

VIRGINIA: AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TAZEWELL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD JANUARY 13, 2026 AT FOUR O'CLOCK P.M. IN THE TAZEWELL COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 197 MAIN STREET, TAZEWELL, VIRGINIA 24651

PRESENT: CHUCK PRESLEY, CHAIRMAN
SHANNA PLASTER, VICE-CHAIRPERSON
KYLE CRUEY, MEMBER
CURT BREEDING, MEMBER
JOHN RHUDY, 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

MINUTES

Vice Chairman, Kyle Cruely, called the regular meeting to order and presided with all members present.

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

The Vice 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.

The Vice Chairman also introduced the two (2) new Board members; Curt Breeding and John Rhudy.

AGENDA APPROVED AS AMENDED

The Vice Chairman called for any additions/deletions to the agenda.

County Administrator Eric Young advised the board of a new development not listed on the revised agenda. Mr. Young explained that Ms. Rachel Patton with Southwest Virginia Workforce Development, submitted a proposal to the Opioid Abuse Abatement Committee which has been recommended to the Board and Ms. Patton would like a few minutes to present the proposal.

Upon motion of Supervisor Presley, seconded by Supervisor Breeding 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 revised January 13, 2026, 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 Presley, seconded by Supervisor Rhudy 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 December 2, 2025, meeting. A copy is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

Upon motion of Supervisor Presley, seconded by Supervisor Plaster and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the minutes from the December 15, 2025, meeting. A copy is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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 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. Payment of invoices totaling \$11,886.73 for Plat Scanner, Printer & Equipment in the Deed Room of the Courthouse.
- D. Consider approving \$7,006.00 abatement for of statutory assessment to confirm to depreciated value for late filing for Blackstone Data.
- E. Consider ratifying poll for corrected statutory assessment on Gasco Drilling Inc. where they did not file for 2025.
- F. Consider paying \$50.00 boardroom rental fee for Tazewell Main Street Merchants – Chocolate Crawl

**Consent Calendar Items
January 13, 2026 Meeting**

Source	Check #	To Acct	Amt	Description
Natasha Hunt	5040	73010-1150	\$250.00	Payroll reimbursement
Dominion Auto Auction	12673	31020-6010	\$1,515.00	2013 Ford (VIN 1FAHP2L85DG175892)
Dominion Auto Auction	12698	31020-6010	\$1,465.00	2013 Ford (VIN 1FAHP2M84DG144969)

Phipps Mineral Holdings, Ltd.	3600	32040-3610	\$15,000.00	Donation for the benefit of EMS and FD Christmas 2025
CMCS	250687	31020-1150	\$1,712.79	Reimbursement for overtime for CITAC officers
VaCorp	688405	31020-6009	\$5,543.00	K9 Explorer (totaled in the deer accident)
Benevity	ACH	32040-5510-1	\$7,460.00	Training grant
Natasha Hunt	5041	73010-1150	\$250.00	Payroll reimbursement
George M. Cruise Foundation	200393	73010-3099	\$1,500.00	Library donation
Linda M. Gillespie	8647	7301-3099	\$100.00	Library donation
VaCorp		31020-6009	\$1,535.00	Estimate 2023 Ford Explorer (vin 2875)
Dominion Auto Auction	12799	31020-6009	\$1,265.00	2014 Ford Explorer (VIN 1FM5K8B80EGA38646)
Dominion Auto Auction	12843	31020-6009	\$1,265.00	2014 Ford Explorer (VIN 1FM5K8B82EGA38647)
VaCorp		91050-7041-34400-3310	\$13,612.67	2014 Western Star W-4900 Insurance Claim #360359
Tazewell County Sheriff's Office	10011774	035600-8109-15	\$1,981.00	Fund raiser cash donations – TCSO Project Lifesaver
Natasha Hunt	5042	73010-1150	\$250.00	Payroll reimbursement

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURING

A. Eric Young, County Administrator, took the floor and called for nominations of a Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for a term of one year or until his/her successor is duly elected.

Upon motion of Supervisor Breeding, 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 elects Chuck Presley to serve as the 2026 Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

B. Election of a Vice Chairman.

Upon motion of Supervisor Presley, seconded by Supervisor Rhudy 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 elects Shanna Plaster to serve as the 2026 Vice Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

C. Consideration of adopting Robert's Rules of Order as the official rules for conducting county business.

Upon motion of Supervisor Breeding, 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 adopts Robert's Rules of Order as the official rules for conducting county business.

D. Consideration of appointing a clerk to the Board of Supervisors.

Administrator Eric Young injected that the County Administrator is the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

Upon motion of Supervisor Plaster, 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 appoints County Administrator Eric Young to serve as the clerk to the Board of Supervisors for 2026.

E. Consideration of appointing the County Administrator as the Director of Emergency Management for Tazewell County.

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruvey, seconded by Supervisor Rhudy 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 County Administrator Eric Young to serve as the 2026 Director of Emergency Management for Tazewell County.

F. Designation of Dave White as Deputy Director of Emergency Management.

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruvey, seconded by Supervisor Rhudy 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 designate Dave White as Deputy Director of Emergency Management.

G. Designation of Barry Brooks as Coordinator of Emergency Management; Virginia Dawson as Deputy Coordinator

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruvey, seconded by Supervisor Rhudy 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 designate Barry Brooks as Coordinator of Emergency Management and Virginia Dawson as Deputy Coordinator.

H. Consideration of setting a date, time and place for the 2026 regular meetings of the Board of Supervisors.

Upon motion of Supervisor Breeding, seconded by Supervisor Rhudy 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 sets the 2026 regular meetings of the Board of Supervisors following the proposed schedule set forth in the agenda packet, following the current schedule of the first Tuesday of the month (except holidays)

and allowing a second meeting the last week of June to discuss the budget. A copy of the meeting calendar is available at the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

I. Consideration of appointing a Board of Supervisors member to serve as Tazewell County's legislative contact with VaCo during the upcoming 2026 General Assembly.

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruey, seconded by Supervisor Rhudy 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 Chairman Presley to serve as Tazewell County's legislative contact with VaCo during the upcoming 2026 General Assembly.

J. Consideration of appointing a budget committee for FY27.

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 appoints Chairman Presley and Supervisor Cruey as the budget committee for FY27.

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruey, seconded by Supervisor Breeding 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 Supervisor Rhudy as an alternate as the budget committee for FY27.

K. Consideration of appointing a personnel committee for 2026.

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruey, seconded by Supervisor Rhudy 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 Supervisor Plaster and Supervisor Rhudy as the personnel committee for 2026.

L. Consideration of appointing a landfill committee for 2026.

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruey, seconded by Supervisor Plaster and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby appoints Supervisor Breeding and Supervisor Rhudy as the landfill committee for 2026.

M. Consideration of appointing ESC members for 2026.

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruey, seconded by Supervisor Plaster and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby appoints Supervisor Presley and Supervisor Rhudy as ESC members for 2026.

N. Consideration of appointing Board liaison (IDA).

Upon motion of Supervisor Presley, seconded by Supervisor Plaster and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby appoints Supervisor Breeding as the Board liaison to the IDA.

O. Consideration of appointing Board liaison (PSA)

Upon motion of Supervisor Rhudy, 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 appoints Supervisor Presley as the Board liaison to the PSA.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Rachel Patton, Executive Director of Southwest Virginia Workforce Development Board

Ms. Rachel Patton with the Southwest Virginia Workforce Development Board came forward requesting Tazewell County's support for a regional grant with the Opioid Abuse Abatement Authority. The Workforce Development Board enacted the **ROPES** program in 2019 for individuals in recovery transiting back into the workforce. Our **ROPES** program offers job training and work readiness skills needed to reenter the workforce. Currently, the Board has helped over 300 people in the region; with approximately 70 coming from Tazewell County, maintain their recovery and gain employment. The Board is requesting that each county pass a Resolution supporting our application and approve a \$25,000 match from their local opioid abatement fund. Ms. Patton concluded by stating the \$25,000 would go to our car program, which helps people in recovery obtain dependable transportation.

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruey, seconded by Supervisor Plaster and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves a \$25,000 grant from the Opioid Abuse Abatement Fund to the Southwest Virginia Workforce Development Board's ROPES program and provide a Resolution to the State supporting the Board's grant request.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Engineering – Kenneth Dunford

Richlands Elementary School Flood Project

Mr. Dunford reported to the Board that he had spoken to the contractor this afternoon and everything looks to be on schedule to finish on Friday.

Tractor Crossing signs

Mr. Dunford asked Supervisor Rhudy for clarification regarding his request for tractor crossing signs in Thompson Valley.

Supervisor Rhudy stated he was hoping for signs in all of our farming communities in the Southern District. Supervisor Rhudy believes that with increased traffic from tourism we need more signage so everyone is aware.

Mr. Dunford agreed, stating he has been working with VDOT on this issue and will plan on meeting with Supervisor Rhudy next month to map out the areas and discuss further.

Questions

Mirror on 460

Supervisor Presley inquired if Mr. Dunford could install a mirror around the Springville School area to counter the blind driveways located within the curves of 460.

Mr. Dunford replied, this is a situation which we would have to go through VDOT in order to have the mirrors installed on State property. Mr. Dunford stated he would reach out to VDOT and report back to Supervisor Presley.

Paintlick signage

Supervisor Breeding stated citizens are having concerns in the Wardell, Paintlick area, due to the size of a STOP sign at a busy intersection and requested that Mr. Dunford accompany him to investigate.

Mr. Dunford agreed he would join Supervisor Breeding.

Illegal dumping in Raven

Supervisor Rhudy stated there has been an issue with people dumping trash outside the gate at the Raven Convenience Area. Supervisor Rhudy suggested taking the gate down, as to avoid the trash being dumped outside the gate.

Mr. Dunford explained that Capital Waste Management operates the Convenience Areas on behalf of the County and therefore would have to check with them to see if they were agreeable to leaving the gate open.

County Administrator Eric Young, injected advising Mr. Dunford to notify Capital Waste Management that we are going to leave the gate open and monitor the situation.

Coal Severance Tax

Supervisor Cruet reiterated his concerns regarding the drainage issues with the five (5) roadways in the Falls Mills area (i.e. Songbird, Sparrow). Supervisor Cruet verified that Mr. Dunford still planned to go before the Coal Severance Tax Committee to request financial assistance.

Mr. Dunford answered in the affirmative and advised the Coal Severance Tax Committee should meet around the beginning of April.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Carilion Clinic

County Administrator Young stated this year the Board approved \$100,000 to help the Tazewell Community Foundation with their investment in the new clinic just built here in Tazewell.

Supervisor Rhudy, on behalf of the Board, presented the check to Mr. Buchanan with the Community Foundation.

Mr. Buchanan thanked the Board and invited the everyone to the clinic's grand opening on March 1st. Mr. Buchanan noted that clinic will have two (2) doctors and a number of Nurse Practitioners available to treat patients.

Robert's Rules of Order

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

ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCIAL/COUNTY PROJECTS UPDATE

Updated Personnel Policy and Job descriptions

County Administrator Eric Young stated that in December the updated personnel policy and job descriptions was circulated to the Board for their review. Since that time, a consultant was hired which suggested more changes along with any changes the department heads suggested, Mr. Young continued. Mr. Young then requested possible dates that the Personnel Committee could meet to discuss and review all of the recommended changes.

Supervisor Rhudy suggested January 22nd as the meeting date and Supervisor Plaster concurred. Mr. Young then set the meeting for 3:30 on January 22, 2026 for the Personnel Committee to meet.

Repeal Law Library fee charged for certain court filings

The Chairman deferred until the February 3, 2026 meeting.

Consider donating ambulance to EO

County Administrator Eric Young informed the Board that EO (a subsidiary of United Way) which is planning on opening a large-scale day-care center in Bluefield, Virginia, had requested an ambulance a few months ago. Mr. Young explained that EO would like to use the ambulance for vocational training, such as a staging and practice area for the kids to help foster interest for certain professions. Mr. Young said that Barry Brooks, Emergency Management, has a 2003 ambulance which is no longer certified as an ambulance and we had plans to lease it to EO at a rate of \$1.00 per year. Mr. Young stated the ambulance in question is a 2003 Ford F350, 4x4 Coach, Type 1, with VIN # 1FDWF37F13A94560.

Upon motion of Supervisor Plaster, seconded by Supervisor Cruey and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves leasing the 2003 ambulance to EO at a rate of \$1.00 per year, as long as they maintain any insurance necessary.

Ratify extension of Baptist Valley Convenience Area Lease

County Administrator Young stated a poll was needed in order to extend the Baptist Valley Convenience Area Lease for six (6) months, in the amount of \$600 per month.

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruey, seconded by Supervisor Rhudy 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 the Baptist Valley Convenience Area Lease for six (6) months in the amount of \$600 per month.

Consider ratifying poll to spend an additional \$16,000 on the flood mitigation project at Richlands Elementary School to complete drainage lines beneath the baseball field

Administrator Young explained that the pipes placed under the baseball field were too short and the cost we had to pay our contractor to dig up those pipes and extend the lines came to \$16,000. Mr. Young stated he had an email poll approving the additional cost in order to complete the drainage lines, which now requires a vote to ratify the poll.

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 approve spending an additional \$16,000 on the flood mitigation project at Richlands Elementary School to complete drainage lines beneath the baseball field.

Ratify poll to amend Richlands Elementary drainage project

County Administrator Eric Young informed the Board that originally the drainage project had plans to link into the pipes under the parking lot, but after discussing with the contractor and the time constraints involved, it was decided to link into the school's underground stormwater collection facilities. Mr. Young stated the email poll agreed to pay the additional cost of \$42,600, which now requires the poll be ratified.

Supervisor Breeding inquired if this money came out of the grant. Mr. Young stated there was a match to the grant of \$74,000; which we paid the initial contract price out of, so the \$91,000 in the original contract that came from the County. The \$16,000 over that came from the grant and this remaining \$42,600 will also come from the grant, said Mr. Young.

Upon motion of Supervisor Plaster, seconded by Supervisor Breeding 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 additional cost of \$42,600 to connect the baseball field pipes to the school's underground stormwater collection facilities.

Consider holding public hearing to set 2026 real property tax rate

County Administrator Young explained the first half of the tax bills will need to go out in April. Therefore, we need to pick a tax rate for the 2026 real property by March, which of course will require a public hearing, Mr. Young stated. Mr. Young further stated, that based upon the current budget, we are recommending keeping the tax rate the same at \$.58 cents per \$100.

Upon motion of Supervisor Rhudy, seconded by Supervisor Plaster and adopted by a vote of 4 to 1 with Supervisor Cruey voting against and all others voting in favor thereof, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes setting a public hearing for March to set the 2026 real property tax rate at \$.58 cents per \$100 in value.

United Way Flood Relief Grant update

Mr. Young explained that the County is trying to use the United Way grant money to subsidize the property owners who were turned down for the DHCD Flood Relief Grant, but we are still waiting on a couple decisions from DHCD before we can move forward.

DHCD Flood Relief Grant update

Mr. Young informed the Board that the County received a total of 46 applications for individual relief; 14 were determined not to have had major damage as defined by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, 2 are still for determination, 1 was determined to be located outside Tazewell County and 1 application was withdrawn by the applicant. Mr. Young continued, 28 applications were submitted to DHCD for approval, 20 of those were approved, 7 are still pending and 1 was denied by DHCD.

Consider public hearing to name Route 646 at SWVCC Charles R. King Drive

Administrator Young conveyed that Tom Lester in Delegate Will Morefield's office advised me that citizens had approached them regarding renaming Route 646 at Southwest Virginia Community College as Charles R. King Drive. They had requested the change thru VDOT, but VDOT advised they needed the Board to hold a public hearing before the change can happen, Mr. Young said.

Upon motion of Supervisor Breeding, seconded by Supervisor Plaster and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0 with all members present and voting in favor thereof, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes setting a public hearing to name Route 646 at SWVCC Charles R. King Drive.

Consider extending loan maturity date for the IDAs \$150k for natural gas study until June 30th, pending VDEP reimbursement

Mr. Young stated the IDA has requested the extending the maturity date for the IDAs \$150,000 loan until June 30th. Mr. Young advised the Board that the IDA has spent money on two grants and are awaiting reimbursement from the VDEP in the amount of \$180,000.

Upon motion of Supervisor Breeding, seconded by Supervisor Plaster and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0 with all members present and voting in favor thereof, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby extends the maturity date for the IDAs \$150,000 loan for natural gas study until June 30th, pending VDEP reimbursement.

Spearhead budget request

Administrator Young conveyed to the Board that Southwest Regional Recreational Development Authority (RDA) (a/k/a Spearhead) was allotted \$25,000 from our 2025 budget. However, we were unable to have a quorum at our RDA meetings to approve transferring the funds, so the \$25,000 rolled over as of June 30th at the end of our fiscal year, Mr. Young said. Mr. Young continued that when the RDA met in September, they voted and invoiced us for the \$25,000 for FY25, so we went ahead and paid the RDA with their FY26 allotment. Mr. Young said that now we will need to approve paying spearhead \$25,000 from contingency to cover the FY25 appropriation.

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruvey, seconded by Supervisor Breeding and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0 with all members present and voting in favor thereof, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors approves transferring \$25,000 from contingency for Spearhead's FY25 appropriation.

VaCo negotiated Appalachian Power electricity purchasing agreement for localities

Mr. Young stated that he reviewed the 83-page agreement and essentially, VaCo negotiates with Appalachian Power to get a discounted rate for local governments and we have the option to join. Mr. Young said, if we do not join, we are probably going to pay power rates that are 20% more than what we are paying right now. Our bill at the Courthouse is approximately \$8,000 per month alone, so I would recommend that we join in the Virginia Association of Counties negotiated Appalachian Power electricity purchasing agreement for localities, stated Mr. Young.

Upon motion of Supervisor Plaster, seconded by Supervisor Cruvey and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0 with all members present and voting in favor thereof, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves joining in the Virginia Association of Counties negotiated Appalachian Power electricity purchasing agreement for localities.

Consider donating \$500 from contingency to Labor of Love Mission for coat drive at Nuchols Hall

Mr. Young said that the Labor of Love Mission had reached out to Supervisor Presley for a \$500 donation, which essentially covers the rental fee for Nuchols Hall for the two (2) days they requested for the coat drive.

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruey, seconded by Supervisor Plaster and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0 with all members present and voting in favor thereof, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves donating \$500 from contingency to the Labor of Love Mission for the coat drive at Nuchols Hall.

EXECUTIVE/CLOSED MEETING – 5:01 pm

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 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(7) Personnel – County Attorney
- ▶ A(29) Contract negotiations with Republic – landfill construction costs
- ▶ A(29) Contract negotiations with American Water
- ▶ A(29) Pure Salmon – Water Use Agreement

RETURN/CERTIFICATION/REPORT OF ACTION – 6:42 am

The Board of Supervisors returned to public session and Supervisor Cruey read the following certification:

**CERTIFICATION OF
EXECUTIVE/CLOSED MEETING
TAZEWELL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

WHEREAS, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors has convened an executive/closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative vote and in accordance with The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Board of Supervisors that such executive/closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) that only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the executive/closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors. The Chairman called for a roll call vote with the following votes hereby recorded.

The Chair called for a roll call vote on the Certification:

Ayes: Five (5)

Nays: None (0)

Absent: None (0)

Absent during vote: None (0)

Report of Action: One (1)

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Nolan and Caden Edwards

Supervisor Cruey read a short Resolution highlighting Nolan and Caden Edwards' impressive self-taught gardening skills and awards.

Upon motion of Supervisor Plaster, seconded by Supervisor Rhudy and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves a resolution for Nolan and Caden Edwards. A copy of the Resolution is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

Personnel – County Attorney

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruey, seconded by Supervisor Rhudy and adopted by a vote of 4 to 1, with Supervisor Breeding voting against and all others voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby moves to appoint Aaron M. Gillespie County Attorney to serve as General Counsel for the Board and such component entities as we may assign.

CITIZEN COMMENTS - SCHEDULED

► Eric McReynolds and Larry Hughes– Virginia Citizens Defense League – Two-Way Resolution
Mr. Eric McReynolds of 20311 Wood Howell Road, Bristol, VA, represented the Virginia Citizens Defense League regarding the Two-Way Resolution. Mr. McReynolds stated the Virginia Citizens Defense League fights on behalf of the citizens of Virginia with regards to our rights to firearms. The League tries to visit all 95 counties here in Virginia and we are asking all the counties and the Board here tonight to uphold the second amendment sanctuary. In addition, possibly forming a coalition which protects our Constitutional rights when a new law is passed in the State of Virginia. Mr. Hughes also provided an email to the Board members regarding the coalition.

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 enters into the record Mr. Hughes email on the VCON Coalition.

► Anne Yearians – THS Project Graduation funding request

Ms. Zoey Joyce spoke on behalf of the senior class of Tazewell High School requesting a funding request for their Project Graduation celebration. Ms. Joyce stated the donation would go toward door prizes and/or cash to each student, food and providing a safe and happy memory for all seniors.

Chairman Presley requested that information be left with Stephanie Russell, Executive Assistant to the Board, so the Board members could review all of the information.

► Nathan Shockley with ProMed – wants to open an ambulance company in Richlands

Mr. Nathan Shockley of 654 Birchfield Road, Wise, Virginia, spoke on behalf of ProMed Ambulance Service based in Coburn, Virginia. Mr. Shockley stated he is currently a Supervisor with ProMed and

they employ approximately 60 staff and have 10 ambulances. Mr. Shockley said he is here tonight requesting a Resolution recognizing ProMed Ambulance Company to operate inside Tazewell County, as required by the Code §15.2-955. Mr. Shockley stated ProMed would like to open a location in Richlands, Virginia, providing nonemergency transportation for patients. Depending on call volume, we are expecting possibly 12 new jobs depending on the call volume.

Chairman Presley deferred to County Administrator Eric Young for guidance. Mr. Young stated that it was in the Code that the Board must give permission and generally we do not run the same calls that ProMed is wanting to perform, so it doesn't really interfere with Tazewell County's operations. Mr. Young went on to say, personally the more coverage we have the better as it frees up our emergency services to answer other calls. Mr. Young suggested that Mr. Shockley speak with Barry Brooks, who is our Emergency Services Director here in Tazewell County.

The Chairman deferred this matter to the February 3, 2026 meeting, to give Mr. Shockley the opportunity to talk with Mr. Brooks, as the County's point of contact.

CITIZEN COMMENTS - UNSCHEDULED

Chairman Presley having opened the floor for citizen comments.

Emily Combs Davis, Tazewell, VA

Emily Combs Davis, Executive Director with Tazewell Today, 160 Main Street, Tazewell, comes before the Board to invite everyone to a few events happening around town. Ms. Davis stated beginning January 19th to the 25th we will have Tazewell Restaurant Week, celebrating the locally owned restaurants here in Tazewell, anyone who eats at one of the restaurants during that time can enter into a raffle for a \$25 gift card to the restaurant.

Ms. Davis continued by inviting the public to the Polar Plunge at Lincolnshire Lake on February 28th at 2:00. Participants collect pledges/donations before they take a quick polar plunge into Lincolnshire Lake. Ms. Davis continued by stating that this year's proceeds will be split between Tazewell Today and the Billy Wagner Park Project.

Ms. Davis concluded by inviting the public to a Bingo fundraiser for Tazewell High School's Project Graduation on March 8th at Nuchols Hall.

Major Harold Heatley, 1420 Goose Creek Estates, Tazewell, VA

Major Heatley spoke against the ATV traffic coming into Cavitts Creek and Tazewell Virginia. I moved to this neighborhood specifically because it is quiet, clean and has many nice homes. Major Heatley inquired if the ATV revenue was so great, why does Abbs Valley still look the same, why does Pocahontas still have all of the empty buildings, where's the money?

Beth Clemons, 193 Rutherford Drive, Tazewell, VA

Beth Clemons spoke against bringing in ATV's into Tazewell Virginia. As a local real estate agent for over 25 years, I can tell you people want to move here for the peacefulness and the small-town charm to relax, Ms. Clemons stated. Ms. Clemons concluded by saying, people come here to escape from the noise and to relax, why allow outside entities to come in and capitalize and collect on what we have here?

ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCIAL/COUNTY PROJECTS UPDATE

Consider Resolution to approve ATV travel on Abbs Valley Road to Healing Springs Cavitts Creek ATV Route – Abbs Valley Rd. and Healing Springs

Administrator Eric Young advised the Board that Steve Pike, Director with Spearhead Trails, presented to me back in December a request that the County approve ATV travel from roughly Abbs Valley Elementary School to Lake Witten. Mr. Young continued that trail extension will use Abbs Valley Road, Goss Road, Mud Fork Road then Healing Springs Road, as you will see on the maps inside of your packet. Mr. Young stated that the Code states we are able to do this, as long as its within 5 miles of a trail head. Mr. Young went on to say that Dave White went and drove this route and he said it is 9.6 miles from the Lake to the trailhead and he also put a cryptic note at the end of his text, stating you're going to get someone killed. This is a heavily traveled road, its curvy and I also have safety concerns and am worried about someone getting hurt on these roads, Mr. Young said.

The Supervisors discussed among themselves and the proposal to meet with Spearhead before anything is voted on or agreed to regarding this ATV route specifically due to the fact of the 5-mile radius and safety concerns.

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruey, seconded by Supervisor Breeding 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 refers this matter to the RDA to make a recommendation and then set aside for public hearing.

Consider ratifying approval of design contract for new school

Mr. Young reminded the Board that the County has been working with the School Board over the past two years trying to secure an engineer to help design a potential new school. Mr. Young continued that originally, we were going to fund this project with revenue received from Corando, when they begin mining in Tazewell County as well as the 13-million-dollar grant, we received from the State. Mr. Young said they had met with the engineers last week, to discuss the K through eight school we were hoping to build. However, the price tag on it is around 140 million dollars; which is more than 3 times what we were planning on spending, so the engineers in trying to keep the costs down, recommended we have a site study completed to see if we could locate the facility on the current campus, Mr. Young stated.

Upon motion of Supervisor Breeding, 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 paying \$50,000 from the school facilities fund to pay for a school facilities study to consider locating a new school building on the current Richlands campus.

Consider approving School Facilities Study

Mr. Young went on to explain the other study is the site selection study, the School Board has a couple sites in mind and we also have a couple we are interested in building upon. Mr. Young suggested that since the price tag for a site study is so high, that the Board form a committee to meet with the School Board to determine which sites besides the Richlands campus to consider.

A discussion ensued regarding potential sites and the pros and cons of each one, i.e. the Richlands Mall, behind Lowes or the property behind the elementary school on top of the hill.

Upon motion of Supervisor Breeding, 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 forming a committee, to include Supervisors Shanna Plaster and Curt Breeding, to work with the School Board regarding potential sites for the new Kindergarten through eighth grade school.

Appointments

Southwest Virginia College Board

County Administrator Eric Young advised the Board that due to a change in statute the number of seats on the SWVCC College Board decreased and therefore we need to rescind our most recent nomination of Tom Conley.

Upon motion of Supervisor Plaster, seconded by Supervisor Rhudy 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 rescind the appointment for Tom Conley to the Southwest Virginia College Board.

Tazewell County Fire/Rescue

The Chairman directed that this matter be deferred to the February 3, 2026 meeting.

Planning Commission

The Chairman directed that this matter be deferred to the February 3, 2026 meeting.

Tourism

The Chairman directed that this matter be deferred to the February 3, 2026 meeting.

Tazewell County Airport Authority

The Chairman directed that this matter be deferred to the February 3, 2026 meeting.

Social Services Board

The Chairman directed that this matter be deferred to the February 3, 2026 meeting.

Tazewell County Recreation and Parks Facility Authority

Upon motion of Supervisor Presley, seconded by Supervisor Rhudy 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 appoint Curtis Breeding as the BOS Representative for the Tazewell County Recreation and Parks Facility Authority.

Cumberland Plateau Planning Commission District

Upon motion of Supervisor Breeding, seconded by Supervisor Rhudy 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 appoint Chuck Presley and Shanna Plaster as the BOS Representatives for the Cumberland Plateau Planning Commission District Committee.

Clinch Valley Community Action

The Chairman directed that this matter be deferred to the February 3, 2026 meeting.

Animal Shelter

The Chairman directed that this matter be deferred to the February 3, 2026 meeting.

SUPERVISOR CONCERNS

Supervisor Breeding

Supervisor Breeding explained he would like to donate his stipend to various causes and non-profits and requests that the money be moved into the Western District's Discretionary Fund.

Upon motion of Supervisor Breeding, seconded by Supervisor Rhudy 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 adding \$6,000 to the Western District's Discretionary Fund in lieu of Mr. Breeding's compensation.

Supervisor Breeding also inquired about the Four County IDA. I think it would be beneficial to at least have quarterly meeting with them.

Administrator Young advised he and Shanna Plaster met with them October, it was the first meeting they had in four or five years. I believe it was suggested that the meetings be housed at Cumberland Plateau and possibly having Jordan Dillion be compensated to keep the minutes, I have a meeting with Scottie Wampler next week and I will see if he would be willing to do that, Mr. Young said.

Supervisor Cruey

Supervisor Cruey discussed the Second Amendment Sanctuary status for Tazewell County. Supervisor Cruey said it was enacted in 2019, but due to the political pressure coming out of Washington, I believe we need to reaffirm our sanctuary status, perhaps through a public hearing or Resolution.

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruey, seconded by Supervisor Breeding and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves holding a public hearing in February regarding Tazewell County's Second Amendment Sanctuary status.

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruey, he hereby requests the County Administrator draft a letter confirming Tazewell County's Second Amendment Sanctuary status and reaffirming same.

A discussion began and upon conclusion, Supervisor Cruey rescinded his motion on the letter.

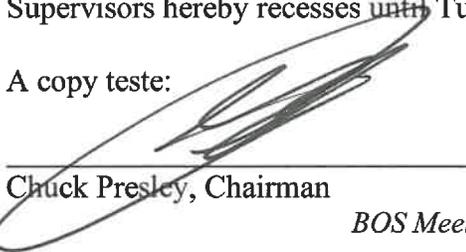
Supervisor Rhudy

Supervisor Rhudy mentioned potentially partnering with the Sheriff's Office on possibly having a spot where citizens can dispose of bigger items after hours. Supervisor Rhudy stated the County has a huge problem with the unlawful disposal of appliances, we have two scrap yards in the county, one below the saw mill and one at Jewell Ridge Road.

ADJOURN @ 8:05 p.m.

Upon motion of Supervisor Breeding, seconded by Supervisor Rhudy 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 recesses until Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 4:00 pm.

A copy teste:



Chuck Presley, Chairman