At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors, Alleghany County, Virginia held on Tuesday, September 1, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Alleghany County Governmental Complex, Covington, Virginia, thereof:

PRESENT:	G. Matt Garten, Chairman James M. Griffith, Vice-Chairman S. Miller Brantley Shannon P. Cox Courtney F. Howard Cletus W. Nicely
and	Ken McFadyen, County Administrator Suzanne Adcock, Director of Finance Beverley Bowers, Director of Public Works Jonathan Fitch, Director of Public Safety Chris Dadak, Assistant County Attorney Melissa A. Munsey, Deputy Clerk to the Board
ABSENT:	Stephen A. Bennett

CALL TO ORDER:

The Chairman called the regular meeting to order

Mrs. Cox gave the invocation and the audience remained standing for the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES:

Hearing no corrections or deletions, the Chairman declared the following minutes approved as submitted: (1) a regular meeting held on August 4, 2026.

PUBLIC COMMENT (5 MINUTE TIME LIMIT):

No one spoke at this time.

PUBLIC HEARING AND APPROVAL - AMENDMENTS TO CH. 52-STORMWATER MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNTY CODE (FEES):

Public Hearing was held to consider amendments to Chapter 52-Stormwater Management of "The Code of the County of Alleghany, Virginia" in Article V-Fees to comply with current and future Virginia Department of Environmental Quality fees which were effective July 1, 2026.

The Chairman announced that this public hearing was advertised in the Virginian Review on Wednesday, August 19, 2026 and Wednesday, August 26, 2026 in accordance with the Code of Virginia. He then called the public hearing to order.

Ms. Beth Stull, County Planner, reviewed the staff report which is as follows:

STAFF REPORT

Proposed Amendments to Chapter 52 – Stormwater Management, Article V. Fees

I. REQUEST

The Board of Supervisors is considering amendments to Chapter 52 "Stormwater Management", Article V "Fees" of the Code of the County of Alleghany, Virginia.

The proposed amendments revise the County's stormwater management fee provisions to reference the current Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) fee schedules rather than maintaining specific fee amounts within the County Code.

II. ANALYSIS

The proposed amendment is primarily an administrative and fee-schedule update. Rather than maintaining specific DEQ-related fee amounts in the County Code, the amendment would allow the County's provisions to reference the current DEQ fee schedule.

This approach would reduce the need for future amendments to the County Code whenever DEQ changes its applicable stormwater fees.

The proposed amendment also retains provisions addressing County review fees, annual maintenance fees, payment deadlines, exemptions, and collection of delinquent fees.

III. BACKGROUND

On November 13, 2025, the State Water Control Board approved an amendment to the Virginia Erosion and Stormwater Management Program regulations that authorized an increase in construction stormwater and MS4 fees. The fee increases

are in accordance with Chapter 2 (Budget Bill Item 363J) of the 2024 Special Session I Acts of the Assembly that directed DEQ to establish a fee schedule such that 60-62% of program implementation costs are accounted for in the fees.

As part of the regulatory amendment, provisions were included that requires DEQ to adjust the construction stormwater and MS4 fees annually based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) by December 31st of each year, and the fee adjustments will become effective July 1st of the following year. By January 31st of each year, DEQ will provide the CPI adjusted fees on its website.

Chapter 52 establishes requirements and fees associated with stormwater management activities, including land-disturbing activities, general permit coverage, registration statements, inspections, reporting, and compliance activities.

The existing ordinance contains specific fee tables for permit issuance, permit modifications or transfers, and annual permit maintenance. The proposed amendment removes those fixed fee tables and instead provides that applicable fees will be imposed in accordance with the current DEQ fee schedule.

IV. FISCAL IMPACT

The proposed amendment changes the method by which applicable stormwater management fees are established by replacing fixed fee tables with references to the current DEQ fee schedule.

The proposed ordinance does not within the material provided, identify a specific projected increase or decrease in County revenue. Actual fee amounts would depend upon the applicable DEQ fee schedule and the characteristic of individual projects.

V. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of Supervisors consider adoption of the proposed amendments to Chapter 52 "Stormwater Management", Article V "Fees" as presented in Ordinance O-26-3.

Mr. Griffith stated that the draft ordinance has all fees marked out and no new fees in their place.

Ms. Stull commented that they are required to utilize the DEQ fee schedules which will change annually, otherwise the Board would have to hold a public hearing annually to change the fee. She stated that the estimated fee for projects by DEQ must cover 60-62% of program costs which is mandated by the Acts of Assembly. She mentioned that she will be bringing a couple zoning amendments to the Board at its October meeting.

There being no one else who wished to speak, the Chairman declared the public hearing closed.

On motion of Mrs. Cox, seconded by Mr. Brantley, that the Board waive its policy of not acting on a public hearing on the same night.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Stephen A. Bennett	Absent
S. Miller Brantley	Yes
Shannon P. Cox	Yes
Courtney F. Howard	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

On motion of Mrs. Cox, seconded by Mr. Brantley, that the following amendments proposed at the Public Hearing held on Tuesday, September 1, 2026 to The Code of the County of Alleghany, Virginia in Chapter 52 entitled "Stormwater Management" be adopted as follows:

CH. 52
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

ARTICLE V. FEES

CURRENT:

Sec. 52-16. Fees.

(a) Fees to cover costs associated with implementation of a VSMP related to land-disturbing activities and issuance of general permit coverage and VSMP authority permits shall be imposed in accordance with Table 1. Fees include the costs associated with plan review, VSMP registration statement review, permit issuance, state-coverage verification, inspections, reporting, and compliance activities associated with land-disturbing activities as well as state program oversight costs. When a site or sites has been purchased for development within a previously permitted common plan of development or sale, the applicant shall be subject to fees ("total fee to be paid by applicant" column) in accordance with the disturbed acreage of their site or sites according to Table 1.

(b) Construction activity involving a single-family detached residential structure, within or outside a common plan of development or sale, shall not be required to pay the department of environmental quality's portion of the fee below.

Table 1: Fees for permit issuance.

Fee Type	*Total fee to be paid by applicant (includes both VSMP authority and department portions where applicable)*	*Department portion of "total fee to be paid by applicant" (based on 28% of total fee paid*)*
General/stormwater management - Small construction activity/land clearing (areas within common plans of development or sale with land-disturbance acreage less than one acre or areas involving a single-family detached residential structure with a site or area, within or outside a common plan of development or sale, that is equal to or greater than one acre but less than five acres.)	$290.00	$81.00
General/stormwater management -Small construction activity/land clearing (sites or areas within common plans of development or sale with land-disturbance acreage equal to or greater than one acre and less than five acres)	2,700.00	756.00
General/stormwater management -Large construction activity/land clearing (sites or areas within common plans of development or sale with land-disturbance acreage equal to or greater than five acres and less than ten acres)	3,400.00	952.00
General/stormwater management -Large construction activity/land clearing (sites or areas within common plans of development or sale with land-disturbance acreage equal to or greater than ten acres and less than 50 acres)	4,500.00	1,260.00
General/stormwater management - Large construction activity/land clearing (sites or areas within common plans of development or sale with land-disturbance acreage equal to or greater than 50 acres and less than 100 acres)	6,100.00	1,708.00
General/stormwater management -Large construction activity/land clearing (sites or areas within common plans of development or sale with land-disturbance acreage equal to or greater than 100 acres)	9,600.00	2,688.00

* If the project is completely administered by the department such as may be the case for a state or federal project or projects covered by individual permits, the entire applicant fee shall be paid to the department.

(c) Fees for the modification or transfer of registration statements from the general permit issued by the state board shall be imposed in accordance with Table 2. If the general permit modifications result in changes to stormwater management plans that require additional review by Alleghany County, such reviews shall be subject to the fees set out in Table 2. The fee assessed shall be based on the total disturbed acreage of the site. In addition to the general permit modification fee, modifications resulting in an increase in total disturbed acreage shall pay the difference in the initial permit fee paid and the permit fee that would have applied for the total disturbed acreage in Table 1. Fees specified in this subsection go to the county.

Table 2: Fees for the modification or transfer of registration statements for the general permit for discharges of stormwater from construction activities.

Type of Permit	*Fee Amount*
General/stormwater management—Small construction activity/land clearing (areas within common plans of development or sale with land-disturbance acreage less than one acre) $20.00	$20.00
General/stormwater management—Small construction activity/land clearing (sites or areas within common plans of development or sale with land-disturbance acreage equal to or greater than one [acre] and less than five acres)	200.00
General/stormwater management—Large construction activity/land clearing (sites or areas within common plans of development or sale with land-disturbance acreage equal to or greater than five acres and less than ten acres)	250.00
General/stormwater management—Large construction activity/land clearing (sites or areas within common plans of development or sale with land-disturbance acreage equal to or greater than ten acres and less than 50 acres)	300.00

General/stormwater management—Large construction activity/land clearing (sites or areas within common plans of development or sale with land-disturbance acreage equal to or greater than 50 acres and less than 100 acres)	450.00
General/stormwater management—Large construction activity/land clearing (sites or areas within common plans of development or sale with land-disturbance acreage equal to or greater than 100 acres)	700.00

(d) The following annual permit maintenance shall be imposed in accordance with Table 3, including fees imposed on expired permits that have been administratively continued. With respect to the general permit, these fees shall apply until the permit coverage is terminated. Fees specified in this subsection go to Alleghany County.

Table 3: Permit maintenance fees.

Type of Permit	*Fee Amount*
General/stormwater management—Small construction activity/land clearing (areas within common plans of development or sale with land-disturbance acreage less than one acre)	$50.00
General/stormwater management—Small construction activity/land clearing (sites or areas within common plans of development or sale with land-disturbance equal to or greater than one acre and less than five acres)	400.00
General/stormwater management—Large construction activity/land clearing (sites or areas within common plans of development or sale with land-disturbance acreage equal to or greater than five acres and less than ten acres)	500.00
General/stormwater management—Large construction activity/land clearing (sites or areas within common plans of development or sale with land-disturbance acreage equal to or greater than ten acres and less than 50 acres)	650.00
General/stormwater management—Large construction activity/land clearing (sites or areas within common plans of development or sale with land-disturbance acreage equal to or greater than 50 acres and less than 10 acres)	900.00
General/stormwater management—Large construction activity/land clearing (sites or areas within common plans of development or sale with land-disturbance acreage equal to or greater than 100 acres)	1,400.00

General permit coverage maintenance fees shall be paid annually to the county by the anniversary date of general permit coverage. No permit will be reissued or automatically continued without payment of the required fee. General permit coverage maintenance fees shall be applied until a notice of termination is effective.

(e) The fees set forth in subsections (a) through (d) above, shall apply to:

(1) All persons seeking coverage under the general permit.
(2) All permittees who request modifications to or transfers of their existing registration statement for coverage under a general permit.
(3) Persons whose coverage under the general permit has been revoked shall apply to the department for an individual permit for discharges of stormwater from construction activities.
(4) Permit and permit coverage maintenance fees outlined under subsection 52-16(c)may apply to each general permit holder.

(f) No general permit application fees will be assessed to:

(1) Permittees who request minor modifications to general permits as defined in section 52-3 of this chapter. Permit modifications at the request of the permittee resulting in changes to stormwater management plans that require additional review by the administrator shall not be exempt pursuant to this section.
(2) Permittees whose general permits are modified or amended at the initiative of the department, excluding errors in the registration statement identified by the administrator or errors related to the acreage of the site.

(g) On or after approval by the board of a VSMP authority for coverage under the general permit for discharges of stormwater from construction activities, no more than 50 percent of the total fee to be paid by an applicant set out herein shall be due at the time that a stormwater management plan is submitted for review in accordance with 9VAC25-870-108. The remaining total fee balance to be paid by an applicant shall be due prior to the issuance of coverage under the general permit for discharges of stormwater from construction activities. All incomplete payments will be deemed as nonpayments, and the applicant shall be notified of any incomplete payments. Interest may be charged for late payments at the underpayment rate set forth in the Code of Virginia, § 58.1-15 and is calculated on a monthly basis at the applicable periodic rate. A ten-percent late payment fee shall be charged to any delinquent (over 90 days past due) account. Alleghany County shall be entitled to all remedies available under the Code of Virginia in collecting any past due amount.
(Ord. No. O-14-1, 1-7-14, eff. 7-1-14; Ord. No. O-15-1, 1-6-15)

CHANGE TO:

Sec. 52-16. Fees.

(a) Fees to cover costs associated with implementation of a VSMP related to land-disturbing activities and issuance of general permit coverage and VSMP authority permits shall be imposed in accordance with the current department of environmental quality fee schedule. Fees include the costs associated with plan review, VSMP registration statement review, permit issuance, state-coverage verification, inspections, reporting, and compliance activities associated with land-disturbing activities as well as state program oversight costs. When a site or sites has been purchased for development within a previously permitted common plan of development or sale, the applicant shall be subject to fees in accordance with the disturbed acreage of their site or sites.

(b) Construction activity involving a single-family detached residential structure, within or outside a common plan of development or sale, shall not be required to pay the department of environmental quality's portion of the fee noted on their fee schedule.

(c) Fees for the modification or transfer of registration statements from the general permit issued by the state board shall be imposed in accordance with the current department of environmental quality fee schedule. If the general permit modifications result in changes to stormwater management plans that require additional review by Alleghany County, such reviews shall be subject to the fees set out by the department of environmental quality. The fee assessed shall be based on the total disturbed acreage of the site. In addition to the general permit modification fee, modifications resulting in an increase in total disturbed acreage shall pay the difference in the initial permit fee paid and the permit fee that would have applied for the total disturbed acreage. Fees specified in this subsection go to the county.

(d) The annual permit maintenance shall be imposed in accordance with the current department of environmental quality fee schedule, including fees imposed on expired permits that have been administratively continued. With respect to the general permit, these fees shall apply until the permit coverage is terminated. Fees specified in this subsection go to Alleghany County.

General permit coverage maintenance fees shall be paid annually to the county by the anniversary date of general permit coverage. No permit will be reissued or automatically continued without payment of the required fee. General permit coverage maintenance fees shall be applied until a notice of termination is effective.

(e) The fees set forth in subsections (a) through (d) above, shall apply to:

(1) All persons seeking coverage under the general permit.
(2) All permittees who request modifications to or transfers of their existing registration statement for coverage under a general permit.
(3) Persons whose coverage under the general permit has been revoked shall apply to the department for an individual permit for discharges of stormwater from construction activities.
(4) Permit and permit coverage maintenance fees outlined under subsection 52-16(c)may apply to each general permit holder.

(f) No general permit application fees will be assessed to:

(1) Permittees who request minor modifications to general permits as defined in section 52-3 of this chapter. Permit modifications at the request of the permittee resulting in changes to stormwater management plans that require additional review by the administrator shall not be exempt pursuant to this section.
(2) Permittees whose general permits are modified or amended at the initiative of the department, excluding errors in the registration statement identified by the administrator or errors related to the acreage of the site.

(g) On or after approval by the board of a VSMP authority for coverage under the general permit for discharges of stormwater from construction activities, no more than 50 percent of the total fee to be paid by an applicant set out herein shall be due at the time that a stormwater management plan is submitted for review in accordance with 9VAC25-870-108. The remaining total fee balance to be paid by an applicant shall be due prior to the issuance of coverage under the general permit for discharges of stormwater from construction activities. All incomplete payments will be deemed as nonpayments, and the applicant shall be notified of any incomplete payments. Interest may be charged for late payments at the underpayment rate set forth in the Code of Virginia, § 58.1-15 and is calculated on a monthly basis at the applicable periodic rate. A ten-percent late payment fee shall be charged to any delinquent (over 90 days past due) account. Alleghany County shall be entitled to all remedies available under the Code of Virginia in collecting any past due amount.
(Ord. No. O-14-1, 1-7-14, eff. 7-1-14; Ord. No. O-15-1, 1-6-15)

Adopted: September 2, 2026
Effective Date: September 3, 2026
Adopted by the following roll call vote:

Mr. Bennett	Absent
Mr. Brantley	Yes
Mrs. Cox	Yes
Mr. Garten	Yes
Mr. Griffith	Yes
Mrs. Howard	Yes
Mr. Nicely	Yes

ALLEGHANY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

_____
Deputy Clerk to the Board

MS. SUSAN HAMMOND, VDOT RESIDENT ENGINEER - VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION UPDATE:

Ms. Susan Hammond, VDOT Resident Engineer, gave a report on the following VDOT activities:

Maintenance

- *Ditching on Rts. 18, 661, and 220S.*
- *Removed brush for sight distance on Rts. 220N, 18, 60, 42, 159, 311N&S and various secondary routes County-wide.*
- *Installed pipe on Rts. 602 and 616.*
- *Graded gravel roads - Rts. 18, 835, 770, and 616.*
- *Cold mix patched Rt. 18 and various secondary routes.*
- *Cleaned pipe on Rts. 18, 835, 770 and 616.*
- *Hot mix asphalt patched Rts. 159, 311 and 311N&S.*
- *Contractors are mowing primary routes. VDOT staff mowing secondary routes.*

Upcoming Work

- *Finish Rt. 18 ditching.*
- *Plant mix patch over pipes on Rt. 616.*
- *Start ditching Rt. 42 and other secondary routes.*
- *Remove brush on Rt. 661 and 657.*

Mrs. Cox asked if the shoulders will be patched on Rt. 18 from the cleaning/ditching done. Ms. Hammond replied that hot mix will be applied after.

Mrs. Cox stated that she has received several complaints about the contractors getting too close to mailboxes when ditching and the mailboxes having to be reset.

Mr. Garten stated that he went up Rt. 18 and they really ditched deeply. He asked when the swinging bridge across the Jackson River on Rt. 687 will be reopened. Ms. Hammond replied that the bridge crew inspected it and it is not safe to be opened. She stated that she hopes to know more by the next Board meeting.

Mrs. Cox asked how often swinging bridges are inspected. Ms. Hammond replied every two years unless needed maintenance is reported sooner.

TABLE APPOINTMENT TO THE SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD:

Mr. Garten stated that a replacement needs to be made for Mr. Jason Helmintoller on the Social Services Board with a term to begin immediately and expiring June 30, 2030. This appointment can be from any district. He asked that this appointment be tabled to the next regular meeting for a replacement to be submitted. The Board agreed.

MS. MORGAN ROMEO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - GREATER ROANOKE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD UPDATE:

Ms. Morgan Romeo, Executive Director of the Greater Roanoke Workforce Board, handed out and gave a PowerPoint presentation, as well as a Workforce Impact Report. The presentation and report are a part of the records of this meeting. The presentation included the following:

- *Alleghany County Workforce Snapshot - 48.2% labor force participation rate, 4.5% unemployment rate, 173 jobs lost, 41.9% population over age 55.*
- *A Year of Connecting Opportunities - Helping people get back to work through Virginia Career Works centers, career coaching, training and credentials, supportive services, and job placement. 24 businesses at AHPS event, 7 hiring events, 283 one-on-one job services.*
- *A Year of Working With Businesses - Rapid responses to layoffs and closures, hiring and recruitment events, manufacturing sector strategy, healthcare workforce initiatives, registered apprenticeship, employer roundtables, and existing worker training.*
- *The Workforce is Changing - Fewer workers to draw from, we have to connect with out-of-work populations, employers need different skills, and workforce development is more than filling open jobs.*
- *Building the Workforce Earlier - The workforce pipeline starts before someone applies for a job (Career Quest October 6th-7th, Youth Registered Apprenticeship, Summer Youth Employment Programs).*
- *Reaching the People We Aren't Reaching Today - The next workforce opportunity is reaching people who aren't currently connecting (people, skills, jobs, businesses, regional growth).*
- *Where We're Going Next - Our focus going forward: Alleghany Highlands Workforce Exchange (September 9th, Covington Discovery Center), Alleghany Highlands Workforce Partner Convening (October 15th, Jackson River Technical Center), WORC Grant (pending), Youth Employment Programs (small pilot occurring now with expansion planned next summer 2027).*
- *We Need Alleghany County at the Table - Help us find the people (connect us with residents who are unemployed, underemployed, or disconnected from the workforce), help us reach employers (send businesses with hiring, training, retention, or workforce challenges our way), help spread the word (share Career Center services, hiring events, training opportunities, and new programs through County communications and community networks), and understand what's changing (share what you're hearing from businesses, residents, and community organizations).*

Mr. Nicely asked what percentage of the total Alleghany Highlands workforce number given (48.2%) work out of town or other areas. Ms. Romeo replied that they are working to get more data.

Mr. Griffith stated that the County needs help on GO Virginia coordination from the Greater Roanoke Workforce Development Board to get it going here. Ms. Romeo commented that they ask that the locality include GRWDB from the beginning and they will assist for sure.

MS. INGRID BARBER, ALLEGHANY HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD (AHCSB) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - AHCSB CAPITAL PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONAL UPDATES:

Ms. Ingrid Barber, AHCSB Executive Director, handed out and gave a PowerPoint presentation which is a part of the records of this meeting. The presentation included the following:

FY 2025-2026 Operational Update

- *FY25-26 expanded the local safety net - $8.3M+ special-project funding across three major initiatives (included $1.3M permanent supportive housing, $3.9M SUD continuum of care, $3.1M crisis receiving center), 23,000 sq. ft. renovated for integrated SUD treatment and recovery, 9,600 sq. ft. planned crisis receiving facility, 160+ employees sustaining local services, 2,030 estimated residents served - about 10% of the catchment area.*
- *One local commitment helped build a one-stop continuum ($3.9M opioid-abatement resources). A coordinated continuum under one roof (assessment & outpatient treatment, intensive outpatient and MAT, psychiatry & telehealth, case management & peer recovery, Recovery Court & prevention, peer drop-in, laundry and meeting space).*
- *Access is timely and service engagement remains strong (98.4% received an appointment within 10 business days, 90.4% attended the scheduled appointment, 87% of people served for SUD returned for continued engagement, 840 people received case management, 228 unduplicated people received SUD service, 296 people received emergency services, 145 received jail-based services, 76 school based service, 739 same day access).*
- *FY26 client volume increased across major access and treatment program (there is a chart showing the number of clients seen by program in FY25 vs FY26 in the presentation).*
- *The crisis continuum brings specialized care closer to home (296 emergency services clients, 76 CIT program clients, 12 mobile crises clients, planned 9,600 sq. ft. facility that has 24/7/365 operation with secured adult and child wings, eight adult recliners/beds and two child recliners/beds, CITAC, emergency services, mobile crisis, cameras, panic buttons and badge access).*
- *County support is a platform for larger community investment (Local commitment demonstrates community support and enables planning, external leverage strengthens state, federal and foundation requests, local capacity creates facilities, jobs and services that remain here, system impact reduces travel and supports EMS and law enforcement. Visible projects grew while core services continued every day - mental health, developmental disabilities, substance use disorder, and prevention & education).*
- *FY26-27 shifts the focus from construction to sustainable operations (operationalize, maximize use, strengthen response, protect the workforce, and sustain financially).*
- *FY25-26 return on Alleghany County's investment (there is a chart in the presentation).*

Mrs. Cox commented that the presentation shows an overall program client volume increase of 6.5%. She asked if this is due to people moving into the area. Ms. Barber replied that it is generally generational and the stigma of mental health is different with people accessing services. She mentioned that there are a lot of drugs trafficked into Virginia and the drugs today are highly addictive.

Mrs. Cox stated that she appreciates all that Ms. Barber has done over the years and how much the AHSC has grown.

Mr. Garten commented that he saw the facilities at a ribbon cuttings and they are topnotch.

APPROVE RESOLUTION OF RESPECT FOR MR. GREGORY A. DODD:

Mr. Garten read the draft Resolution of Respect in the agenda packet for Mr. Gregory A. Dodd and commented that he was a fine man and excellent Supervisor.

On motion of Mr. Garten, seconded by Mr. Griffith, that the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, Mr. Gregory A. "Greg" Dodd, former member of the Board of Supervisors representing the Clifton Forge West District from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2025, passed away on August 2, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dodd gave unselfishly of his time to the community and the Alleghany Highlands, setting an example of citizenship throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dodd served in numerous capacities to better the Alleghany Highlands, including as a former member of the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors and Chair of the Camp ACCOVAC Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors, in honor and respect, does hereby recognize the life of Mr. Gregory A. Dodd for his loyalty, dedication, and service to his community, the County of Alleghany, and the Alleghany Highlands;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board extends its sincere condolences and sympathy to the family of Mr. Dodd.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Stephen A. Bennett	Absent
S. Miller Brantley	Yes
Shannon P. Cox	Yes
Courtney F. Howard	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

APPROVE AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE L3HARRIS RADIO SYSTEM UPGRADE CONTRACT:

Mr. Fitch reviewed a memo from him to the Board regarding authorization to execute L3Harris radio system upgrade contract which is included in the agenda packet. The memo is as follows:

REQUESTED ACTION
I respectfully request that the Board of Supervisors authorize County Administrator Ken McFadyen to execute a contract with L3Harris to upgrade the public safety radio system for a total contract price of $1,018,753.15.

BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION
Alleghany County's public safety radio system is a critical component of emergency communications for law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services, and other public safety operations. The proposed L3Harris upgrade will strengthen and stabilize the radio system through updated equipment and installation of the latest applicable software revisions.

This upgrade is necessary to ensure the continued reliable operation of the County's radio system because the system shares infrastructure with Rockbridge County under the existing Shared Equipment Agreement. If the contract is executed by September 30, 2026, L3Harris will provide additional software features to both counties at no cost. This software, if purchased, would exceed $500,000.00.

Rockbridge County's portion of the shared radio system is approximately six years older than Alleghany County's portion. As a result, Rockbridge County has elected to proceed with the necessary system upgrade. Because the two counties share equipment and system infrastructure, Alleghany County must upgrade its portion of the system concurrently to maintain compatibility and proper system functionality. Failure to complete the corresponding upgrade would create compatibility issues and prevent the shared radio system from functioning properly. This project is necessary not only to modernize Alleghany County's equipment and software, but also to preserve the continued operation, stability, and interoperability of the shared public safety communications system.

An agreement with the City of Covington will be a 20% cost share, consistent with previous agreements for the shared public safety radio system. This agreement will be brought before the Board for consideration following City Council review and approval.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
The total contract price with L3Harris is $1,018,753.15, with the cost planned across two fiscal years:

- *FY27 - 50%: $509,376.58 (Funds are budgeted for this fiscal year)*
- *FY28 - 50%: $508,376.57*

Payments will be disbursed according to the attached payment schedule.

Mr. Nicely asked if Covington has agreed to their 20% share. Mr. Fitch replied that the County is giving Covington Council the opportunity to review the agreement before Board action. He added that Covington is not part of the contract with L3Harris.

On motion of Mr. Griffith, seconded by Mrs. Cox, that the following resolution be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors authorize Mr. Ken McFadyen, County Administrator, to execute a contract in the amount of $1,018,753.15 with L3Harris for an upgrade to the public safety radio system which is necessary to ensure the continued reliable operation of the County's radio system as the system shares infrastructure with Rockbridge County under the existing Shared Equipment Agreement. The County's 50% payment of $509,376.58 is included in the FY27 budget.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Stephen A. Bennett	Absent
S. Miller Brantley	Yes
Shannon P. Cox	Yes
Courtney F. Howard	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

APPROVE PPTRA RATE FOR TAX YEAR 2026:

Mr. Garten stated that there is a memo in the agenda packet from Ms. Sheila Selleck, Commissioner of the Revenue. He mentioned that the PPTRA rate changes from year to year and this year the rate is 49% (last year it was 47%). The memo is as follows:

> *As you may remember, the Personal Property Tax Relief percentage now changes from year to year. It is based on the total qualifying vehicles for the current year, and the set amount of money coming from the State, which does not change. We have completed the calculations for the personal property assessment book, and for 2026 the amount of relief granted will be 49%. As in the past, this applies to the first $20,0000 of value on cars, light trucks, and motorcycles. Also, vehicles valued at $1,000 or less will receive 100% relief.*
>
> *Melissa is preparing a resolution to this effect to be considered at your Board meeting.*
>
> *I will be unable to attend the meeting, so please call or email me at sselleck@co.alleghany.va.us if you have any questions.*

On motion of Mr. Griffith, seconded by Mr. Nicely, that the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, the Personal Property Tax Relief Act of 1998, Virginia Code Sections 58.1-3523 *et seq* ("PPTRA"), has been substantially modified by the enactment of Chapter 1 of the Acts of Assembly, 2004 Special Session I (Senate Bill 5005), and the provisions of Item 503 of Chapter 951 of the 2005 Acts of Assembly (the 2005 revisions to the 2004-06 Appropriations Act); and

WHEREAS, this resolution is adopted pursuant to Ordinance O-05-13 which was enacted by the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors on December 20, 2005 ("Ordinance"); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors now desires to set the rate of tax relief for tax year 2026 for purposes of this Ordinance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors as follows:

1. That tax relief shall be allocated so as to eliminate personal property taxation for qualifying personal use vehicles valued at $1,000 or less.
2. That qualifying personal use vehicles valued at $1,001 - $20,000 will be eligible for 49% tax relief.
3. That qualifying personal use vehicles valued at $20,001 or more shall only receive 49% tax relief on the first $20,000 of value.
4. That all other vehicles which do not meet the definition of "qualifying" (for example, including but not limited to, business use vehicles, farm use vehicles, motor homes, etc.) will not be eligible for any form of tax relief under this program.
5. That the percentages applied to the categories of qualifying personal use vehicles are estimated fully to use all available PPTRA funds allocated to Alleghany County by the Commonwealth of Virginia.
6. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Stephen A. Bennett	Absent
S. Miller Brantley	Yes
Shannon P. Cox	Yes
Courtney F. Howard	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

APPROVE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST FROM IRON GATE FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR GRANT MATCH FUNDS FOR AN AMBULANCE:

Mr. Fitch stated that Iron Gate Fire Department has acquired a 50/50 grant to replace their only ambulance as their 2010 unit has been having issues. He mentioned that Iron Gate Fire Department supports the eastern end of the County and portions of Botetourt County. He commented that they are asking that $237,689.47 be appropriated from the fund balance of the Public Safety Equipment & Vehicles fund for the necessary capital upgrade.

On motion of Mr. Griffith, seconded by Mrs. Cox, that the following resolution be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors budget and approve the following supplemental appropriation in FY27:

1. Public Safety Equipment & Vehicles (Iron Gate Ambulance Grant Match):

Fund Balance
Unreserved Fund Balance (24000000-330035) $237,689.47

Expenditure Account
Machinery & Equipment (24032060-570001) $237,689.47

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Stephen A. Bennett	Absent
S. Miller Brantley	Yes
Shannon P. Cox	Yes
Courtney F. Howard	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

APPOINTMENT OF MR. JAMES GRIFFITH AND MRS. COURTNEY HOWARD TO THE TOURISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Mr. Garten stated that two Board members need to be appointed to the Tourism Advisory Committee. He mentioned that Mr. Griffith is interested in being appointed.

Mrs. Howard commented that she is also interested in being appointed.

On motion of Mr. Brantley, seconded by Mrs. Cox, that the following resolution be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors that Mr. James Griffith and Mrs. Courtney Howard (Board Members) be appointed to the Tourism Advisory Committee in relation to the Tourism and Marketing Services agreement with the Alleghany Highlands Chamber of Commerce & Tourism.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Stephen A. Bennett	Absent
S. Miller Brantley	Yes
Shannon P. Cox	Yes
Courtney F. Howard	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. McFadyen handed out and gave a report on the following items which are a part of the records of this meeting:

Letter From Alleghany Highlands Regional Library:

Dear ladies and gentleman of the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors.

On behalf of the Alleghany Highlands Regional Library Board of Trustees, I thank you for fully funding our request for FY 2027 local funding.

The increase in funding over that of FY 2026 will allow us to remain in good standing with the State's local funding requirements and help us meet increasing operational and staffing expenses.

Libraries are no longer just a place to check out books. Libraries are not static entities. As times change, the needs and expectations of library patrons change. We truly appreciate your support as we continue to evolve and grow to serve the changing needs of our patrons and our community.

If you have not been to the Library lately, I encourage you to contact our Library Director, Lisa Sponaugle, and plan a visit to see for yourself what we're all about, and learn more about what we offer.

Thank you again for fully funding us. We appreciate that you recognize our value in the community.

Best regards,
/s/ Anne M. Dean, Treasurer
Alleghany Highlands Regional Library Board of Trustees

Board of Supervisor Goals and Priorities Six-Month Progress Report:

Mr. McFadyen stated that the Board adopted Goals and Priorities on March 3, 2026 and the items in bold on the handout show the progress made on items to date:

BOARD OF SUPERVISOR GOALS AND PRIORITIES
Adopted March 3, 2026

Six-Month Progress Report
*(Progress Noted in **Bold**)*

FY27 Policy, Budget & Financial Priorities

Policy Goals

- *Increase available housing units*
  - ***From September 2025 to date, the Department of Community Development has issued 23 certificates-of-occupancy for new housing units and 56 renovation permits.***
- *Evaluate all County parcels and repurpose certain parcels*
- *Leverage funding and relationships to enhance tourism opportunities*
  - ***The Board of Supervisors approved the tourism promotions agreement with the Alleghany Highlands Chamber of Commerce on June 2, 2026.***
- *Encourage private residential and commercial development*
  - ***Meetings have occurred with the Virginia Department of Transportation to address access improvements to commercial parcels adjacent to I-64 exits.***
- *Identify critical County infrastructure needs and develop effective strategies*
  - ***The Public Works Department recently completed a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for needed water and wastewater distribution and collection systems throughout the County's system;***
  - ***The Department of General Services is initiating the next phase of architectural design work needed for the renovations of the former Wells Fargo building, adjacent to the Court House in Covington. While the next phase of design and engineering should have funding, the construction of the new Court House Annex will require decision-making on financing.***
- *Address community needs related to childcare, access to healthcare, transportation, elder care, and related community-identified needs*
  - ***Board of Supervisors delivered Access to Healthcare in the Alleghany Highlands Community Gathering on May 21, 2026. Follow up with Carilion Research currently.***

Advancement of Capital Projects

- *Alleghany Regional Commerce Center*
  - ***Virginia Business Ready Sites Program Accelerated Due Diligence Project underway to increase available water and wastewater capacities serving the Commerce Center and to prepare additional site grading plans and permits - $190,000 grant***
  - ***VDOT Economic Development Access Program engineering and permitting underway to improve Piney Ridge Road adjacent to the pad sites - $200,000 grant from the Commonwealth Transportation Board***
- *Alleghany Highlands Public Schools CIP - approved projects*
  - ***County staff working with the City and School System staff to prepare specifications for the roof replacement project at Mountain View Elementary/Clifton Academy.***
- *Innovation Park - Exit 42 property (162 acres)*
- *Water and wastewater infrastructure and County facilities*
  - ***Cliftondale Water Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) funded by the Virginia Department of Health ($40,000);***
  - ***Leak detection work underway in Cliftondale;***
  - ***Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project (SERCAP) has awarded $47,330 in funding of repairs and maintenance projects at the Low Moor Wastewater Treatment Plant;***
  - ***Grant application has been submitted to the Virginia Department of Health for waterline replacement in Cliftondale.***

Governmental Operations (Pain Points)

- *Prioritize needs in the Capital Improvement Plan*
- *Evaluate employee retention policies*
  - ***County staff are reviewing proposals from consultants to prepare a pay and salary study for County departments and employees. (This would not cover our Constitutional Offices, which are generally covered by the State Compensation Board.)***
- *Explore utility billing rates*
  - *Review best practices of tiered billing systems*
  - *Review most recent rate study or prepare a study*

- ***Department of Public Works staff have worked recently with the Virginia Department of Health, VML/VACo Finance, and others to research rates and receive feedback on the County's current rates.***

Long Term Priorities (during the next three fiscal years)
- *Strategically Update the Comprehensive Plan*
  - *Utilize Planning Commission and additional resources*
  - *Ensure community engagement through surveys and input sessions*

Economic Development Strategies
- *Business retention and expansion*
- *Create and enhance relationships with the County's large, primary employers*
  - ***County and Economic Development Corporation staff regularly attend meetings with our manufacturing employers, including Smurfit Westrock, Green Thumb Industries, and Balchem later this week. Specific conversations include workforce development.***
- *Leveraging relationships with Virginia and regional economic development partners*
  - ***The Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) and Roanoke Regional Partnership frequently interact with County staff and visit the Alleghany Highlands, most recently today with a visit to the pad sites.***

Business Attraction
- *Alleghany Regional Commerce Center pad sites (bricks and mortar)*
  - *Evaluate the extension of natural gas with Columbia Gas*
    - ***Columbia Gas has provided requirements to the County to conduct a feasibility study to extend natural gas service to the Commerce Center.***
  - *Increase available utility capacities*
    - ***Engineering work is currently underway to increase available utility capacities to the Commerce Center.***
  - *Secure VDOT funding to improve Piney Ridge Road*
    - ***Engineering and permitting funding has been secured and this work is underway. Once completed, a grant request for construction can be prepared and submitted to VDOT.***
  - *Evaluate combining the two existing pads into one pad (Phase 4)*
    - ***This engineering evaluation is underway with the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program (VBRSP) Accelerated Due Diligence grant awarded earlier this year.***
- *Streamline County's business pitch to prospective businesses*
  - *Favorable cost to do business*
  - *Pro-business community*
  - *Affordable cost of living*
  - *Natural beauty and recreational amenities*
    - ***The Alleghany Highlands Economic Development Corporation is preparing a marketing strategy to attract manufacturers to the Commerce Center and pad sites.***

Entrepreneurial Growth
- *Support local entrepreneurial efforts*
  - *Support for start-up and existing small businesses*
    - ***The Economic Development Corporation recently mailed the "Elevate Your Business in the Alleghany Highlands" brochure to every business license holder in the Alleghany Highlands.***
  - *Assist in building networks and collaboration*

Workforce Development
- *Explore regional opportunities for partnership*
  - ***Significant work has been done to plan for how the Alleghany Highlands can better organize its workforce development agencies to better serve employers and to encourage more adults to enter the workforce.***
- *Promote available credentialing programs*
  - ***The Alleghany Highlands Economic Development Corporation has met with the ACT Work Ready Communities program as well as with the National Center for Construction Education and Research to better understand their credentialing programs and to see whether there are opportunities to promote these programs in the Alleghany Highlands. Mountain Gateway Community College already instructs the NCCER curriculum in several of their programs.***

Mr. Griffith stated that the Carilion Research initiative is very interesting and mentioned that he has participated in studies. He asked if a support letter is needed by September 11th. Mr. McFadyen replied that they would like a support letter by the 11th and we are looking at potential funding match with the Alleghany Foundation through the AHEDC. He mentioned that there was a call today with Lewis-Gale Alleghany and Bath Community Hospital as they are looking for space and they may have a solution.

The Board agreed by consensus for Mr. McFadyen to send a letter in support of the Carilion Research initiative.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (INQUIRIES/REPORTS):

Miscellaneous

Mr. Nicely commented that this was a good meeting and it is good to see Ms. Adcock here tonight.

Mr. Brantley thanked the presenters at the meeting tonight. He commented that it was a lot of good information and shows signs of positive growth.

Mrs. Howard stated that she is glad to see progress on the list of goals and priorities, especially in regards to community healthcare and the research program. She commented that those items and economic development go along with early childcare.

Mrs. Cox thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. She commented that she appreciates all that Ms. Barber does and hearing from the others. She stated that she is excited about the broadband service being completed in the Crows-Hematite area and her constituents there are very happy. She mentioned that she hopes to get the rest connected.

Mr. Griffith thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He mentioned that he got an email from VACo regarding Medicare and plans to attend one of the meetings.

Mr. Garten thanked the presenters and commented that there was a lot of useful information given. He thanked Ms. Barber for all she has done for the area and the services available. He stated that there needs to be a streamlined process to get those on benefits back into the workforce, but it takes all to help. He wished Iron Gate luck on getting their ambulance. He mentioned that school is in session and sports is going on too.

CLOSED MEETING:

On motion of Mr. Griffith, seconded by Mrs. Cox, that the Board go into a Closed Meeting under Code of Virginia Sections 2.2-3711(A)(3) and (8) for the purpose of: (1) property acquisition and disposition; and (2) consultation with legal counsel requring the legal advice by such counsel. Unanimously adopted.

On motion of Mr. Nicely, seconded by Mr. Griffith, that the Board come out of the Closed Meeting with the following certification:

CERTIFICATION
SECTION 2.2-3712

To the best of our knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under this chapter, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the Closed Meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the session.

/s/G. Matt Garten	Yes
/s/Shannon P. Cox	Yes
/s/Courtney F. Howard	Yes
/s/James M. Griffith	Yes
/s/S. Miller Brantley	Yes
/s/Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
Stephen A. Bennett	Absent

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion of Mr. Nicely, seconded by Mr. Brantley, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:00 p.m. Motion carried.

_____
G. Matt Garten
Chairman