At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors, Alleghany County, Virginia held on Tuesday, October 4, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Alleghany County Governmental Complex, Covington, Virginia, thereof:

PRESENT: G. Matt Garten, Chairman

James M. Griffith, Vice-Chairman

Stephen A. Bennett Shannon P. Cox Gregory A. Dodd Ronald S. Goings Cletus W. Nicely

and Reid Walters, County Administrator

Suzanne T. Adcock-Nicely, Director of Finance

Jim Guynn, County Attorney

Melissa A. Munsey, Deputy Clerk to the Board

## **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 September 6, 2022.

#### PUBLIC HEARING - REZONING REQUEST FROM BRANDON WEIFORD AND AMBER PAXTON:

Public Hearing was held to consider an application from Brandon Weiford and Amber Paxton to rezone Lot 1I of the Regional Commerce Center, located off Piney Ridge Road, from an Industrial M-1 zone classification to an Agricultural-Rural Residential AR zone classification for the purpose of building a home on the property. The property is further identified as Tax Map 42, Lot 1I. The property is in an "Industrial Area" as contained in the Comprehensive Plan.

The Chairman announced that this public hearing was advertised in the Virginian Review on Monday, September 19, 2022 and Monday, September 26, 2022 in accordance with the <u>Code of Virginia</u>. He then called the public hearing to order.

Ms. Beth Stull, Zoning Administrator, reviewed the staff report which is as follows:

STAFF REPORT

Case Number: RZ-90

Name of Petitioner(s): Brandon Weiford/Amber Paxton

Date Request Filed: July 1, 2022

Public Hearing Date: (PC) September 14, 2022, (BOS) October 4, 2022

Staff Reviewer: Elizabeth Stull, Zoning Administrator

#### **SUMMARY OF REQUEST**

The applicants are requesting to rezone the 3 acre undeveloped lot of property, located within the Regional Commerce Center from Industrial M-1 zone classification to an AR Agricultural-Rural Residential zone classification, for the purpose of building a home on the property. The property is located approximately 1/8 mile from Piney Ridge Road and is currently owned by Brandon Weiford and Amber Paxton. The property is further identified on the Real Property Identification Maps as Tax Map 42, Lot 1I.

The property is currently zoned Industrial M-1, and for the applicant to build a house on the property. They need to have the property rezoned to AR – Agricultural-Rural Residential.

The surrounding properties are a mix of commercial and industrial uses within the Commerce Center, which also includes 4 single family residences in the area. The property is joined by National Forest to the north. The Regional Commerce Center adjoins the property to the south. The residential properties are located to the east and west and are zoned AR – Agricultural-Rural Residential. Any effects on adjoining properties would depend on the type(s) of use(s) that are placed within the industrial park.

Current access to the property is through Adams Construction. Paxton submitted a copy of deed book 411 pages 258 – 260, referencing the non-exclusive easement and right of way to and from above-described property.

**Comprehensive Plan:** According to the Comprehensive Plan, the property is located in an "Industrial Area", which is defined as areas that are intended to provide land for Covington's industrial base and supporting uses in locations that are compatible with surrounding development and provide opportunities for growth.

Screening and Buffering: The applicant is not proposing screening and buffering and it is not required by the ordinance.

#### **Zoning Requirements:**

Development on the property will be required to comply with all setback requirements for an AR-Agricultural-Rural Residential zone district. (Side: Two sides totaling 35 feet (with min. of 15 feet on one side), rear: 35 feet, front: 65 feet from center of right-of-way).

Floodplain: The property is not located within a flood hazard area according to the FEMA map FIRM Panel 51005C0220D.

**Utilities/Refuse Collection:** The property has access to public water; there is no public sewer in this area. There is also access to other utilities such as electric, telephone and cable service. Refuse collection would be provided by Alleghany County.

**Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) Compliance:** A copy of the rezoning request was submitted to VDOT on July 18, 2022 for their review for compliance with TIA requirements.

#### Additional Notes/Comments:

If the rezoning request is approved, future development of the property will require compliance with all applicable local, state, and federal regulations, including the submittal of a detailed site plan.

The Alleghany County Planning Commission held a public hearing on this request on September 14, 2022. They made a recommendation at that time to the Board to approve the rezoning request.

Today, October 4, 2022 I received a call from the President of Adams Construction, Rick James, regarding his issues with the rezoning of the property owned by Weiford/Paxton.

Ms. Stull stated that the applicant is unable to attend the meeting tonight. She read an email received from Mr. Rick James, President of Adams Construction which is as follows and is a part of the records of this meeting:

Beth.

It was very good to speak with you today and I appreciate the research you did prior to calling me back. As we discussed, access, safety and security remain major concerns for us. We have on a number of occasions received late night telephone calls from the Sheriff's Department about the gate being open and persons having been there or currently there onsite. Additionally, it serves as a distraction for what I'm certain are already constrained public safety resources. We have previously been the victim of a number of thefts to include wire and other various items. We have spoken with Mr. Sizemore on a number of occasions about the need to keep this gate closed for safety and security reasons and lately things have been pretty good.

When we purchased this property almost 20 years ago we understood that Mr. Sizemore would require access through our property to access his shale and timber behind us and we were okay with that arrangement. Mr. Sizemore never discussed the need or desire to develop it for residential or any other use. As you might imagine, we remain a highly regulated business with EPA, DEQ, OSHA, VDOT and the likes and safety and security remain a top priority for our sometimes rural plant sites.

I unfortunately am unable to attend the meeting this evening as I serve on the Roanoke County Planning Commission and we have a public hearing this evening. As I looked at this proposal a couple of items were noteworthy:

- First, the property appears to be landlocked,
- Second, the current zoning and surrounding zoning is M-1
- As you explained to me, the future land use designation for this particular parcel is M-1.
- Downsizing of this particular parcel seems inconsistent with either the comprehensive plan and/or future land use map and is ill advised.
- Suitable access doesn't currently exist and access through our property is opposed for the above noted reasons.
- We do believe this downzoning would have a detrimental effect on the surrounding land owners and the County's ability to recruit a suitable industrial use for their desired economic development project off Timber Lane or Piney Ridge Road.

In today's climate, it's very controversial to rezone land to an industrial designation and the elimination of any industrially zoned lands by downzoning limits the opportunity for industry to prosper in the future. For all of these reasons and more, I respectfully request the BOS decline this application for rezoning. I remain open to conversations with any and all regarding this project and have no problems with the current land owner. We thank you in advance for your time and attention to our concerns.

Ms. Stull commented that she also received an email from Mr. Gregg Shultz, Vice President of Adams Construction Company. She read the email which is as follows and is a part of the records of this meeting:

Beth.

I will be attending tonight's public hearing.

I would like to expand on what Rick has already expressed concerns over. It is my understanding that the owners are looking to access this property thru our plant site. The roadway going up the hill goes right thru the middle of our stockpile area. The loader to feed the plant crosses this roadway numerous times during production to be able to feed aggregate to the asphalt plant. Also, we have on any given day 35 plus loads of asphalt going out of this facility. Last week, we had days with over 50 loads per day. In addition to hauling asphalt out we also haul stock into this facility to produce. If we have 50 loads of asphalt going out per day that means we have 50 loads of stock coming in.

This is a very high level facility with many moving parts and vehicles. I have real concerns for safety with someone else trying to access thru our property.

Dr. Goings asked if the property is landlocked with access only through the Adams Construction property. Ms. Stull replied that is correct and that it is an old stagecoach road going through the Adams Construction property to this property and another property (Harmon).

- Mr. Bennett asked what the Harmon property is zoned. Ms. Stull replied that it is zoned AR.
- Mr. Griffith noted that the rezoning would not be in compliance with the Comprehensive Plan.
- Mr. Bennett mentioned that if they have kids then they would have to get off the bus and walk through the plant property.
- Mr. Gregg Shultz, Adams Construction, stated that he is concerned about children going through the property too. He commented that they like to keep the gate locked due to thefts.
  - Mr. Garten stated that the easement is counter-productive to an industrial site.
- Mr. Bennett asked how wide is the easement. Mr. Garten replied that the main road (Commerce Center Drive) is 50' and the old stagecoach road is probably only 10'.
- Mr. Bennett asked if the Weiford/Paxton property has access to public water as it is located above the water tank. Ms. Stull replied that public water is accessible; however, they would need to pump it.
  - Mr. Garten asked if the property has been perked. Ms. Stull replied that it has been, but she has not seen the results.
- Dr. Goings asked about the Planning Commission vote and if Adams Construction spoke at their public hearing. Mr. Garten replied that Mr. Rodney Tingler voted no to the rezoning. Mr. Shultz replied that they were not aware of the Planning Commission public hearing. Ms. Stull commented that they did receive a signed certified mail card back from Adams Construction so she is not sure who saw the letter.
  - Mr. Bennett asked for time to look into the situation further before action is taken.

There being no one else who wished to speak, the Chairman declared the public hearing closed. He stated that action will be taken at the next regular meeting.

# PUBLIC HEARING AND APPROVAL - AMENDMENT TO COUNTY OPERATING BUDGET FOR FY23 (CARRY FORWARDS AND OUTSTANDING ENCUMBRANCES):

Public Hearing was held to consider an amendment to the County Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-23. The amendment is needed due to carry forwards in the amount of \$4,078,969.00 and outstanding encumbrances in the amount of \$2,506,193.26 from the Fiscal Year 2021-22 budget. The total budget amendment is \$6,585,162.26.

The Chairman announced that this public hearing was advertised in the <u>Virginian Review</u> on Monday, September 26, 2022 in accordance with the <u>Code of Virginia</u>. He then called the public hearing to order.

Ms. Adcock stated that this public hearing is held in October of each year and is familiar to the Board. She commented that a majority of carry forward dollars are to build capital in order to make large purchases (i.e. garbage trucks, etc.) and others are ongoing projects. She mentioned that the outstanding encumbrances include contracts designated for specific purposes which have been encumbered and carried into the next fiscal year. These items were obligated in the previous year, but not completed during that time.

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

On motion of Mr. Bennett, seconded by Dr. Goings, 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 Yes
Shannon P. Cox Yes
Gregory A. Dodd Yes
Ronald S. Goings Yes
Cletus W. Nicely
James M. Griffith Yes
G. Matt Garten Yes

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, after holding a public hearing on October 4, 2022 to amend the FY22-23 budget, hereby approve the carry forward and appropriation of the following from Fiscal Year 2021-22 to the Fiscal Year 2022-23 budget (including appropriate revenue line items):

General Operating	\$1	,202,149
CARES Act COVID-19	\$1	,565,295
CDBG Boiling Springs	\$	21,851
CDBG Wrightstown	\$	334,996
IPR Construction	\$	17,252
CIP	\$	596,182
Water/Sanitary Capital	\$	122,880
Water/Sanitary Operating	\$	218,364
TOTAL CARRY FORWARDS	\$4	,078,969

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board that the following funds be budgeted and appropriated in the FY 2021-23 budget to cover outstanding encumbrances at the end of FY 2021-22:

AHEDC TOTAL OUTSTANDING ENCUMBRANCES	\$ 4,596.03 <b>\$2,506,193.26</b>
, , ,	
Water/Sanitary Operating	\$ 122,281.91
Water/Sanitary Capital	\$ 76,794.00
CIP	\$1,278,619.96
IPR Construction	\$ 13,830.00
CDBG Wrightstown	\$ 483,995.32
COVID-19	\$ 338,812.18
General Operating	\$ 187,263.86

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Stephen A. Bennett Yes Shannon P. Cox Yes Gregory A. Dodd Yes Ronald S. Goings Yes Cletus W. Nicely James M. Griffith Yes G. Matt Garten Yes

# PUBLIC COMMENT (5 MINUTE TIME LIMIT):

Mr. Zachary Wright, The Thrasher Group, commented that he works for The Thrasher Group of Beckley, WV. He stated that they are doing work in Clifton Forge and wanted to introduce himself and the company. He handed out a brochure on The Thrasher Group which is a part of the records of this meeting.

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

Ms. Susan Hammond, VDOT Resident Engineer, gave an update on the following VDOT activities:

#### Maintenance:

- Secondary route mowing is underway. Also guardrail mowing.
- Interstate mowing is underway.
- Clearing sight distance at intersections on both primary and secondary routes.
- Primary route mowing is complete.
- Cutting brush on primary routes and also Rts. 602 and 603.
- Replaced pipes on Rts. 600, 661, 687 and 640.
- Opened pipes and other drainage areas in advance of hurricane remnant rains.
- Patched secondary route pipe replacements.
- Cold mix patched several secondaries County-wide.
- Paving on Rt. 159 should be completed in approximately two weeks.
- Jersey barrier was placed along the base of the slate bank on Rt. 220 north of Covington.

Mrs. Cox stated that at the bluff near Armentrout and Vine Patch Road that there are trees down and slides. She mentioned that on Rt. 18 north to Covington near the Jordan Mines post office the turn is caving in at the side of the road. She commented that debris is collecting at both ends of the tunnel at Alleghany and a resident has been trying to keep it cleared.

Mr. Bennett stated that a truck driver mentioned that at the Callaghan exit off I-64 between the exit ramp and Stonewall that brush needs to be cut to give them more site visibility. He commented that they almost hit someone when pulling out.

Mr. Garten thanked Ms. Hammond regarding work done on the Rt. 220 highwall.

# MS. SUZANNE ADCOCK-NICELY, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE - UPDATE ON THE DHCD "SMALL BUSINESS COVID-19 RECOVERY GRANT":

Ms. Adcock-Nicely stated that there is information in the agenda packet regarding the DHCD "Small Business COVID-19 Recovery Grant" which the County was awarded \$1.6 million in August of 2020 to provide monetary assistance to small businesses in our area who were impacted by COVID-19. She commented that the program closed out on August 9, 2022. She reviewed the funds allocated for the areas covered:

 Alleghany County
 \$266,792

 Bath County
 \$97,285

 Clifton Forge
 \$231,146

 Covington
 \$682,331

 Iron Gate
 \$28,049

She added that she wants to thank Teresa Hammond and the Alleghany Highlands Chamber of Commerce for administering the DHCD grant. She commented that we were most fortunate to have Ms. Susan Knick running every aspect of this grant and she did an absolutely amazing job. She stated that without her hard work and dedication to this program it would not have had nearly the success it did and she went to great lengths to work with businesses so they could take the maximum advantage of the resources being offered. She mentioned that our area was the first to received this award which resulted in many growing pains and refinement changes as we progressed. She stated that we worked closely with DHCD during this time to be sure we got it right. She commented that Ms. Knick put it best when she said "we are building the airplane, mid-flight." She mentioned that monthly Project Management Team meetings and frequent Review Committee meetings to ensure program compliance.

# SHERIFF KEVIN HALL - UPDATE ON ANIMAL CONTROL, LITTER ENFORCEMENT, AND OTHER ITEMS:

Sheriff Kevin Hall stated that the Board was emailed a summary of animal control calls for Alleghany County and Clifton Forge from January through September and reviewed the numbers for this quarter (July through September). The handouts are a part of the records of this meeting.

Mr. Nicely asked how long animals are kept at the shelter. Sheriff Hall replied that they are kept per shelter regulations and mentioned that the localities pay for 14 days. He mentioned that there previously was a committee and we need to revisit the agreement.

Sheriff Hall stated that he appreciates the bench provided for Officer Ogilvie which turned out very nice and his wife appreciates it. He mentioned that he would like to give the Board a report next month on the jail program that was launched today and previously mentioned at a Board meeting in July. He commented that it consists of the use of tablets that inmates can use for classes (i.e., GED, college courses, anger management, substance abuse, etc.) and doing the classes enables them to get credits for entertainment (i.e., games, music, etc.). He stated that mail would not be coming in to the jail anymore and would be scanned and sent to the inmates tablet.

Mr. Bennett mentioned that a citizen asked if litter/trash could be picked up more along Valley Ridge Road to the transfer station.

# APPROVE PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF (PPTRA) RATE FOR TAX YEAR 2022:

Mr. Garten reviewed a memo from Mrs. Valerie Bruffey, Commissioner of the Revenue, to the Board which is included in the agenda packet. 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 2022 the amount of

relief granted will be 49%. As in the past, this applies to the first \$20,000 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 e-mail me at <u>vbruffey@co.alleghany.va.us</u> if you have any questions.

Mr. Garten added that the rate last year was 50%.

On motion of Mr. Griffith, seconded by Dr. Goings, 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 2022 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 by the following roll call vote:

Stephen A. Bennett Yes
Shannon P. Cox Yes
Gregory A. Dodd Yes
Ronald S. Goings Yes
Cletus W. Nicely
James M. Griffith Yes
G. Matt Garten Yes

# RECOMMEND REAPPOINTMENT OF MR. CALVIN FRIDLEY AND MS. ELIZABETH HIGGINS TO THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS TO THE CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE:

Mr. Garten stated that the terms of Mr. Calvin Fridley (Boiling Springs District) and Ms. Elizabeth Higgins (Clifton Forge East District) on the Board of Zoning Appeals expire October 31, 2022. Terms are for five years and both are eligible to be recommended to the Circuit Court Judge for reappointment.

Mrs. Cox commented that Mr. Fridley would like to be reappointed.

Dr. Goings stated that Ms. Higgins would also like to be reappointed.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors endorses the reappointment of Mr. Richard Calvin Fridley (Boiling Springs District), 2316 Kanawha Trail, Covington, VA 24426 to the Alleghany County Board of Zoning Appeals for a term of five years beginning November 1, 2022 and ending October 31, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board also endorses the reappointment of Mrs. Elizabeth A. Higgins (Clifton Forge East District) 2501 Benson Street, Clifton Forge, VA 24422 to the Alleghany County Board of Zoning Appeals for a term of five years beginning November 1, 2022 and ending October 31, 2027.

This resolution of endorsement is to be submitted to the Judge of the Circuit Court to make the appointment.

## Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Stephen A. Bennett Yes
Shannon P. Cox Yes
Gregory A. Dodd Yes
Ronald S. Goings Yes
Cletus W. Nicely Yes
James M. Griffith Yes
G. Matt Garten Yes

#### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

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

#### Bicentennial Celebration

On September 17<sup>th</sup>, Alleghany County and the Chamber of Commerce held an event at Mountain Gateway Community College to celebrate the bicentennial of Alleghany County. A team of volunteers and County staff put together the incredibly organized event in a very condensed time frame. The event was one of a kind for the County and truly a success.

## Alleghany Highlands Commerce Center Pad Site

This past month three bids were received for the pad site development. The lowest bid was submitted by Branch Civil, Inc. at \$9.785M. This level of infrastructure improvements would create a Tier 3 site. The financing secured last year by the City of Covington and Alleghany County provides the funds needed to develop the site into a Tier 2 site.

Additionally, this past month, the Covington-Alleghany Industrial Development Authority (CAIDA) submitted a funding request to the Virginia Economic Development Partnership for the supplemental funds needed to bring the pad site development to a Tier 3 status. There is a pending review and interview process for this funding and it is anticipated that awards will be announced by early December 2022. The CAIDA did meet last month and is currently negotiating with Branch Civil, Inc. on the process needed to move the development forward.

# Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP)

The Virginia Economic Development Partnership will conduct a site visit to Alleghany County and Covington on October 20<sup>th</sup>. This is the third visit by this organization in the last year.

#### Site Selectors Guild Fall Forum in Richmond

The Alleghany Highlands Economic Development Corporation joined the Site Selectors Guild this past year and I attended the Site Selector Guild's Fall Forum held in Richmond this past month. There were 7 countries represented and 62 professional site selectors at the forum. The presentations centered around the current state of site selection and numerous roundtable discussions with site selectors. With the current direction site selection is heading, the Alleghany Regional Commerce Center pad site is a very marketable site.

# Workforce Development

I have been meeting with public sector stakeholders regarding regional workforce development needs. There is a current in-state economic development expansion in progress that will have a positive impact for the regional workforce and well-paying employment opportunities for the Alleghany County workforce.

#### Regional Tourism Initiative

There has been past interest in a potential regional tourism initiative and a large sum of federal funds was recently allocated to the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) for regional initiatives spanning multiple states. There are plans currently under progress to open the conversation with our neighbors in West Virginia about this possible opportunity.

#### Alleghany County Career EMS Committee

County Administrator Walters and Public Safety Director Jonathan Fitch are organizing a group of emergency management stakeholders to begin conversations and look for relevant solutions to the County's emergency management services needs.

#### Clifton Forge Fall Festival

Opening ceremonies for the Clifton Forge Fall Festival will be held on October 14<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. at the Primis Bank parking lot.

# **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (INQUIRIES/REPORTS)**:

#### Miscellaneous

Mr. Dodd thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and thanked Mr. Wright and Sheriff Hall for their comments. He commented that he did see the video of the bench dedication ceremony. He mentioned that the two superintendents (Ms. Kim Halterman and Ms. Melinda Snead-Johnson) are also present.

Mr. Nicely commented that he sees that work on the apartments have started back up. He mentioned that money is being put into the Commerce Center. He stated that he would like to see work start on the Rt. 42 property to move it forward and get it done. He commented that we spend money on everything else and we need to get water and sewer to that location. He stated that he is glad to see the two school superintendents here tonight and mentioned that the closing of CMS is ridiculous and a mistake. He commented that compromise is ok, but not trading a new building for one that is 110 years old and we need to think about the kids.

Mr. Bennett thanked everyone for coming out and the gentleman in attendance from Adams Construction (Mr. Gregg Shultz).

Mrs. Cox thanked everyone for coming out and all those mentioned who are in attendance. She commented that it is nice to see Mr. Shultz from Adams Construction and that we like to hear from those impacted. She mentioned that Adams Construction is a state of the art company with courteous workers which says a lot about management. She thanked Mr. Walters for all he has done in the short time that he has been here. She stated that he has impressed her and that we are in good hands.

Dr. Goings stated that he was at Lake Moomaw on Labor Day weekend and had a problem getting the boat in the water. He mentioned an officer on-duty helped them and did a great job. He commented that there will be a COVID and flu vaccine clinic at Mountain Gateway Community College this Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. He stated that there will be a Campsite Cook-Off at Douthat State Park this weekend from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Griffith thanked everyone for coming out and the school superintendents in attendance. He mentioned that he understands the issue that Adams Construction has with the rezoning and appreciates their comments.

Mr. Garten thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He also thanked Mr. Wright for the information on The Thrasher Group and mentioned that it is rare for companies to come in person. He mentioned that if individuals have government concerns that Congressman Ben Cline will be at the Masonic Theatre tomorrow at 6:00 p.m.

# **ADJOURNMENT**:

On motion of Mr. Nicely, seconded by Dr. Goings, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:05 p.m. Motion carried.

G. Matt Garten Chairman