

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors, Alleghany County, Virginia held on Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Alleghany County Governmental Complex, Covington, Virginia, thereof:

PRESENT: Stephen A. Bennett, Chairman
G. Matt Garten, Vice-Chairman
Suzanne T. Adcock
Shannon P. Cox
James M. Griffith
Cletus W. Nicely
Richard Lee Shull

and Jonathan A. Lanford, County Administrator
Jim Guynn, County Attorney
Ryan D. Muterspaugh, Director of Public Safety
Melissa A. Munsey, Deputy Clerk to the Board

CALL TO ORDER:

The Chairman called the regular meeting to order. Rev. Billy Price gave the invocation and the audience remained standing for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT (5 MINUTE TIME LIMIT):

Mr. Muterspaugh read the following prepared statement:

Next week, April 9-15, is National Public Safety Telecommunications Week. It is a time to recognize and show appreciation for the men and women who answer the 911 calls and send fire, rescue, and law enforcement when they are needed. They are the heroes behind the scenes that, often times, get overlooked. They dedicate their lives to the service of others and, without them, fire, rescue, and law enforcement could not effectively perform their duties. So, on behalf of myself and Alleghany County, I would like to thank all of our Communications Officers for their hard work and dedication. I encourage all of you to do the same, not only next week, but always, because they are truly the first responder when they answer that 911 call.

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

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

Maintenance

- Cutting brush County-wide.
- Drainage repair and cleanup of damaged trees from storm damage County-wide.
- Repairing shoulders and mailbox pulloffs.
- Repaired slope on Route 18.
- Installed entrance pipe on Route 687.
- Grading and placing stone on stabilized gravel roads.
- Responded to one minor winter weather event.
- Cleaned and prepped snow equipment for storage.
- Responded to several citizen concerns.
- Workzone Awareness Week - encourages special attention to drivers in workzones.

Construction

- Installed cross pipes on Route 781 (Rucker Gap Road) for rural rustic project.
- Public Hearing was held last Thursday for the Route 696 bridge replacement project.
- SMART SCALE Public Hearing is being held for the Staunton District on Thursday, April 27th at 5:30 p.m. at Blue Ridge Community College, Plecker Center for Continuing Education.
- Request the Board to hold joint Public Hearing with VDOT for Secondary Six Year Improvement Program on May 2, 2017.

Mr. Shull commented that citizens are not pleased with the paving in Selma and it looks like not enough was put down. He mentioned that one lady at 1805 Oakland Drive is upset that it was also put on her driveway. Ms. Hammond stated that what was done in Selma was a preparation for sealing (now spot leveling and then will slurry). She commented that she will check out the driveway problem.

Mr. Garten commented regarding rocks and hanging trees on Rt. 220 near Honda Nissan potentially falling. He mentioned that some rocks have slid and collect at the bottom.

Mrs. Cox stated that Mr. Calvin Fridley mentioned that Cove Creek Road at the West Virginia line is pretty bad and needs maintenance. She commented that it has been approximately 3 or 4 years since it was last maintained. She also mentioned that the tunnel on Rt. 311 North (from West Virginia) is holding a considerable amount of water and floods with minor rains. She stated that the ditches could need to be cleaned out.

Mr. Bennett asked when the box culvert on Rich Patch where you turn in to the church would be put in. Ms. Hammond replied that it may be next year, but she will check on this.

Mr. Lanford extended appreciation to Ms. Hammond for suggesting the County file the additional revenue sharing application to leverage the Low Moor interchange project.

REAPPOINTMENT OF MR. CALVIN FRIDLEY TO THE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION:

Mr. Bennett stated that the term of Mr. Calvin Fridley (Boiling Springs District) on the Water and Sewer Commission expired 3/1/17. Terms are for four years and Mr. Fridley is eligible for reappointment.

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors that Mr. Richard C. "Calvin" Fridley (Boiling Springs District), 2316 Kanawha Trail, Covington, VA 24426 be reappointed to the Water and Sewer Commission for a term of four years retroactive to March 2, 2017 and ending March 1, 2021.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Suzanne T. Adcock	Yes
Shannon P. Cox	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
Richard Lee Shull	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes
Stephen A. Bennett	Yes

MS. ELIZABETH MCNICHOLS, DISTRICT RANGER - FOREST SERVICE UPDATE:

Ms. Elizabeth McNichols, District Ranger, stated that the Board has information in the agenda packet regarding the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests and local Natural Resources Conservation Service being awarded a Joint Chiefs' Grant in the amount of \$523,984 for the Lower Cowpasture Restoration Project. She reviewed what the funds will be used for (prescribed burns, woodland restoration, timber stand improvements, targeted thinnings, implement forest management plans for better management of habitats, improve the function and connectivity of streams and protect water quality/quantity by replacing or removing impassible culverts, develop an American chestnut progeny site, control non-native invasive species, etc.). She also handed out a briefing paper on the closing of the James River Ranger District office as the lease expires in April 2018 which will save approximately \$90,000 a year. The handout is a part of the records of this meeting. She commented that the administrative offices will move to the Dolly Ann Worksite on Smokey Bear Lane. She mentioned that they are working with the Chamber of Commerce and AHEDC to find a suitable location to provide visitor services (recreational passes, permits, etc.).

Mr. Nicely stated that he does not agree with burning the forest and spring is a bad time of year to do so. He mentioned that the Forest Service goes beyond the scope of clear cuts, but he does not have a problem with select cuts. He commented that he is a hunter and not getting his money's worth as the roads are in terrible shape. He asked why not use the funds for this and also cutting the side of the roads.

Ms. McNichols stated that she would be glad to go out with Mr. Nicely sometime. She commented that a lot of road work is done through timber sale programs. She mentioned that road budgets continue to go down and the money does not go far.

Mr. Garten commented that the Forest Service has a lot of land. He asked why they keep the land if they can not maintain it. Ms. McNichols replied that she can not answer that question, but the budget is approved by Congress. She mentioned that firefighting costs have gone up and other budgets get smaller.

Mr. Nicely asked about the Longdale Recreation area being shut down. Ms. McNichols replied that the recreation budget is small and the focus is on higher use areas. She mentioned that this is also a concern of hers and there may be a meeting in early summer.

Mr. Bennett asked if the money awarded for stream stabilization will be used for erosion problems. He mentioned an area in Blue Spring Run that has a large slide beside the road as the river keeps digging into the mountain. He commented that the rubble rock needs to be shoved back against the mountain. Ms. McNichols commented that she will look into this.

MS. MARLA AKRIDGE, AHEDC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - UPDATE ON AHEDC ACTIVITIES:

Ms. Marla Akridge, AHEDC Executive Director, handed out a packet of information to the Board which is a part of the records of this meeting. The information packet included Strategies, Active Prospect Activity Report, Resource Profile, and Entrepreneur Guidebook. She reviewed and expanded on the Strategies which are as follows:

Strategy 1 - Retain and Expand Local Businesses and Industries

- Task 1.1 & 1.2 - Formalize a Business Visitation Program & Collaborate with Local, Regional, and State Organizations to Develop Resource Team to Support Business Growth
- Task 1.3 - Organize Leadership & Direction Focusing on Business Development & Expansion
- Task 1.4 - Raise Awareness of Business Challenges

Strategy 2 - Promote Small Business Development

- Task 2.1 - Sponsor with Partners Free Business Seminars (Quick Books, Customer Service, Entrepreneurial Options). She mentioned that 14 individuals attended the entrepreneur workshop held last night.
- Task 2.2 - Establish Core 15 Volunteers/Members to Serve Business Community
- Task 2.3 - Provide Support to Business Incubator & Co Working Centers
- Task 2.4 - Implement a Target Business Opportunity Identification Plan Based on Data From Existing Studies
- Task 2.5 - Develop, Implement and Manage System for Revolving Loan Fund
- Task 2.6 - Provide One-on-One Business Planning Assistance
- Task 2.7 - Serve as Sponsor & Partner for Common Web Portal

Strategy 3 - Recruit New Businesses & Industries to Locate in our Community

- Task 3.1 - Resource Development (Support Efforts for Development of Building Sites & Infrastructure). She mentioned that 90% of prospects want a pad ready site with natural gas.
- Task 3.2 - Pursue Targeted Industries. She mentioned that the Flying Circus will be held again on May 18th - 21st and there is an agreement on the former Edgemont School for a staging area for recreation/training options.
- Task 3.3 - Advocate for Strategic Actions

Strategy 4

- Task 4.1 - Revitalization of Downtowns (City of Covington & Town of Clifton Forge)
- Task 4.2 - Workforce Development Within the Region (DSLCC, JRTC, Public School System)
- Task 4.3 - Improved Area Housing

Ms. Akridge then reviewed the Active Prospect Activity Report. She mentioned that the AHEDC recently won a VEDA Award on Business Retention and Expansion Activities.

Mr. Griffith commented about the Board needing to be more informed on economic activities. He asked how many on the Prospect Activity Report rejected the area and asked why. Ms. Akridge commented that rejections were due to lack of natural gas, needing a specific workforce, property owner lease too high, lack of developable land (due to the County's terrain), no pad ready sites (working on this goal with the County and City), etc.

Mr. Garten asked if large scale businesses rejected the area. Ms. Akridge replied that large and small have and she will share the report with the Board.

Mr. Nicely commented that the County has sites, but no infrastructure and the Allegheny Foundation will not help governments with this.

Mr. Garten asked how many prospects are referred by the Roanoke Regional Partnership (RRP) and if those are vetted before being sent to the AHEDC. Ms. Akridge replied that there is an average of 2 or 3 a week that are referred from the State to the RRP and megasites under 100 acres are sent to us through the RRP.

Ms. Adcock commented that she is on the AHEDC Board and Ms. Akridge has done a tremendous amount of work and a lot of great things.

APPOINTMENT OF MR. JAMES GRIFFITH AND MR. RICHARD SHULL TO THE GENERAL REASSESSMENT EVALUATION COMMITTEE:

Mr. Bennett stated that two Board members are needed to assist with the selection of a reassessment firm for the 2019 General Reassessment.

Mr. Lanford commented that, as has been done in previous years, the County solicits proposal from firms and two Board members along with him and the Commissioner of the Revenue review, interview, and make a selection for recommendation to the Board. He mentioned that Mr. Nicely and Mr. Rickey May served on the last committee. He stated that bids are due on April 20th.

Mr. Griffith and Mr. Shull volunteered.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors appoint Mr. James Griffith and Mr. Richard Shull (Board Members) to the General Reassessment Evaluation Committee.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Suzanne T. Adcock	Yes
Shannon P. Cox	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
Richard Lee Shull	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes
Stephen A. Bennett	Yes

APPOINTMENT OF MS. SUZANNE ADCOCK AND MR. JAMES GRIFFITH TO THE JOINT SERVICES COMMITTEE:

Mr. Lanford stated that it was suggested at the joint budget work session with Covington City Council to form a Joint Services Committee in regards to shared services (Constitutional Offices, Social Services, etc.) that are funded jointly. He commented that the committee would meet on a quarterly basis to discuss upcoming projects, etc.

Mr. Bennett suggested that the two members on the Budget Committee (Ms. Adcock and Mr. Griffith) serve since that committee currently deals with funding.

Ms. Adcock and Mr. Griffith agreed to serve.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors appoint Ms. Suzanne Adcock and Mr. James Griffith (Board Members) to the Joint Services Committee.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Suzanne T. Adcock	Yes
Shannon P. Cox	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
Richard Lee Shull	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes
Stephen A. Bennett	Yes

APPROVE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION DUE TO THE AWARD OF FUNDS FROM THE ALLEGHANY FOUNDATION FOR THE LOW MOOR NATURAL GAS FEASIBILITY STUDY:

Mr. Lanford stated that there is a need for natural gas as mentioned by Ms. Akridge from inquiries. He commented that there is new technology utilizing compressed natural gas (CNG) that is hauled by tanker, dropped on-site, and distributed to one user or many through a distribution network. He mentioned there have been discussions with Columbia Gas and a CNG provider, but Columbia Gas did not agree to be a distributor. He stated that funding was requested from the Alleghany Foundation to evaluate the feasibility of creating an authority for the distribution of natural gas in Low Moor. As funding was awarded in the amount of \$20,000, a supplemental appropriation is needed.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors budget and approve the following supplemental appropriation in FY17 due to the award of funds from the Alleghany Foundation for the Low Moor Natural Gas Feasibility Study as follows:

<u>Revenue Account</u>	
Fund 310 - Cont'b.- Alleghany Foundation (310-4189918)	\$20,000.00
<u>Expenditure Account</u>	
Fund 310 - Natural Gas (9502-50723)	\$20,000.00

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Suzanne T. Adcock	Yes
Shannon P. Cox	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
Richard Lee Shull	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes
Stephen A. Bennett	Yes

APPROVE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE CHILDREN’S SERVICES ACT (CSA):

Ms. Angela Rice, CSA Coordinator, stated that she is requesting a supplemental appropriation for the Children’s Services Act (CSA) for mandated services for the rest of the year due to increased services and a shortfall in funding.

Mr. Lanford commented that there is information in the packet from Ms. Rice. He mentioned similar action was taken in 2013. He stated that CSA never knows the cases which may come in (foster care, court ordered, school system IEP, family transitioning to the community, etc.). He commented that he serves on the Community Policy and Management Team (CPMT) that authorizes funding of mandated cases. He commented that there is a draft resolution in the agenda packet and the total request is \$595,480.77 (\$114,570.50 in local funds with the rest reimbursed by the State).

On motion of Mr. Nicely, 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 for Children’s Services Act (CSA) in FY 17 due to additional costs through the end of the fiscal year:

<u>Expenditure Accounts:</u>	
Comprehensive Services-Facility-Private Mandated (5405-5.5762)	\$226,282.69
Comprehensive Services-Non-Facility-Public Mandated (5405-5.5763)	\$369,198.08
	<u>TOTAL \$595,480.77</u>
<u>Fund Balance</u>	
Fund 110 - Fund Equity (110-33001)	(\$114,570.50)
<u>Revenue Account:</u>	
State-Human Services Council (110-4240108)	\$480,910.27

(NOTE: \$114,570.50 is the local share and \$480,910.27 is to be reimbursed by the State)

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Suzanne T. Adcock	Yes
Shannon P. Cox	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
Richard Lee Shull	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes
Stephen A. Bennett	Yes

APPOINTMENT OF MR. KENNETH LANE TO THE SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD:

Mr. Bennett stated that an appointment needs to be made to the Social Services Board to complete the term of Mr. Eston Burge. The term would begin immediately and end June 30, 2020 and the appointment can be from any district. He commented that there is a letter in the agenda packet from Mr. Burge asking the Board to go ahead and fill his vacancy and a letter of interest from Mr. Kenneth Lane.

On motion of Ms. Adcock, seconded by Mr. Shull, that the following resolution be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors that Mr. Kenneth R. Lane (Jackson River District), 423 Brentwood Drive, Covington, VA 24426 be appointed to the Social Services Board to complete the term of Mr. Eston E. Burge beginning immediately and ending June 30, 2020.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Suzanne T. Adcock	Yes
Shannon P. Cox	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
Richard Lee Shull	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes
Stephen A. Bennett	Yes

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Lanford handed out and reviewed a memo with an update on various items. The memo is a part of the records of this meeting and is as follows:

Joint Investment and Revenue Sharing Agreement

The Highlands hosted the Commission on Local Government (COLG) on 13 March 2017 for a Public Presentation and Public Hearing on our agreement with the City of Covington. Both went well and I believe the Commission members enjoyed being in the community for a few days. We should receive comments from COLG by mid-May.

City of Covington-Alleghany County Collaborative Industrial Site Analysis

The Alleghany Highlands Economic Development Corporation (AHEDC) with technical assistance from John Hull at the Roanoke Regional Partnership is assisting both the City of Covington and Alleghany County in the submittal of a Department of Housing and Community Development grant application to fund professional services from an engineering firm to identify potential site candidates for regional investment and the evaluation and ranking of those candidate sites. The effort will identify and prioritize the sites for investment under the Agreement referenced above.

Commonwealth Transportation Board Meeting

Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2018-2023 VDOT Six Year Improvement Program will be held at 5:30 p.m. on 27 April 2017 in Weyer's Cave at Blue Ridge Community College.

Budget Work Sessions

The Budget Committee will hold its third work session on 12 April 2017. You will note on your agenda adjournment of tonight's meeting to a Budget Work Session on a date to be determined. Staff would initially propose Wednesday, 19 April 2017 at 6:00 p.m. for the first work session and the following Wednesday, 26 April 2017 for a second work session, if needed.

The Board agreed to hold the budget work session on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (INQUIRIES/REPORTS):

Miscellaneous

The Board thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Mr. Griffith thanked Mr. Lane for taking the position on the Social Services Board.

Mr. Nicely expressed appreciation for fire and rescue and emergency communications staff and thanked Mr. Muterspaugh for bringing it to the Board's attention. He thanked Ms. Akridge, Mr. Lane, Mr. Burge, and Ms. McNichols.

Mrs. Cox thanked Mr. Lane and Mr. Fridley for taking appointments. She mentioned that for someone to volunteer for boards/commissions takes a lot as it can be time consuming. She thanked Ms. Rice for the job she does and Ms. Akridge. She stated that she met with Mr. Gene Kotulka last Friday and understands better the way to move forward with New Tech. She commented that Mr. Burge has done a tremendous job as Interim Social Services Director and April 14th will be his last day. She mentioned that applications for the Social Services Director position ends April 7th and she hopes they will be able to make an offer and the individual will accept the position. She stated that the last one turned down the job offer.

Ms. Adcock thanked Mr. Lane and commented that he has knowledge of Social Services on a day-to-day basis. She commented that Ms. Rice is awesome with a great smile and kind words. She mentioned that budget work continues and staff has done a great job. She stated that she attended the Blue Ridge Vineyard event for Mr. Alan Wright and she hopes the event was able to raise additional funds for him and his family.

Mr. Garten commented that he attended the Pink Tie Gala on Saturday and it was one of the best events he has attended. He thanked Ms. Amanda Griffith and others for putting the event together. He mentioned that it was a great time for a great cause and stressed public awareness on exams, etc.

Mr. Bennett thanked individuals for taking board/committee appointments.

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion of Mr. Nicely, seconded by Mr. Garten, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:20 p.m. to Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the County Governmental Complex. Motion carried.

Stephen A. Bennett
Chairman