

VIRGINIA: AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TAZEWELL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD MAY 5, 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 (left 7:35 pm)
CURTIS BREEDING, MEMBER
JOHN RHUDY, MEMBER (arrived 4:06 pm)
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 Shanna Plaster led The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag followed by the invocation given by Supervisor Kyle Cruey.

The Chairman welcomed those in attendance and citizens who were participating by conference call. Citizens were able to call in and participate in the meeting by calling (425) 436-6388 and entering the access code 836650.

AGENDA APPROVED AS AMENDED

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

County Administrator Eric Young, explained the additions and deletions listed on the revised agenda and requested to add to Executive Session A(1) Personnel in Finance Department, A(1) Personnel in Animal Shelter and A(1) Personnel in EMS.

County Attorney Aaron Gillespie also requested one (1) addition; under the administrative section, item 15, to include Notice of Public Hearing to Amend Ordinance as requested by the Commissioner of Revenue.

Supervisor Cruey and Supervisor Breeding questioned Mr. Young, whether Cedar Bluff's hotel tax issues should be added to the agenda? Mr. Young responded, that he had already spoken to John Absher, Town Manager for Cedar Bluff, on this issue and thought the Board could discuss the matter during Supervisor Breeding's Board Concerns.

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruey, seconded by Supervisor Plaster and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Rhudy being absent from the vote and all others voting in favor thereof and no one against the same,

the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the revised agenda format incorporating the requested revisions/additions.

MINUTES APPROVED AS WRITTEN

Upon motion of Supervisor Breeding, seconded by Supervisor Cruey and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with supervisor Rhudy being absent from the vote and all others voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the minutes from the April 7, 2026 meeting, April 21, 2026, meeting and the April 28, 2026, meeting. Copies are available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

Supervisor Rhudy arrived at 4:06 p.m.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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 items A, B, C, D and G of the Consent Calendar.

Upon motion of Supervisor Plaster, seconded by Supervisor Breeding and adopted by a vote of 3 to 0 to 2, with all members present, with Supervisor Cruey 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 E and F, 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. Raleigh Mine & Industrial Supply/DS Parts Co. incorrectly filed merchants' capital as a manufacturer on their 2025-762 Business PP return. Requested correction, response received after books were ran / received corrected amt in March 2026. Inventory Capital was reduced to \$93,500 for their wholesale /results in a refund \$9,859.90.

D. Consider ratifying poll for \$20k from contingency for repairs to jailhouse steps.

E. Sheriff's Office requested a reimbursement of \$9,924.68, for items purchased from the Heat Grant (31020-6010).

F. Consider Surplus Sheriff's Office Belgian Malinois Canine Officer and authorize sale with any proceeds to go to the Sheriff's Office.

G. Funding Request - Transfer \$25,845.56 from Contingent Expenditures and Grant Account (091050-7041) to the Fire Departments Capital Outlay budget line (032010-8109).

**Consent Calendar Items
May 5, 2026 Meeting**

Source	Check #	To Acct	Amt	Description
Natasha Hunt	5049	73010-1150	\$250.00	Payroll reimbursement
CMCS	252140	31020-1150	\$595.34	Reimbursement for overtime for CITAC
University of Virginia	3164844	12130-5510	\$175.00	TAV Refund – Kristin Hurley
Dominion Auto Auction	13607	31020-6009	\$1665.00	Sale of 2007 Ford Escape
Seasons IV Garden Club	118	73010-3099	\$200.00	Library donation
First Community Bank	2720726	73010-3099	\$150.00	Library donation
Tazewell County Farm Bureau	8340	73010-3099	\$150.00	Library donation
Natasha Hunt	5050	73010-1150	\$250.00	Payroll reimbursement
Instrument Calibration	10044	31020-6009	\$40.00	TCSO
Singleton & Singleton	1464	31020-5520	\$150.00	Donation - TCSO
Richlands Funeral Co.	100447	31020-5520	\$100.00	Donation - TCSO
Singleton Funeral Service	45374	31020-5520	\$150.00	Donation - TCSO
Peery & St. Clair Funeral Home	2241	31020-5520	\$50.00	Donation - TCSO

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Engineering – Kenneth Dunford

Landfill

Mr. Dunford notified the Board that while this matter was not in his report, he did have a recent update. Mr. Dunford advised that we will have our draft variance approval tomorrow on the Leachate Tank, and in turn will be able to begin the thirty (30) day comment period on Thursday. Mr. Dunford stated barring any bad comments we should get the variance, which leads into having the permit for the Leachate Tank.

County Administrator Young celebrated the news, noting the time frame should allow for us to put it out for bid(s) this summer and hopefully begin work in the fall.

Mr. Dunford agreeing with Mr. Young, stated that was his hopes as well, it just depends on the permit.

Administrator Young explained he has been working with Jordan Dillon at Cumberland Plateau and she is applying to the Department of Housing and Community Development for a two-million-dollar grant (\$2,000,000) to pay for the Leachate Tank. Mr. Young clarified that while he does not believe the County will receive the entire two-million-dollars (\$2,000,000), any portion of the grant we do receive must be here before construction can begin.

Drainage Project / Schedule

Mr. Dunford informed the Board that up to \$150,000, had been approved at the April 13th Coal Severance Tax Committee (CST) meeting, for the drainage project on Songbird, Starling, Sparrow and Shamrock. Mr. Dunford then requested that the Board also approve the drainage project, listed within his report.

Upon motion of Supervisor Crucey, 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 drainage project list as presented. A copy of which is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

Paving Schedule

Mr. Dunford further informed the Board that the paving schedule had been approved at the April 13th CST meeting. Mr. Dunford requested that the Board also approve the paving schedule listed in his report.

Supervisor Breeding questioned whether the list included Central Avenue and Surface Drive as discussed at the April 13th CST meeting?

Administrator Young replied that he had spoken with Tazewell's Town Manager, Lee Anne Regon and she would be willing to work with the County in order to get that area paved.

Mr. Dunford responded that Central Avenue and Surface Drive are currently listed on the paving schedule, but we can always remove them if it doesn't work out.

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 the paving schedule as presented. A copy of which is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

Questions/Comments

Cedar Bluff Transfer Station

Supervisor Breeding Crucey inquired if there had been any updates on the Cedar Bluff Transfer Station?

Mr. Dunford answered that he will be working with DEQ within the next two (2) weeks in order to resolve some permit issues and then plans to put the job back out for bids.

County Administrator Eric Young expressed to the Board that there will need to be a temporary place to relocate the transfer station for the public as close to that spot as possible, while the work is being performed. Mr. Young suggested renting the spot for a full year, just in case the project runs longer than expected.

Supervisor Breeding agreed, stating he and Supervisor Rhudy would confer and begin looking at possible areas to accommodate the temporary facility.

Rt. 67 Culvert

Supervisor Plaster asked for a status update on the replacement of a culvert along Route 67.

Mr. Dunford said he believed the replacement is ongoing along with some additional repairs and minor paving to other areas along the road.

Safer Streets

County Administrator Eric Young recapitulated the Safer Streets program previously adopted and informed the Board of a two and a half million-dollar (\$2,500,000.00) federal grant the County is preparing to apply for to implement the project. Mr. Young explained that the grant requires a signed Resolution from the Board stating the board approves applying for the grant and pledges to match the funds received. After discussing the grant with our lobbyists, they suggested we increase the Board's previously approved amount of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00) over two (2) years to five hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$550,000.00) over two (2) years for the grant match, Mr. Young said. Mr. Young further stated he hopes to pay the majority with coal severance funds; requesting that CST pay three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000.00), instead of their current pledged contribution of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000.00).

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 moves to approve the Resolution in Support of Safer Streets Grant Application; wherein the Board agrees to match the grant funds, if received, up to five hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$550,000.00) over two (2) fiscal years. A copy of the Resolution is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Andrew Cordle – Tazewell County PSA Update

Andrew Cordle with the Tazewell County PSA presented to the Board status updates for current projects underway at the PSA.

Richlands

Mr. Cordle stated the Town of Richlands' Water Treatment Plant is still on hold and the Town of Richlands' Wastewater Treatment Plant was readvertised in December and the project was awarded to Orders Construction.

Tazewell

Mr. Cordle also stated that The Town of Tazewell Wastewater Treatment Plant project is currently under construction with a completion date of February 2027. Once complete 70% of the total project debt will be ours and the Town of Tazewell's responsibility, since the PSA owns 40% of that plant, Mr. Cordle advised.

Falls Mills

The Falls Mills' sanitary system rehabilitation is currently underway, Mr. Cordle said. Since the PSA employees completed as much work as possible in house it lowered the total cost and we should be getting back between \$400,000 to \$500,000 from DEQ, in turn lowering our loan payment, once the project is completed in June 2026, Mr. Cordle said.

Town of Tazewell Route 460 Waterline Replacement Project

Mr. Cordle went on to say the Route 460 waterline replacement project should be completed in September 2026 and this is a 50/50 project with the Town of Tazewell.

Pocahontas Waterline Replacement Project

Mr. Cordle reminded the Board that this project had to be readvertised due to the bids being higher than the anticipated cost and the bids will open May 21, 2026.

Falls Mills Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

Mr. Cordle stated the final design and permitting has been submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for approval and once approved the PSA will begin advertising for construction bids.

Coronado Coal Company

Andrew Cordle advised the Board that Coronado Coal has requested 20,000 gallons of water per day (GPD) in 2026 and the PSA is currently checking to see if pump stations in the area can meet the demand.

Raven/Doran Inflow and Infiltration

Mr. Cordle verified with County Administrator Eric Young, that the PSA would be receiving federal grant money for this project.

Mr. Young replied that the County did apply for a federally directed congressional spending grant and was awarded \$500,000 to assist with this project.

Permanent Generators for Water Pump Station Sites

The PSA, working with Tazewell County and Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commission (CPPDC), has applied for \$497,000.00 in grant money in order to purchase four (4) permanent generators for PSA pump stations, Mr. Cordle continued. The project will go out to bid as soon as the environmental review is completed by CPPDC.

Ebenezer/Slade Road Water Line Extension

Mr. Cordle said that CPPDC awarded the PSA \$50,000 in funding, to do a preliminary engineering report to explore the possibility of extending water lines to Ebenezer Road and Slade Road and those results should be back soon.

Pocahontas Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades

Mr. Cordle informed the Board that the PSA received funding from DEQ to repair damages caused by Hurricane Helene; including installing a pump generator at the Pocahontas Wastewater Treatment Plant and smaller generators for two (2) pump stations and this project is currently under design.

AASC – Proclamation – Older Americans Month 2026

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 moves to adopt a proclamation designating the month of May 2026 as Older Americans Month. A copy of which is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

EXECUTIVE/CLOSED MEETING – 4:24 pm

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

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

- ▶ A(3) Property acquisition Slade Road – Hope and Future
- ▶ A(29) Contract modifications re: Landfill Monitoring Agreement
- ▶ A(1) Personnel in Finance Department
- ▶ A(1) Personnel re: Fire Company Chief
- ▶ A(3) Property acquisition Baptist Valley Transfer Station
- ▶ A(1) Personnel in Economic Development
- ▶ A(1) Personnel in Economic Development
- ▶ A(1) Personnel at the Animal Shelter
- ▶ A(1) Personnel in EMS

RETURN/CERTIFICATION/REPORT OF ACTION – 7:15 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 in Finance Department

Upon motion of Supervisor Plaster, seconded by Supervisor Cruet and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves moving the payroll manager position from Administrative I pay tier to Administrative IA pay tier.

Personnel in Finance Department

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 moves to eliminate the position of Grant Manager, create a new position of Grants and Budget Manager and promote Tanya Mullins our current Grant Manager into that position.

Personnel in Animal Shelter, IT, Economic Development and EMS

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 moves to consolidate pay tiers 5: Economic Development Manager, 6: Assistant IT Network Architect and 7: EMS Captain into a single Department Managers pay tier, a new tier 5, for personnel who are the primary assistants to the Department Directors who exercise limited discretion in the Director's absence; that the beginning pay for new hires in the tier would be \$57,000 annually; that we include in the new pay tier the existing positions of Animal Shelter Manager and Emergency Management Coordinator, IT Manager, EMS Captain, Economic Development Manager and the new position of Budget and Grant Manager. That such employees in those positions previously assigned to tiers 6 and 7 would continue to be paid any prior cost of living adjustments or tenure adjustments as they may have been given in the past, such that their current pay is not reduced; and that the budget include an additional \$35,000.00 annually to make those adjustments.

Personnel re: Fire Company Chief

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 against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors, pursuant to the Fire Reform Ordinance enacted in December 2025 and after multiple interviews conducted by a Committee of this Board, hereby appoints Chief Russell Stowers as the Inaugural Administrative Fire Chief for the new volunteer Tazewell County Fire Company. I furthermore move to authorize the County Attorney to file Articles of Incorporation and other documents with the State Corporation Commission for and on behalf of the Tazewell County Fire Company.

Robert's Rules of Order

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) – Secondary Six-Year Road Plan and Resolution for Rural Rustic Road Designation

Jeff Buchanan, Assistant Residency Engineer for VDOT, came before the Board to propose VDOT's Six Year Plan and the Construction Priority List for Tazewell County.

Mr. Buchanan explained that he along with Erica Miller, VDOT Residency Representative, work together with the Board and County Engineer Ken Dunford in order to update the County's Secondary Highway Six Year Plan (2027 – 2032) as well as the Construction Priority List. Mr. Buchanan stated the funds used to pay for these ventures are sourced through VDOT'S unpaved road funds (created by the General Assembly) and a tele feed fund (cable/internet companies pay a fee to be within the VDOT right of way).

Mr. Buchanan provided via overhead projector and handout; a detailed report and spreadsheet listing the individual breakdown for each road's planned repairs/improvements, in addition to a draft budget with corresponding project itemization costs.

Mr. Buchanan stated after the proposed projects based upon the spreadsheet provided, this will leave approximately twelve (12) gravel roads in Tazewell County.

Supervisor Plaster excused herself from the meeting at 7:35 p.m. due to illness.

Mr. Buchanan further requested the Board's approval to designate Tin Can Alley and Turner Hollow Road as Rural Rustic Roads within the County based upon the low-density travel and qualifying characteristics. Mr. Buchanan stated these roads are included within the six-year plan for improvements to the secondary system of state highways.

Mr. Buchanan provided the Approval of Secondary Highway Six Year Plan (2027 through 2032) and Construction Priority List for Tazewell County, Virginia and the Resolution for Rural Rustic Road Designation, for the Board's review and approval.

Supervisor Presley opened the floor for public comments either in person or over the phone. Hearing none, Supervisor Presley called a second time for public comments. With no response, Supervisor Presley called a third and final time for public comments. The hearing was then closed.

County Administrator Eric Young inquired if County Engineer Ken Dunford was in agreement on the list of roads submitted and proposed plans.

Ken Dunford stated he had been assisting Mr. Buchanan on the project and affirmed he was in agreement with the proposed list and plan.

Upon motion of Supervisor Breeding, seconded by Supervisor Cruvey and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Plaster being absent from the vote and all others voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the Resolution for Rural Rustic Road Designation. A copy of which is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruvey, seconded by Supervisor Rhudy and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Plaster being absent from the vote and all others voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the Secondary Highway Six Year Plan (2027-2032) and Construction Priority List (2026/2027) Tazewell County, Virginia. A copy of which is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

Public hearing for an ordinance to prohibit all-terrain vehicle travel on public rights of way on Route 662 in Clear Fork

County Attorney Aaron Gillespie explained to the Board that after some discussion, he would prefer to wait and see what the State of Virginia decides with their pending legislation; which may alter or change this matter, before the Board takes any action on the proposed ordinance. However, since this matter was advertised, we do need to proceed with the Public Hearing, should there be anyone here wanting to speak on this matter, Mr. Gillespie said.

Supervisor Presley opened the floor for public comments either in person or over the phone. Hearing none, Supervisor Presley called a second time for public comments. With no response, Supervisor Presley called a third and final time for public comments. The hearing was then closed.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – SCHEDULED

► *Pro Med Certificate of Need Request (Nathan Shockley / Giles Hartman)*

County Attorney Aaron Gillespie explained to the Board that this matter is still in the process of being worked out among the Emergency Services Committee and Pro Med. Mr. Gillespie stated he is currently drafting a Mutual Aid Agreement which will resolve this matter and plans to present it for board approval at the June board meeting.

► *Erica Galloway – Summer reading events at the Tazewell County Library*

Erica Galloway appeared before the Board on behalf of the Tazewell County Public Library, providing updates on the libraries current projects, such as; Comic Con had an attendance of 750 people, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has 555 kids currently enrolled, the library had to schedule two (2) movie showings for A Silent Fire due to over 300 people attending, the chess club resumed, a sit n' stitch in Tazewell and a Mario Kart tournament was hosted.

Ms. Galloway invited the public to the library's upcoming summer events, which included; American Mahjong, an estate planning workshop, intro to 3D printing, All God's Creatures Reptile Show, tarantula program, fossil excavations, foam parties, first aid classes, free continuing education classes, genealogy research, language learning and summer reading programs.

Ms. Galloway stated there are monthly event calendars online or your local library branch would have available copies for the public.

Ms. Galloway also requested \$5,000 in order to build a bathroom on the second floor of the Richlands Library.

County Administrator Eric Young asked Ms. Galloway to send him an email on the request and he would confer with the budget committee.

► *David Rommel Hargrave – Gospel Explosion Outreach Recovery Ministries*

Rommel Hargrave of Riverside Drive, Tazewell, VA., came before the Board to discuss the Gospel Explosion Outreach Recovery Ministry program. Mr. Hargrave discussed the need for Christ in people's lives, stating the real ministry is outside the four (4) walls of a church. Mr. Hargrave explained the program has been going into the jails and prisons in an attempt to transform/reform people's lives with the word of God. This program is about meeting people where they are in their lives, whether that be drug addiction, suicidal, alcoholism or just needing spiritual enrichment in their daily lives, Mr. Hargrave said.

Mr. Hargrave invited everyone to the ministry outreach event happening June 20, 2026 from 11:00 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the top shelter in the Lincolnshire Park in North Tazewell. Mr. Hargrave explained that he was having people come from Tennessee to speak at the event and requested donations to help feed the outreach volunteers from Tennessee.

All of the supervisors discussed giving money from their district funds for the event.

County Administrator Eric Young stated that unfortunately the Board cannot legally donate directly to churches and religious organizations, as it is unconstitutional.

County Attorney Aaron Gillespie inquired if Mr. Hargrave worked with all local food banks. Mr. Gillespie suggested that the Board donate to a local food bank and then the food bank would be able to contribute food and/or refreshments to the volunteers.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – UNSCHEDULED

Chairman Presley opened the floor for any unscheduled citizen comments

► *Mike Lampert – Field of Honor - Bluefield, Virginia Lions Club*

Mike Lampert of Eastview Street, Bluefield, VA, spoke before the Board on behalf of the Bluefield Virginia Lions Club. Mr. Lampert stated this 4th of July is special because it celebrates our country's 250th Anniversary, our independence and the spirit that forged it. Mr. Lampert explained that the Bluefield Lions Club will be installing flags in honor and pride of our local veterans in Bluefield Virginia at Jack Asbury Square, the field by Bluefield College and at the Historic Sanders House. Mr. Lampert described the event sponsorship levels ranging from \$1,000 to \$50 and what each level provides for the monetary donation. Mr. Hargrave requested the Board's assistance by purchasing a flag kit, which includes a 3 x 5 flag mounted on a 7 ½ foot flag pole.

► *James Brown – Panthers Branch Road, Bandy, Virginia*

James Brown was in attendance to request the Board's help to replacing damaged guardrail in front of his home and possibly install signage to warn drivers. Mr. Brown stated the area of road right before Reynolds Ridge on Panthers Branch Road in Bandy, Virginia, has a 90-degree turn on a blind curve and has caused many accidents over the years. Mr. Brown provided pictures of the area in question, showing the damaged guardrail. Mr. Brown said without the guardrail on that particular curve, many people would be killed as the drop is straight down and lands on railroad tracks.

Supervisor Cruey and Administrator Eric Young responded with questions, in efforts to pin down the exact location in question.

Administrator Eric Young requested Mr. Brown's phone number. Mr. Young advised Mr. Brown he would have our County Engineer Ken Dunford give him a call and then confer with VDOT since it is a state-maintained road.

Supervisor Presley called a second time for citizen comments. Hearing none, Supervisor Presley called a third and final time for unscheduled citizen comments.

Appointments

Planning Commission

The Executive Assistant to the Board, Stephanie Russell wished to clarify Supervisor Cruey's nomination to the Planning Commission, as the prior member's term ended June 30, 2025 and a replacement was not voted on until April 21, 2026.

Administrator Young and Supervisor Cruey agreed that the appointment's term will begin July 1, 2025.

Clinch Valley Community Action

The Chairman directed that this matter be deferred to the June 2, 2026 meeting.

Animal Shelter

The Chairman directed that this matter be deferred to the June 2, 2026 meeting.

Recreation and Parks Facility Authority

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruey, seconded by Supervisor Rhudy and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Plaster being absent from the vote and all others voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby moves to rescind the appointment of Kyle Cruey and appoints Ben Gibson to Suzanne Brinegar's unexpired term.

Wireless Service Authority

The Chairman directed that this matter be deferred to the June 2, 2026 meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – UNSCHEDULED

► Fred Lawless – Burke's Garden Fire Department

Fred Lawless of 4230 Gose Mill Road, Burke's Garden, came to speak following Senator Hackworth's sponsored bill passed in March 2025, wherein the State Fire Marshall can no longer require permits or fees from fire departments in order to have fire work programs. Mr. Lawless stated that since Burke's Garden Fire Department is unincorporated, they must seek local government approval (board permission) for a fireworks display/program.

Upon motion of Supervisor Rhudy, seconded by Supervisor Cruey and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Plaster being absent from the vote and all others voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby moves to allow Burke's Garden Fire Department to discharge fireworks.

ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCIAL/COUNTY PROJECTS UPDATE

Bottom Road flood study grant match

County Administrator Eric Young conveyed that the County received a grant in the amount of \$720,000, in order to complete a flood study, the grant does require a match of \$72,000. Mr. Young stated that DCR figures it will be a two (2) year project, so the match can be made over two (2) years, with \$36,000 each year. Mr. Young further stated that while the first \$36,000 is built into this year's budget, the County will need to sign an MOU with the Department of Conversation and Recreation for the grant.

Upon motion of Supervisor Breeding, seconded by Supervisor Rhudy and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Plaster being absent from the vote and all others voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby moves to accept the DCR grant in the amount of \$720,000 to design flood mitigation for Doran.

AASC funding request for \$7,534 for five new buses

Administrator Young stated that the Appalachian Agency for Senior Citizens (AASC) requested \$7,534 for five (5) new buses, as a 1% match.

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruey and seconded by Supervisor Rhudy and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Plaster being absent from the vote and all others voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves donating \$7,534 to the AASC for five (5) new buses.

Lindsey Wilson University

The Chairman deferred this matter to the June 2, 2026 meeting, at the request of Mr. Young.

One-time annual stipend of 2%

Administrator Young explained that the State is requiring a one-time 2% stipend to local employees that are funded by the State, which the State will cover the cost of this stipend. Mr. Young said he is requesting local money to pay for the same one-time 2% stipend for county employees in non-state funded positions, at a cost of \$78,000, in this fiscal year.

Upon motion of Supervisor Presley, seconded by Supervisor Breeding and adopted by a vote of 2 to 0 to 2, with Supervisor Plaster being absent and Supervisors Crucey and Rhudy abstaining from the vote and all others voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves paying \$78,000 from contingency, to give all county employees in non-state funded positions a one-time 2% stipend to be paid in June.

Authorize advertisement of FY27 budget and tax levies

Mr. Young handed out the proposed budget for FY27 for the Board's review and requested authorize to advertise the budget to the public along with the annual tax levies. Mr. Young also notified the Board that the Budget Committee had approved the advertisement at their meeting earlier today.

Administrator Young, Supervisor Presley and Supervisor Crucey discussed the amount reflected for the Regional Jail, noting that the number will decrease due to a refund of approximately \$600,000 from the jail discovered earlier today.

Supervisors Presley and Crucey also praised the work of the Budget Committee, especially Arlene Matney and Tanya Mullins compiling the various scenarios this year due to the county's required contribution to the school system going from 15.3 million to 18.1 million this year.

Upon motion of Supervisor Breeding and seconded by Supervisor Rhudy and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Plaster being absent from the vote and all others voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves advertising the FY27 budget and tax levies.

Consider approving annual appropriations to School Board for FY27

Along those lines, Administrator Eric Young stated that each year the county is required to confirm to the state by May 1st, that the county will meet the required matching contribution of state funds going to the school system.

Upon motion of Supervisor Crucey and seconded by Supervisor Breeding and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Plaster being absent from the vote and all others voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby moves to provide state confirmation that the county will contribute 18,104,134.00 or the state required match (whichever is less) to the School Board for FY27.

Ratify poll to approve Letter of Support for the Town of Tazewell

Mr. Young reminded the Board that based on an email poll the county provided a Letter of Support to the Town of Tazewell's for their Fab Lab Application.

Upon motion of Supervisor Rhudy and seconded by Supervisor Breeding and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Plaster being absent from the vote and all others voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby moves to ratify a poll to approve the Letter of Support for the Town of Tazewell's Fab Lab Application.

IT access policies

County Administrator Eric Young advised the Board of the state's recent changes for the Board of Elections, as to how votes are stored and electronically counted as well as how the voter registration information is stored and kept. Unfortunately, our electoral system is within the same network as the rest of the county, since they do not have a stand-alone computer network, Mr. Young said. Mr. Young continued that the county has two (2) options; either build them their own computer network, or apply those same rules to our entire system and I have included those rules in your packet with most being similar to our current internet policy: don't use the computer for personal time, don't go to websites not intended for work, don't download videos, perform personal shopping, etc.

Upon motion of Supervisor Breeding and seconded by Supervisor Rhudy and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Plaster being absent from the vote and all others voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby moves to implement the internet access policy as presented in the agenda packet for the Electoral Board. A copy of which is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

Mutual Aid Agreement with Russell County Law Enforcement Services

County Attorney Aaron Gillespie informed the Board that he was approached by Sheriff Hieatt for the purpose of executing a Mutual Aid Agreement between Tazewell County and Russell County with respect to law enforcement services. Mr. Gillespie stated he has asked Sheriff Hieatt to come tonight to give a brief summary to the Board and if the Board is so inclined, I have prepared a Resolution for the Board's approval.

Sheriff Brian Hieatt – Tazewell County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Hieatt explained to the Board the need of a mutual aid agreement between Tazewell County and Russell County, especially since Raven is partly in Tazewell County and the other part in Russell County. Sheriff Hieatt stated that with the Mutual Aid Agreement in place, it helps the officers have authority to work across the county line, they will no longer have to sit and wait until an officer from the other county comes to assist.

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruet and seconded by Supervisor Rhudy and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Plaster being absent from the vote and all others voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves passing the Resolution authorizing a mutual aid agreement between law enforcement services in Russell County and Tazewell County and the Mutual Aid and Cooperation Agreement for Law Enforcement Services for Russell County and Tazewell County. A copy of which is available in the County Administration Office, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

Resolution authorizing a Public Hearing for property disposition in Burke's Garden

County Attorney Aaron Gillespie requested that the Board authorize a public hearing for property disposition in Burke's Garden. Mr. Gillespie stated that Fred Lawless approached his office regarding some property located in between the Community Center and a church in Burke's Garden. Mr. Gillespie advised that Mr. Lawless wishes to make some improvements to that area for parking purposes and therefore this request will require a public hearing before the deeding the property.

Upon motion of Supervisor Rhudy and seconded by Supervisor Breeding and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Plaster being absent from the vote and all others voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves a Resolution authorizing a public hearing for property disposition in Burke's Garden.

Consider approving categorical transfer of School Board Funding from debt service to capital projects

County Administrator Eric Young reminded the Board of the categorized funding made for the School Board and advised the School Board has requested a transfer in order to pay for needed repairs in the amount of \$816,917.41; Graham Middle School roof improvements \$360,000, Richlands Elementary sewer upgrades \$55,800, Tazewell Career and Technical Center roof repairs (B wing \$116,000 and C wing \$52,000), Tazewell Primary School roof repairs \$176,000 and Graham High cafeteria chairs/tables \$57,000.

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruey and seconded by Supervisor Rhudy and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Plaster being absent from the vote and all others voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves transferring \$816,917.41 of School Board Funding from debt service to capital projects for items listed in the agenda packet.

Appalachian Natural Gas Distribution Co. – Special Rate Request

County Attorney Aaron Gillespie notified the Board that his office received notice of a special rate request from a company named ANGD (Appalachian Natural Gas Distribution Company) located in Abingdon, Virginia on behalf of Credo Fresh. Mr. Gillespie said that Credo Fresh has requested a separate rate apart from all other users. If the Board wishes to oppose or respond to this Notice, it will need to be voted on tonight, Mr. Gillespie said.

Transient Occupancy Tax – Town of Cedar Bluff

County Administrator Eric Young stated he has spoken with Cedar Bluff's Town Manager, John Absher, regarding the bed and breakfast transient occupancy tax. It seems when people contract through Air BnB for local beds and breakfast, Air BnB pays the taxes to the Commissioner of Revenue if there's not also a town tax. Cedar Bluff has a town tax, but Air BnB paid the County anyway. Possibly, the town did not register with Air BnB. It's not clear, Mr. Young continued. Mr. Young stated that it is somewhat complicated to try to refund the individual taxes back to those tax payers and have them send it to the town. He suggested simply making a donation to the Town of Cedar Bluff equal to the amount of those taxes.

Upon motion of Supervisor Breeding and seconded by Supervisor Cruey and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Plaster being absent from the vote and all others voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves a one-time donation to the Town of Cedar Bluff \$2,548.16 to offset transient occupancy taxes erroneously paid to the County by Air BnB.

Other – Donation to Center for Christian Action

County Administrator Eric Young informed the Board that at Supervisor Cruey's request the Board donated \$17,000 to the Center for Christian Action for a new roof. They now believe the roof will be completed for less and they are requesting to be able to make other repairs to the building if they do have funds left over?

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruey and seconded by Supervisor Rhudy and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Plaster being absent from the vote and all others voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves that any remaining money from the Center for Christian Action \$17,000 donation be used to make other repairs/improvements to their building.

Other – Ordinance Update to the Transient and Occupancy Tax

County Attorney Aaron Gillespie stated that he met with the Commissioner of Revenue regarding the Air BnB issue and we are requesting that the Board authorize a public hearing to consider amending the Ordinance for the Transient Occupancy Tax.

Upon motion of Supervisor Rhudy and seconded by Supervisor Breeding and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Plaster being absent from the vote and all others voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves setting a public hearing to amend the Ordinance for the Transient Occupancy Tax.

BOARD CONCERNS

Supervisor Cruey

Supervisor Cruey questioned whether Mr. Young had a chance to follow up on the bus donation they discussed? Mr. Young responded he had not, but advised Supervisor Cruey that he would get in touch with the AASC and report back to the Board.

Supervisor Cruey clarified that he was hoping to acquire one of the surplus buses for the Community in Schools program. Mr. Cruey stated that the program has plans to modify the bus to resemble a child's bedroom, wherein they would teach parents the various hiding which teenagers/children use for vapes, alcohol, drugs, etc.

Supervisor Breeding

Supervisor Breeding explained that this Thursday, May 7th at 1:00 the Timmons Group; who has been working with VCEDA, will have a conference call to discuss marketing suggestions for our local counties. Mr. Breeding stated that the Timmons Group found that one of the areas our County is lacking is our GIS site, the website does not indicate where the water/sewer lines are located. When companies consider coming to a new county they research to know whether that county could support their needs; such as the location of water/sewer lines, and if they are unable to find that information, they may move on to another county without even contacting us, Mr. Breeding said.

Supervisor Breeding stated that he attended a ribbon cutting for the Stream Sweepers earlier today. Mr. Breeding said the Stream Sweepers are performing a clean-up in the upper part of the Clinch River and have five (5) more projects for the Clinch River this summer. Mr. Breeding went on to say that last year they collected so many tires from the river in Richlands that they filled three (3) trailers. When I spoke with the group today, they requested a donation from the Board, Mr. Breeding concluded.

Administrator Young replied that money had been budgeted this year for the project and last year the County gave a donation as well. Mr. Young said he was unable to recall the exact amount, but would email the figure to Mr. Breeding and if more was needed, he could poll the board.

Supervisor Rhudy

Supervisor Rhudy recalled to the board, that earlier this year Deb Wilson from the Class of 73 had a funding request for the board regarding her crock-pot program for high school seniors. Mr. Rhudy stated that all three (3) area high schools received crock-pots, with one given to every senior.

Upon motion of Supervisor Rhudy, seconded by Supervisor Breeding and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Plaster being absent from the vote and all others voting in favor thereof and no one against the same,

the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves donating \$2,000.00 from contingency to Class of 73 for their Roots to Real program.

Supervisor Rhudy also stated that the Virginia Farm Recovery Block Grant for storm damage caused by Helene, has extended their application deadline to July 1st at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Rhudy said applications are available at the Extension Office and examples of eligible losses include; damage to farm structures, farm bridges and roads, irrigation or aquaculture losses, crop losses or timber losses on privately owned forests.

Supervisor Presley

Supervisor Presley suggested possibly having a budget workshop later this month.

Administrator Eric Young agreed that it was possible to have a budget workshop, the advertisement has gone out with the hearing scheduled for the first week in June. Mr. Young said, typically we have the first June meeting and then a second June meeting, so we would need to schedule it for the end of this month or between the two (2) June meetings.

The Board's consensus was to schedule the budget workshop in June.

Supervisor Breeding

Upon motion of Supervisor Breeding, seconded by Supervisor Rhudy and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Plaster being absent from the vote and all others voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves donating \$1425.00 to Legacy Hospice and Palliative Care, with \$925.00 coming from Northwestern District's capital account and \$500.00 from the Western District's discretionary fund.

Supervisor Presley

Supervisor Presley conveyed that the new Fire Chief Russell Stowers, would probably need assistance his first year or two on the job, I think we all need to let him know we are behind him, the board, ESC, the Battalion Chiefs, etc.

Supervisor Presley also discussed his thought that Tazewell County needs to become self-efficient; with farming, water, meat (slaughter house), etc. Mr. Presley stated he was unsure if it would involve the IDA or perhaps more of an agricultural issue, but with the scarcity of natural resources in parts of the world I think we need to start thinking about it. If we start selling meat here, Tazewell County could really make a name for itself, Mr. Presley concluded.

Supervisor Rhudy disagreed, stating the land is how Tazewell County is going to stand out from the others.

Mr. Young proposed that the Roots to Real (crock-pot) program was a great step by getting our citizens educated on how to prepare fresh food, not processed and also should you really wish to pursue that idea, the cannery would be critical by preserving what we grow here.

Supervisors Rhudy and Presley agreed stating the cannery would be game changing, especially since everyone got a small taste of what could happen when COVID happened.

COMMITTEE LIAISON

PSA - Supervisor Presley

Supervisor Presley stated that Andrew Cordle discussed all the projects in his report earlier tonight.

IDA - Supervisor Breeding

Supervisor Breeding stated the IDA is tied into the data portal system we discussed earlier, wherein potential companies/businesses could sign in and research Tazewell County. After speaking with Scottie Wampler on this project, we are possibly looking at doing something for the four (4) counties, in an effort to assist businesses coming into the area i.e. infrastructure (gas/water/utilities), internet, EMS, schools, topographical maps, etc., Mr. Breeding stated.

CPPDC - Supervisor Cruey

Supervisor Presley stated that a recent study conducted by the CPPDC found that Tazewell County's biggest need was housing in the 250k-350k range, in order to bring in people from other areas.

ADJOURN @ 9:25 p.m.

Upon motion of Supervisor Cruey, seconded by Supervisor Breeding and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Plaster being absent from the vote and all others voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves to recess until Tuesday, June 2, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

A copy teste:



Charles "Chuck" Presley Jr., Chairman