

VIRGINIA: AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TAZEWELL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD MARCH 3, 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
CURTIS BREEDING, MEMBER
JOHN RHUDY, MEMBER
KYLE CRUEY, MEMBER
C. ERIC YOUNG, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
AARON M. GILLESPIE, COUNTY ATTORNEY
STEPHANIE RUSSELL, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
MEMBERS OF THE PRESS:
JIM TALBERT, RICHLANDS NEWS PRESS
WARREN HINKLE, THE VOICE
ABSENT: NONE

MINUTES

Chairman, Chuck Presley, called the regular meeting to order and presided with all members present.

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

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 requested revisions be made to the revised agenda: under item #10 the Spring 2026 Bond Financing be moved to item #8 Special Presentations, striking Old Town Revival since they will not be able to attend tonight; and under item #9 Executive Session, pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711, an addition of A (1) Personnel Commissioner of Revenue Office.

Upon motion of Supervisor Rhudy, 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 revised agenda format incorporating the requested revisions.

MINUTES APPROVED AS WRITTEN

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruely, 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 February 3, 2026, meeting and the minutes from the February 11, 2026, meeting. A copy is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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 items A, B and D of the Consent Calendar.

Upon motion of Supervisor Plaster, seconded by Supervisor Breeding and adopted by a vote of 3 to 0, with all members present, with Supervisor Cruvey and Supervisor Rhudy abstaining due to conflict and all others voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves items C 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.

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. Sheriff's Office extraditions that have been reimbursed July 2025-February 18, 2026. Requesting this money be put back into Travel and Training (3120-5510) \$4,849.77 and Vehicle Supplies (3120-6009) \$20,000.00
- D. Approve a transfer from the Contingent Grant Account (4-100-091050-7041) to the Buildings and Grounds - Capital Outlay Account (4-100-043020-8109) \$15,472.13
- E. Sheriff's Office request to surplus 2007 Ford Escape (VIN# 1FMCU93147KB77431)

**Consent Calendar Items
March 3, 2026 Meeting**

Source	Check #	To Acct	Amt	Description
Berkley-Elbert Holdings, LLC	1006	31020-6001	\$70.00	Blake Ray FOIA Request
Spectrum	7005794625	91050-7023	\$726.60	Refund (for payment posted incorrectly)
Natasha Hunt	5044	73010-1150	\$250.00	Payroll reimbursement
CMCS	251440	31020-1150	\$597.52	Reimbursement for overtime for CITAC officers

Natasha Hunt	5045	73010-1150	\$250.00	Payroll reimbursement
Richlands Funeral Co.	100195	7301-3099	\$100.00	Library donation
National Bank of Blacksburg	8503003582	7301-3099	\$250.00	Library donation
Hurst Scott Funeral Home	11951	7301-3099	\$200.00	Library donation
Joyce J. Johnston	8753	7301-3099	\$100.00	Library donation
Lucinda G. Nicholson	5760	7301-3099	\$100.00	Library donation

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Engineering – Kenneth Dunford

Thru Drive

Mr. Dunford stated he had received several phone calls from citizens in Pounding Mill. Mr. Dunford said the residents of Thru Drive are requesting *Children at Play* signs for their street; one at each end of Thru Drive. Mr. Dunford notified the Board that while Thru Drive is a VDOT road, in order for VDOT to put up the *Children at Play* signs the Board would have to make the request and the County would have to cover the \$300.00 cost per sign.

Upon motion of Supervisor Breeding, 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 requests that VDOT install two *Children at Play* signs one at each end of Thru Drive and approves donating \$600.00 from the Western District Fund to cover the cost.

Buckhorn Street

Mr. Dunford reported to the Board that his office has received many complaints about the drainage problems and the condition of Buckhorn Street in the Southern District. Mr. Dunford said that several years ago the County estimated that fixing the drainage issues would cost well over \$100,000. Mr. Dunford notified the Board that several months ago the County spent \$15,000 in gravel and the residents are requesting that we do it a second time.

County Administrator Eric Young interjected and advised the Board that an easement would have to be secured before the drainage issues could be fixed. Mr. Young suggested that Ken Dunford and Supervisor Rhudy accompany him and go out to survey the issues in person, Mr. Dunford and Supervisor Rhudy agreed.

Safe Streets for All Presentation

Mr. Dunford provided a slideshow for the Board, explaining the Safe Streets for All study was based upon accident, economic and traffic data. Mr. Dunford stated the action plan and pledge aims to reduce the exposure, likelihood and severity of fatal and severe injury crashes on Tazewell County roadways. Mr. Dunford provided a list of recommended action items including some engineering responsibilities, installing signage and certain VDOT tasks, i.e. paving, marking lines and installing reflectors on the roadways. Mr. Dunford explained that one of the purposes is to look at the study every year and cross off the items once they have been completed. Mr. Dunford continued that the study/plan can also be used when applying for various grants.

Mr. Dunford then presented to the Board for individual signatures; the Safety Action Plan, as a commitment to advancing safer people, safer roads, safer vehicles, appropriate speeds and improved post-crash care.

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 adopts the Safety Action Plan. A copy is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

Questions/Comments

Supervisor Rhudy informed Mr. Dunford that he received a message from a citizen requesting replacement/installation of reflectors on the Back of the Dragon, Veteran's Road (Burke's Garden) and Jewell Ridge. Mr. Dunford replied that he would reach out to VDOT.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Davenport Financial – Spring 2026 Bond Financing

Mr. David Rose with Davenport Financial, presented to the Board the proposals received from financing institutions in response to the County's Request for Proposal. Mr. Rose explained that due to a series of capital projects and to possibly restructure an existing loan, a Request for Proposal was distributed contemplating financing up to \$6,950,000. Mr. Rose stated \$4,000,000 will be earmarked for Leachate Tank, Tire Shredder, Transfer Station Upgrades, Fire Station Upgrades and Fire Apparatus, with the remaining \$2,900,000 going to restructuring the County's existing Lease Revenue Bond, from 2023.

Mr. Rose provided the Board with five (5) proposals from various financing institutions, along with summations of the key terms of each proposal. Mr. Rose informed the Board the County has two (2) strong options for the 2026 financing, either the Huntington proposal or an issuance through the VRA Spring Pool Financing Program.

Mr. Rose clarified that while a decision was not needed tonight, over the following weeks Davenport will monitor the interest rates and the status of the County's Fiscal Year 2025 Audit to determine which option for the 2026 financing is the most feasible. Mr. Rose concluded his presentation and provided the Board with a detailed timeline, which included the next steps.

County Administrator Eric Young clarified that under these financing options; whether we finance through VRA or a state bank, our annual debt payment would decrease from what we are currently paying. Mr. Rose agreed with Mr. Young, stating the payments would continue to decrease due to the debt restructure.

County Administrator Young advised the Board that once our audit results are received, we can secure the financing. Mr. Young stated our auditors; Robinson, Farmer and Cox, were still waiting on documents from the School Board up until a couple weeks ago and that has been the reason for the delay in receiving our audit results.

County Administrator Eric Young – Budget Update

Administrator Eric Young explained he had a few comments to add related to Mr. Rose's presentation. Mr. Young stated the county has a five (5) year procurement with the law firm of Hutton, Andrews and Kurth; who handles the closings for the bond agreements and he would need authorization from the Board to retain Hutton, Andrews and Kurth to handle this bond closing.

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 authorizes the County Administrator to retain Hutton, Andrews and Kurth to handle the closing on the 2026 Bond Financing.

County Administrator Young directed the Board’s attention back to the Memorandum prepared by Davenport Financial and requested approval to pay their invoice for services rendered.

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 the Memorandum with Davenport Financial Services, dated February 24, 2026, to retain their services, with payment upon closing in the amount of \$45,000.

Mr. Young presented his budget recommendations for the April 2026 Bond Issuance Proceeds Budget, which included a breakdown of the refinancing costs and the new funding proceeds budget. Mr. Young explained the amounts can be amended; however, the funding must stay within the categories of the leachate tank, tire shredder, Cedar Bluff Transfer Station and the Fire Station.

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 approves the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors April 2026 Bond Issuance Proceeds Budget. A copy of which is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

Administrator Young then itemized for the Board a list of the proposed properties and their corresponding assessed values, to be used as collateral for the 2026 financing.

Upon motion of Supervisor Rhudy, 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 approves the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors April 2026 Bond Issuance Collateral Schedule. A copy of which is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

EXECUTIVE/CLOSED MEETING – 5:02 pm

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 Board enters into an Executive/Closed meeting and invites Ken Dunford and Barry Brooks and any other persons necessary to conduct business in this session, pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711.

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| <p>Executive/Closed Meeting – Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶A(1) Personnel in Building Safety Department▶A(29) Contract negotiations with Republic regarding landfill construction▶A(3) Property acquisition at Cavitt’s Creek▶A(29) Contract negotiations with Virginia Water re: unsolicited PPEA▶A(1) Personnel Volunteer Fire Department Chief▶A(1) Personnel in Commissioner of Revenue Office |
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RETURN/CERTIFICATION/REPORT OF ACTION – 6:39 pm

The Board of Supervisors returned to public session and County Attorney Aaron Gillespie read the following certification:

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

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

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

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

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

Ayes: Five (5)

Nays: None (0)

Absent: None (0)

Absent during vote: None (0)

Report of Action: Four (4)

ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

Personnel Volunteer Fire Department Chief

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 accepts the resignation letter of the Baptist Valley Volunteer Fire Department Chief and after consultation with the Director of Fire and EMS Services and legal counsel; pursuant to Virginia Code Section 27-13, the Board appointed Terry Stilwell, chief of such department until the members of the TCFC (Tazewell County Fire Company) can conduct an election of a new District Chief, in accordance with their by-laws, upon such notice as may be required thereby and under the supervision of the Director of Fire and EMS Services; and I further that the resignation letter be made a part of the record. A copy of the resignation letter is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

Personnel in Commissioner of Revenue Office

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 moves to authorize the Commissioner of Revenue to increase the rate of pay of his Chief Deputy; increasing her salary by \$5,000.80 per year, effective April 1, 2026.

Personnel in Building Safety Department

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 increase the pay of Gary Jackson, Tazewell County Building Official, from \$64,650 to \$70,000 per year, effective April 1, 2026.

Contract negotiations with Virginia Water re: unsolicited PPEA

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 moves that we advertise the unsolicited proposal from Virginia-American Water for the purchase of the assets of the Tazewell County Public Service Authority (PSA) to determine whether any other organization is interested in submitting a similar proposal, pursuant to the County's Public Private Partnership Procurement Process.

Supervisor Plaster elaborated that the Board was looking into this proposal; not because we necessarily plan to sell the PSA, but that the Board owes it to the citizens to try and find more affordable options.

Supervisor Cruey agreeing with Supervisor Plaster, further noted that the bid made by Virginia-American Water was unsolicited.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public hearing for an Ordinance to prohibit scavenging in containers or receptacles

County Attorney Aaron Gillespie explained that upon request of the Board; he drafted an Ordinance for purposes of this Public Hearing, to prohibit scavenging in containers or receptacles. Mr. Gillespie stated that several citizens made the Board aware of issues with people inside of dumpsters and other trash receptacles, which poses safety concerns to not only the people scavenging, but possibly to first responders as well.

Mr. Gillespie further stated that the Ordinance makes scavenging illegal; being a Class I misdemeanor, carrying the same classification/punishment as littering (up to a \$2,500 fine and/or up to 12 months in jail). Mr. Gillespie anticipates this Ordinance will deter scavenging or impeding the retrieval/maintenance of the containers/receptacles.

Supervisor Plaster disagreed with the Ordinance and stated someone should not be charged just because they may be down on their luck at the moment. Supervisor Rhudy countered by stating most of the littering we have in Tazewell County is due to scavenging and leaving the unwanted items strewn about the lot and roadway, sometimes even having people's personal mail with their credit card numbers listed. Supervisor Rhudy stated the littering is not only a disease hazard, it's a big problem for the Sheriff's Office, but usually the offenders will agree to clean up to avoid the fine and/or jail time.

Chairman Presley opened the floor for public comments.

Vince Vidrick – 389 Pine Knoll Lane, Bastian VA

Spoke in opposition to the Ordinance.

Sheriff Brian Heatt – Tazewell, VA

Spoke in support of the Ordinance; stating there have been several 911 calls because people actually refused to get out of the dumpster when public services came to dump the bin/receptacle.

Russell Stowers – 6947 Clear Fork Road, Bastian, VA

Spoke in support of the Ordinance; explaining he actually hit a lady in the head with a heavy bag of trash because she was inside the dumpster and I didn't see her; people can get hurt.

Chairman Presley having opened the floor for citizen comments, called a second time for public comments. Hearing none, Chairman Presley called a third and final time for public comments either in person or over the phone. Hearing none, the Public Hearing was closed.

Upon motion of Supervisor Rhudy, seconded by Supervisor Cruvey and adopted by a vote of 4 to 1 with Supervisor Plaster voting against and all others voting in favor thereof, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby adopts the Ordinance to prohibit scavenging in containers or receptacles. A copy of the Ordinance is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

Public Hearing for an Ordinance to establish real property taxes for 2026

County Administrator Eric Young reminded the Board that every year by the April meeting, the tax rate must be approved, so the Treasurer can get the tax notices mailed out on time. Administrator Young presented the Board with preliminary budget projections showing a net of \$939,000 in additional increased expenditures requested from various departments most of which is an additional \$2.466 million that we have to give the school system, which is a 16% increase. Mr. Young clarified the additional amount of 2.466 million, may not be an increase, but for the school system could be that the state is requiring that we give a bigger share than we did last year. He continued, we won't know for sure if the amount will change until the state's budget is finalized in May.

Mr. Young recommended approving the current tax rate of \$.58 per 100 and with the right budget cuts, we should be on track to cover everything short term without raising the tax rate.

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

Upon motion of Supervisor Rhudy, seconded by Supervisor Breeding and adopted by a vote of 4 to 1 with Supervisor Cruvey voting against and all others voting in favor thereof, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby sets the real property tax rate at \$.58 per 100 for 2026. Supervisor Cruvey commented that he voted against the rate because he believed it could be cut. A copy of the Ordinance is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

Public Hearing regarding renaming "Community College Road" as "Dr. Charles R. King Road"

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

County Attorney Aaron Gillespie stated Dr. Charles R. King was the founding president of the community college and several individuals requested the renaming, including the current president of SWVCC who penned a letter which will be attached to the Ordinance.

Supervisor Breeding outlined a few of Dr. Charles R. King's accomplishments; as he was the founding president of the community college serving from 1967 to 2007; completing 40 years of leadership and economic growth for the citizens of Southwest Virginia, Dr. King was inducted into the Hall of Fame for the University of Florida, designated an All-American Pitcher as well as an All-American Quarterback. Supervisor Breeding touched on the scholarship set up in honor of Dr. King, who truly believed no child should be left behind. Supervisor Breeding concluded with one of Dr. King's favorite mantras, TEAM (Together Everyone Accomplishes More).

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 adopt the Ordinance renaming "Community College Road as Dr. Charles R. King Road. A copy of the Ordinance is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

Public Hearing for a Resolution to Ratify the 2019 Resolution declaring Tazewell County, Virginia, a Second Amendment Sanctuary

Chairman Presley requested Supervisor Cruet to read aloud for the benefit of the public, the 2019 Resolution declaring Tazewell County, Virginia, a Second Amendment Sanctuary. A copy of the 2019 Resolution is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

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

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruet, 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 adopts the Resolution to ratify the 2019 Resolution declaring Tazewell County, Virginia, a Second Amendment Sanctuary. A copy of the Resolution is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – SCHEDULED

▶ ***EMS Certificate of Need Request***

▶ ***Giles Hartman***, Director of Operations for ProMed Ambulance Service

Giles Hartman on behalf of ProMed, returned a third time to request the Board of Supervisors' approval for ProMed to open an ambulance company in Richlands. Mr. Hartman informed the Board that there have been 97 requests for transportation inside of Tazewell County since January 1, 2026 (January - 36 transports; February - 58 transports; and March – 3 transports as of today). Mr. Hartman reiterated a need for his company's service, as well as employment opportunities for residents of Tazewell County.

Mr. Hartman then read two (2) Letters of Support and requested that the letters be entered into the record; (1) Alicia Bales, CEO of Carilion (Tazewell Community Hospital) and (2) Derrick Ratliff, Administrator of Heritage Hall.

Supervisor Breeding acknowledged that Peter Mulkey, CEO of Clinch Valley Health, reached out to him to express the need for Pro Med's service in Tazewell County. Supervisor Breeding stated that during their telephone conversation, Mr. Mulkey advised that somewhat recently some patients had to wait up to 48 hours before they could get transportation to another facility.

County Administrator Eric Young stated that Alicia Bales, CEO Tazewell Community Hospital had also reached out to him stating a need for the service due to long wait times for patient transportation.

Supervisor Cruet inquired if ProMed had already been doing business in Tazewell County? Mr. Hartman advised, "yes, ProMed has provided patient transportation for Tazewell County since they opened, but since ProMed does not have a local office the ambulance comes from Coeburn, Virginia, and it increases the wait time for patients".

Chairman Presley opened the floor for any public comments.

Tony Wyatt, Captain Town of Tazewell EMS

Spoke in opposition to the Ordinance.

Captain Wyatt stated Tazewell County already has four (4) services providing patient transportation in Tazewell County; Mercy, Highlands, Town of Tazewell and Carilion. Captain Wyatt said the ripple effect of a fifth business coming in may lead to one of these businesses having to close because there's not enough calls to go around. Captain Wyatt also stated ProMed is a private company and can offer better pay and benefits, so our current employees will of course try to apply and if we can't staff our offices, then we can't take calls.

Supervisor Presley inquired if anyone had spoken to the Town of Tazewell about another provider coming in to handle patient transportation?

Barry Brooks, Director Fire and EMS Services

Barry Brooks stated he knew the four (4) providers had met recently and discussed the ripple effect to their businesses.

County Administrator Eric Young stated that the County currently pays the Town of Tazewell \$100,000 to cover 911 transportation in the Southern District each year. Mr. Young clarified, the Town handles both transporting patients and 911 calls, and since 911 calls usually lose money for these services, the patient transportation is how they make their money. If a new business comes in and takes all of the patient transports then that leaves the Town only getting the 911; then that could be an issue that would end up costing the County more money, Mr. Young concluded.

Supervisor Rhudy inquired if there was a way to make sure all companies had to handle a share of the 911 calls, that way everything would be fair?

Administrator Young stated that on the Certificate of Need we could list certain requirements, with transportation of so many 911 calls being included.

Joe Lewis – Mercy Ambulance Service

Mr. Joe Lewis spoke in opposition to the Ordinance; stating his company takes an average of ten (10) 911 calls a month, acting as a back-up and the company could not survive on only 911 calls.

A discussion among the Supervisors followed and resulted in the Board referring Promed's Certificate of Need request to the Emergency Services Committee, requesting their input on the language for ProMed's Certificate of Need.

▶ ***Olivia McKinney*** – Appalachian Regional Detox Initiative

Olivia McKinney presented a short presentation on behalf of Appalachian Regional Detox Initiative. Ms. McKinney stated that currently patients in Tazewell County must travel between 90-110 miles to access an inpatient detox treatment. Ms. McKinney also spoke on her desire to open an inpatient detox treatment facility inside of Tazewell County.

County Administrator Eric Young advised Ms. McKinney of Tazewell County's Opioid Abuse and Abatement Committee and suggested that she make arrangements to speak before the committee.

▶ ***Library Board*** – In favor of keeping the Law Library

The Chairman directed that this matter be deferred to the April 7, 2026 meeting.

▶ ***Deb Wilson*** – Roots to Real

Deb Wilson presented a short power point presentation showcasing the first year of the Root to Real (crockpot) program. Ms. Wilson explained she partners and travels to local schools, teaching children and graduating seniors, how to grow their own food and cook entire meals inside a single crock pot. Ms. Wilson stated she provides evidence based nutritional information along with real solutions on how to obtain. Ms. Wilson informed the Board the program was able to give each graduating senior at Tazewell High School their own individual crockpot at the end of the program, which was a total of 122 crockpots.

Ms. Wilson requested a monetary donation, in order to expand the program into Graham and Richlands High Schools.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – UNSCHEDULED

Chairman Presley opened the floor for any unscheduled citizen comments

Jack Thompson – 905 NYE Valley, Bastian, VA 24314 - nyevalley@proton.me

Mr. Jack Thompson submitted a Petition signed by land owners along Route 662, in the Clearfork section, requesting that the Board pass an Ordinance to mirror the one just passed for ATV restrictions in Burke's Garden.

The Board explained a Petition would not be needed in this particular case, since it was already illegal for there to be any ATVs on Route 662.

Mr. Thompson stated there is still people who ride ATVs on Route 662 and has already caused an accident. Mr. Thomspson requested that the Ordinance be passed anyway.

Supervisor Cruely said he would request extra patrols from the Sheriff's Office for the area, in hopes of combatting the ATV problem.

Supervisors Presley and Breeding agreed to work with Mr. Thompson and the citizens regarding the ATV traffic on Route 662.

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 voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby moves that the signed Petition submitted on behalf of residents of Clearfork, Gratton and Cove Creek prohibiting any ATV traffic along Route 662, be made a part of the record. A copy of which is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

Russell Stowers – 6947 Clear Fork Road, Bastian, VA 24314

Spoke in support of an Ordinance prohibiting ATV traffic on primary roads, specifically requesting an Ordinance for Clearfork Road and Cove Creek Road. Chief Stowers stated it was in the best interest of public safety.

Upon motion of Supervisor Rhudy, 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 voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby moves that a Public Hearing be set for an Ordinance restricting ATV traffic along Route 662.

Vince Vidrick – 389 Pine Knoll Lane, Bastian VA

Spoke in support of an Ordinance to restrict ATV travel on Route 662.

Corey Sparks and Jill Howell – A Hope and a Future Ministry

Founders of A Hope and a Future Ministry; Corey Sparks and Jill Howell, provided a brief background and summary. Ms. Sparks stated the purpose of their ministry is to help women overcome addiction and rebuild their lives through community support and life skills development.

Ms. Howell provided an update on their current projects, stating the Gift and Thrift store located on Main Street had its grand opening last month and already bypassed projected monthly earnings. Ms. Howell further stated that the thrift store was opened to provide a revenue stream to assist in establishing a long-term residential recovery facility in Tazewell County.

Ms. Sparks and Ms. Howell advised the Board that they had found a suitable property for their recovery facility and are requesting the Board of Supervisors; partnering with the Opioid Abuse and Abatement Committee, purchase the property.

County Administrator Eric Young stated the Opioid Abuse and Abatement Committee recommended this project and the Board could discuss the details and options during Executive Session.

BREAK - UNSCHEDULED

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

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 voting against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby moves to recess for ten (10) minutes.

Break – 8:37 p.m.

Reconvened – 8:50 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCIAL/COUNTY PROJECTS UPDATE

Funding request – Southwest Virginia 4-H

County Administrator Eric Young stated Southwest Virginia 4-H Center sent in a funding request for the camper scholarship program.

The Board discussed prior donation amounts given to 4-H and were unable to recall the specific amount. The Board requested that the Executive Assistant check with the Finance Department regarding the amount provided for 2025 and report back to the Board.

Health Insurance Plan Approval

Administrator Young notified the Board of a health insurance premium increase of 17.8% this year. Mr. Young stated that paying the increase; based upon the current 90% the County covers for the employee's premium, will result in an additional \$580,000 expense in the budget. Mr. Young continued, working with Anthem we realized the increase was mainly due to our \$250 deductible plan; which of our approximate 200 employees 110 are on the \$250 deductible plan. Mr. Young said if we migrated the employees on the \$250 plan to the \$500 deductible plan, the max out of pocket increases by \$1,000 and the deductible is raised by \$250, but their premiums also decrease by \$50.00 a month. However, if employees wish to keep the \$250 deductible plan and the Board modifies the employer share from 90% to 80% it will save \$300,000 in the budget, Mr. Young concluded.

Upon motion of Supervisor Breeding, 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 the Tazewell County hospitalization rates for FY27 as presented in the agenda. A copy of which is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

Ponderosa project update

Mr. Young stated this project is a meat packing facility, being built largely with Tobacco Commission and VCEDA funds. Mr. Young said this facility is being planned inside the Bluestone and VDOT advised us that we would have to have a traffic study conducted beforehand. Mr. Young informed the Board the cost of a traffic study is \$8,000, so negotiating with VDOT they agreed to a traffic report which would cost \$800. Mr. Young closed by saying the project is still on schedule to be put out for bid late March or early April, with construction beginning around July/August.

Electoral Board discussion

County Administrator Eric Young stated that this matter was due to the election to amend the constitution to allow redistricting. Mr. Young reminded the Board that Supervisor Cruey requested a Resolution regarding this matter and County Attorney Aaron Gillespie has that Resolution prepared.

Supervisor Cruey read the Resolution in support of protecting rural and agricultural representation through fair and balanced congressional districts.

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 moves to adopt the Resolution in support of protecting rural and agricultural representation through fair and balanced congressional districts. A copy is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

County Attorney Aaron Gillespie provided a brief update on the redistricting, stating there is an injunction in place which prohibits the Electoral Board or the Tazewell County Registrar from conducting any further activity with respect to the special election set for April 21st. Mr. Gillespie further stated that there is a court hearing set for tomorrow (March 4, 2026) at 11:00 a.m.; wherein it has been requested that the Court reconsider the injunction so that they may prepare for early voting, since the injunction only applies to Tazewell County.

Repeal Law Library fee charged for certain court filings

The Chairman deferred until the April 7, 2026 meeting.

United Way Flood Relief Grant update

Administrator Young reminded the Board that the county received \$54,000, from the United Way after Hurricane Helene along with \$37,000, received for the flood from President's Day. Mr. Young said previously the Board voted on how to allocate these funds; using this money to supplement homeowners which may not have qualified or underqualified for other state relief funds the County is also administering for the state. Mr. Young then presented a handout to the Board which listed the requests received, along with their estimated damages and any state monies already received. He stated, the awardees were identified by number, not by name. Mr. Young requested that the Board approve the chart submitted which listed the recommended funding for each homeowner; since DHCD caps the amount a homeowner can receive at ½ the property's value, leaving some residents with older mobile homes not receiving adequate compensate and/or enough to make appropriate repairs. Mr. Young also requested that the Board donate \$150.00 from contingency to cover the difference of money received from United Way and the \$37,150 being disbursed among the flood applicants.

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruey, seconded by Supervisor Plaster and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves transferring \$150.00 from contingency to cover the difference of money received from United Way to cover the distributions.

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 the United Way of Southwest Virginia distribution of February 2025 storm relief as presented to the Board. A copy of the spreadsheet is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

DHCD Flood Relief Grant update

Administrator Young explained that in the next couple of months he will have another breakdown similar to the United Way fund disbursement the Board will need to vote on, but the DHCD review process is still pending on a few applicants.

Retail Week funding request \$500

County Administrator Eric Young informed the Board that Tourism Director, A.J. Robinson requested \$500 from contingency in order to help cover the advertising costs for Retail Week.

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 authorizes transferring \$500 from contingency in order to advertise for Retail Week.

Daycare earmark

Mr. Young explained the earmarks are the Congressional directed spending programs, a few suggestions have been presented by Merchant McIntyre as possible qualifying programs. Mr. Young stated that Ms. AJ Robinson had reminded him that EO (a subsidiary of United Way) built a 21st Century daycare center in the former Kmart in Abingdon. Mr. Young continued that EO has been looking at properties in Tazewell County and believe the property owned by Bluefield College (beside the First Community Bank building) would be a great spot to build one. Mr. Young said EO is requesting a 2 million grant to build one of the daycares and Merchant McIntyre also believe this would be the best bet in order to receive the earmark funds.

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, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes submitting an earmark application for the EO daycare center in the amount of 2 million dollars.

TCPS categorical transfer request

Mr. Young advised the Board that due to some accounting irregularities with TCPS, the Board voted to transfer from their requested budget 2 million from the capital overlay account to the debt service account. Mr. Young said by doing so, it compels the TCPS to come back and request the funds based upon proven need of the funds. He said, you will find the invoices inside the amended packet received from TCPS for phone systems upgrade and network audit; totaling \$270,786.32. The Board reviewed the items and discussed them briefly.

Upon motion of Supervisor Breeding, 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 transferring in the Tazewell County Public School's FY26 budget \$270,786.32 from their debt service account to their capital overlay to cover the requested invoices.

Appointments

Planning Commission

The Chairman directed that this matter be deferred to the April 7, 2026 meeting.

Tourism

The Chairman directed that this matter be deferred to the April 7, 2026 meeting.

Cumberland Plateau Planning Commission District

The Chairman directed that this matter be deferred to the April 7, 2026 meeting.

Clinch Valley Community Action

The Chairman directed that this matter be deferred to the April 7, 2026 meeting.

Animal Shelter

The Chairman directed that this matter be deferred to the April 7, 2026 meeting.

Emergency Services Committee

The Chairman directed that this matter be deferred to the April 7, 2026 meeting.

SUPERVISOR CONCERNS

Supervisor Breeding

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 donating \$500.00 to Richlands High School for the 2026 prom from the Western District Funds.

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 donating \$1000.00 to Richlands High School for the 2026 Project Graduation from the Western District; credit to be given as \$500 donated from the Northwestern District and \$500 from the Western District.

Supervisor Rhudy

Supervisor Rhudy requested that the Agricultural Advisory Committee be deferred until April.

Supervisor Presley

Supervisor Presley wished to discuss the Virginia American Water and PSA suggesting that the Board provide the reasoning behind the possible sale to the public based upon the cost to run the PSA, the decreased population, age of the lines and the repair costs. Supervisor Presley requested that something be brought to the April meeting outlining the reasons.

COMMITTEE LIAISON

PSA - Supervisor Presley

Supervisor Presley reiterated the possible sale to Virginia American Water and that there were multiple projects going on right now such as replacing the lines (Raven, Tazewell, Pocahontas and along 460) and the leachate tank.

IDA - Supervisor Breeding

Supervisor Breeding stated IDA is currently working on the Project Resort and Pure Salmon as discussed at last month's meeting. The IDA is also waiting on the finalization of the study for the gas project from Pounding Mill Branch to the college. Supervisor Breeding stated the IDA is currently working on housing by reviewing the property the IDA owns in Tazewell County, we had a meeting with Wise concerning the projected housing for Tazewell County. Supervisor Breeding said workforce development is always something the IDA is working on

by partnering with SWVCC and our groups here in the County, the school system in particular. The IDA is also working on the sawmill in Clinch River they have a meeting on that matter at the end of the week and hope to find out something positive.

Bottling Company – Liquid Death – We have had the people from 3300 Artisan Water come up and discuss a plant at the Bluestone. We toured their facility and made our pitch, right now we are waiting to hear from their home office and hope that will be moving forward soon.

ESC - Supervisor Rhudy

Supervisor Rhudy stated he was waiting on the first meeting later this month.

CPPDC - Supervisor Plaster

Supervisor Plaster advised at the last meeting they received an update on the 460 wireless project in Buchanan County; had a presentation on telemedicine; and advised that the CPPDC is also working on residential housing projects as well and that the IDA may want to partner with them on something.

RDA - Supervisor Breeding

Supervisor Breeding said the meetings have become few and far between due to quorums and such issues. Supervisor Breeding stated there should be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the bath houses at Cavitt's Creek coming up soon.

Administrator Young agreed stating possibly having the ceremony in conjunction with the Kid's Fish Day.

Supervisor Breeding further stated that the RDA has been working with the Tourism department and have applied with the Thompson Charitable Grant for a recreation grant for Tazewell County.

Planning Commission - Supervisor Cruey

Supervisor Cruey stated the February 12th meeting was moved to March 12th since there was no new business.

OTHER BUSINESS

County Administrator Eric Young notified the Board at each upcoming Board meeting he was planning to invite one of the department heads to come and make a short presentation in order to keep everyone advised on what was happening in that department. Mr. Young stated Jan Cordle with the PSA will be here in April to discuss the PSA's current projects and business.

RECESSED MEETING / ADJOURN @ 10:26 p.m.

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 moves to recess until March 16, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

A copy teste:



Charles "Chuck" Presley Jr., Chairman

