board for their review and that the personnel committee was going to meet regarding the proposed revisions. Mr. Young advised he would have more on this topic at the December 2nd meeting.

Appointments

Tazewell County Fire-Rescue

The Chairman directed that this matter be deferred to the December 2, 2025 meeting.

Planning Commission

The Chairman directed that this matter be deferred to the December 2, 2025 meeting.

Tourism

The Chairman directed that this matter be deferred to the December 2, 2025 meeting.

Library Board of Trustees

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 reappoints Courtney Jennelle to serve on the Library Board of Trustees.

Tazewell County Airport Authority

The Chairman directed that this matter be deferred to the December 2, 2025 meeting.

Social Services Board

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 appoints Sheena Flanner to serve on the Social Services Board.

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruey, seconded by Supervisor Presley and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Gillespie abstaining and all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby reappoints April Morefield to serve on the Social Services Board.

Trail Blazer's Appeals Board

County Administrator Eric Young advised the Board that this committee has been abolished.

Tall Structures Appeals Board

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 reappoints Joyce Johnston to serve on the Tall Structures Appeals Board.

Local Board of Building Code Appeals

Upon motion of Supervisor Plaster, seconded by Supervisor Presley and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with and all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby reappoints all current members to serve on the Local Board of Building Code Appeals.

SWVA Alcohol Safety Action Program Policy Board

Upon motion of Supervisor Gillespie, seconded by Supervisor Presley and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Plaster abstaining and all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby reappoints Chris Plaster to serve on the SWVA Alcohol Safety Action Program Policy Board.

Upper Tennessee River Roundtable (UTRR)

Upon motion of Supervisor Plaster, seconded by Supervisor Cruey and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with and all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby reappoints Curtis Breeding to serve on the Upper Tennessee River Roundtable (UTRR) Board.

Coal and Gas Road Improvement Advisory Committee

Upon motion of Supervisor Gillespie, seconded by Supervisor Cruey and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with and all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby appoints Curtis Breeding to serve on the Coal and Gas Road Improvement Advisory Committee as the BOS Representative as of January 1, 2026.

Upon motion of Supervisor Gillespie, seconded by Supervisor Cruey and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with and all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of

Supervisors hereby appoints Andy Hrovatic is serve on the Coal and Gas Road Improvement Advisory Committee as of January 1, 2026.

Southwest Virginia Emergency Council, Inc.

Upon motion of Supervisor Gillespie, seconded by Supervisor Presley and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with and all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby reappoints Rhudy Keith to serve on the Southwest Virginia Emergency Council, Inc., Board.

Upon motion of Supervisor Gillespie, seconded by Supervisor Presley and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with and all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby rescinds his appointment nomination.

Upon motion of Supervisor Presley, seconded by Supervisor Crucey and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Gillespie abstaining from the vote and all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby reappoints Rhudy Keith to serve on the Southwest Virginia Emergency Council, Inc., Board.

Tazewell County Public Service Authority

The Chairman directed that this matter be deferred to the December 2, 2025 meeting.

Tazewell County Recreation and Parks Facility Authority

The Chairman directed that this matter be deferred to the December 2, 2025 meeting.

SUPERVISOR CONCERNS

Supervisor Gillespie

Supervisor Gillespie stated that the Thompson Valley Fire Department contacted him with respect to a grant they were awarded for equipment and/or a generator, which required a local grant match.

Upon motion of Supervisor Gillespie, seconded by Supervisor Hrovatic and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with and all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves transferring \$2,500 from the Southern District's Fund to the Thompson Valley Fire Department for a grant match to purchase equipment and/or a generator.

Supervisor Gillespie notified the Board that he had been working on the qualifications for his previous suggestion of having a Citizen of the Year or Citizen of the Year for each District.

Supervisor Presley

Supervisor Presley wanted to remind everyone to come to Ebenezer Church on November 18th to discuss the PSA project.

Supervisor Presley also mentioned that he had a meeting with personnel of Bluefield University in an effort to keep higher education students within Tazewell County. Supervisor Presley said he planned to continue working on this matter with SWVCC and Bluefield University during the month of November and will provide an update at next month's meeting.

Supervisor Hrovatic

Supervisor Hrovatic advised the Board that he had met with someone regarding the steam kettles. The kettles usually go for \$10,000 to \$20,000, they are 80-gallon kettles and he has them for \$1,000 each, if we wanted to meet with him. Supervisor Hrovatic said he would pass the contact information along.

Administrator Young proposed moving the January meeting to the 12th due to the holidays. The Board said they would check their schedules and possibly discuss at the December 2nd meeting.

ADJOURN

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruey, seconded by Supervisor Presley 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 recesses until Thursday, December 2, 2025 at 4:00 pm.

A copy teste:



Aaron Gillespie, Chairman

