

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors, Alleghany County, Virginia held on Tuesday, August 4, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Alleghany County Governmental Complex, Covington, Virginia, thereof:

PRESENT: G. Matt Garten, Chairman  
Stephen A. Bennett, Vice-Chairman  
James M. Griffith  
Cletus W. Nicely  
Richard Lee Shull  
M. Joan Vannorsdall

and Jonathan A. Lanford, County Administrator  
Suzanne T. Adcock, Director of Finance  
Jim Guynn, County Attorney  
Melissa A. Munsey, Deputy Clerk to the Board

ABSENT: Shannon P. Cox

CALL TO ORDER:

The Chairman called the regular meeting to order. Sheriff Kevin Hall gave the invocation and the audience remained standing for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Garten stated that this meeting is being held pursuant to and in compliance with ordinance O-20-2 which was adopted on April 3, 2020 and readopted/amended on June 2, 2020.

MINUTES:

Hearing no corrections or deletions, the Chairman declared the following minutes approved as submitted: (1) a regular meeting of July 7, 2020.

PUBLIC HEARING AND APPROVAL - AMENDMENT TO THE COUNTY OPERATING BUDGET FOR FY21 (COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDING FOR THE EMERGENCY SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM):

Public Hearing was held to consider an amendment to the County Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-21 in the amount of \$1,600,000. The amendment is needed due to the award of Community Development Block Grant funding for the Emergency Small Business Grant Program.

The Chairman announced that this public hearing was advertised in the Virginian Review on Tuesday, July 28, 2020 in accordance with the Code of Virginia. He then called the public hearing to order.

Mr. Lanford stated that a budget amendment is needed due to the award of \$1,600,000 from the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for a Community Development Block Grant for the Emergency Small Business Grant Program. He commented that an amendment/appropriation is needed in order to expend the funds. He mentioned that the County will be working with the Chamber, Covington, Clifton Forge, and Iron Gate on the program.

Ms. Vannorsdall asked if the funds have been received. Mr. Lanford replied that funds would be expended and then reimbursed by DHCD.

Ms. Deloris Quarles, 701A Wrightstown Avenue, asked if 501(c)(3) organizations qualify. Mr. Lanford replied that they can apply and clarification would have to be received from DHCD on a case by case basis.

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

On motion of Mr. Bennett, seconded by Ms. Vannorsdall, 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:

Shannon P. Cox	Absent
James M. Griffith	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
Richard Lee Shull	Yes
M. Joan Vannorsdall	Yes

Stephen A. Bennett     Yes  
 G. Matt Garten        Yes

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors, after holding a public hearing on August 4, 2020 to amend the FY 20-21 budget in the amount of \$1,600,000, hereby budget and approve the following supplemental appropriation due to the award of Community Development Block Grant funding for the Emergency Small Business Grant Program:

<u>Revenue Account</u>	
Fund 190 - DHCD COVID Grant (190-4190116)	\$1,600,000
<u>Expenditure Account</u>	
Fund 190 - Professional Services (1903-53002)	\$1,600,000

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Shannon P. Cox        Absent  
 James M. Griffith     Yes  
 Cletus W. Nicely     Yes  
 Richard Lee Shull    Yes  
 M. Joan Vannorsdall   Yes  
 Stephen A. Bennett   Yes  
 G. Matt Garten        Yes

PUBLIC HEARING AND APPROVAL - AMENDMENT TO CH. 58-TAXATION OF THE COUNTY CODE (EXEMPT PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX ON FOREST HARVESTING AND SILVICULTURAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT):

Public Hearing was held to consider an amendment to Chapter 58-Taxation of “The Code of the County of Alleghany, Virginia” in Section 58-30 to add an exemption of personal property tax on forest harvesting and silvicultural machinery and equipment.

The Chairman announced that this public hearing was advertised in the Virginian Review on Tuesday, July 21, 2020 and Tuesday, July 28, 2020 in accordance with the Code of Virginia. He then called the public hearing to order.

Mr. Bennett stated that he has a potential conflict of interest and will abstain from any participation.

Mr. Lanford commented that there is information in the agenda packet from Mr. Ron Jenkins, Executive Director of the Virginia loggers Association, Inc. which includes a letter, email, and General Assembly action in relation to giving local jurisdictions the option to exempt all personal property tax on forest harvesting and silvicultural equipment. He stated that staff and the Commissioner of Revenue have worked with Mr. Jenkins and recommend granting the exemption as it has a very nominal annual tax impact of approximately \$5,000. He commented that adopting the exemption would provide uniformity throughout the state as loggers work in different areas and the exemption is based upon where the equipment is located on January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. He stated that if the exemption is adopted then it would take effect on January 1, 2021. He mentioned that similar activities are already exempted by the County.

Mr. Jackie Smith, 6523 Ogle Creek Road, stated that he has been a logger for 35 years and anything the County can do to help would be greatly appreciated.

Mr. Lee Brown, 3961 Hot Springs Road, commented that he has been in the logging business for 21 years and asked that the Board approve the exemption so they can save tax on equipment. He stated that to sell wood to Westrock they must be certified and take continuing education classes each year. He mentioned that the County should not look at it as a tax break, but as being business friendly.

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

On motion of Mr. Shull, seconded by Ms. Vannorsdall, 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:

Shannon P. Cox	Absent
James M. Griffith	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
Richard Lee Shull	Yes
M. Joan Vannorsdall	Yes
Stephen A. Bennett	Abstain
G. Matt Garten	Yes

On motion of Ms. Vannorsdall, seconded by Mr. Griffith, that the following amendments proposed at the Public Hearing held on Tuesday, August 4, 2020 to The Code of the County of Alleghany, Virginia in Chapter 58 entitled "Taxation" be adopted as follows:

**CH. 58  
TAXATION**

**ARTICLE III. Taxation of Real Estate, Tangible Personal Property,  
Machinery and Tools; General Provisions**

**Sec. 58-30. Exemptions for farm animals, grains and feeds, agricultural products, farm machinery, implements and equipment.**

**CURRENT:**

Farm animals, grains and feeds, agricultural products, and farm machinery, implements and equipment, as described in Code of Virginia, §58.1-3505(A), subsections 1 through 10, are hereby exempt from taxation as tangible personal property.

**CHANGE TO:**

Farm animals, grains and feeds, agricultural products, and farm machinery, implements and equipment (including equipment and machinery used for forest harvesting and silvicultural activities), as described in Code of Virginia, §58.1-3505(A), subsections 1 through 10 and 14, are hereby exempt from taxation as tangible personal property.

Adopted: August 4, 2020

Effective Date: January 1, 2021

Adopted by the following roll call vote:

Mr. Bennett	Abstain
Mrs. Cox	Absent
Mr. Garten	Yes
Mr. Griffith	Yes
Mr. Nicely	Yes
Mr. Shull	Yes
Ms. Vannorsdall	Yes

ALLEGHANY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Deputy Clerk to the Board

PUBLIC HEARING AND APPROVAL - READOPT EMERGENCY ORDINANCE #0-20-2 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE TO EFFECTUATE TEMPORARY CHANGES IN CERTAIN DEADLINES AND TO MODIFY PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES TO ADDRESS CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PANDEMIC EMERGENCY":

Public Hearing was held to consider readopting Emergency Ordinance #0-20-2 entitled "An Ordinance to Effectuate Temporary Changes in Certain Deadlines and to Modify Public Meeting and Public Hearing Practices and Procedures to Address Continuity of Operations Associated with the Pandemic Emergency."

The Chairman announced that this public hearing was advertised in the Virginian Review on Tuesday, July 21, 2020 and Tuesday, July 28, 2020 in accordance with the Code of Virginia. He then called the public hearing to order.

Mr. Lanford stated that a public hearing is required for the continuation of the emergency ordinance adopted on April 3, 2020 and readopted/amended on June 2, 2020. He commented that the Board is not using technology for the meeting tonight, but readopting the ordinance would allow us to if needed.

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

On motion of Ms. Vannorsdall, seconded by Mr. Bennett, 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:

Shannon P. Cox	Absent
James M. Griffith	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
Richard Lee Shull	Yes
M. Joan Vannorsdall	Yes
Stephen A. Bennett	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

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

BE IT RESOLVED that, after holding a public hearing on Tuesday, August 4, 2020, the Allegheny County Board of Supervisors agree to readopt Emergency Ordinance #O-20-2 which is entitled "An Ordinance to Effectuate Temporary Changes in Certain Deadlines and to Modify Public Meeting and Public Hearing Practices and Procedures to Address Continuity of Operations Associated with the Pandemic Emergency" which was originally adopted on April 3, 2020 and readopted/amended by resolution R-20-28 on June 2, 2020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the abovementioned ordinance shall remain in full force and effect for a period of an additional sixty (60) days from the date of readoption.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Shannon P. Cox	Absent
James M. Griffith	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
Richard Lee Shull	Yes
M. Joan Vannorsdall	Yes
Stephen A. Bennett	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

PUBLIC COMMENT (5 MINUTE TIME LIMIT):

Ms. Deloris Quarles, 701A Wrightstown Avenue, introduced her sister (Ms. Delethea Quarles).

Ms. Delethea Quarles stated that she currently lives in Columbia, SC, but grew up in the Wrightsville community and then in Dolly Ann. She gave an overview of her history and some of her accomplishments: 1984 graduate of Allegheny High School; assistant coach at Liberty for 8 years; head coach at the University of South Carolina for 23 years; traveled to over 20 countries (China, Moscow, Barcelona, South Korea, Greece, Caribbean Islands, Brazil, Italy, Canada, etc.); women's head coach for Team USA at the IAAF World Championships in Beijing, China; etc. She commented that her goal is to speak to the youth of America as it takes a community to support you and she is proud to represent her country. She mentioned that her faith is important to her. She thanked the Board for all they do and commented that she is available to assist the community.

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

Mr. Lanford stated that a report has been received from Ms. Susan Hammond, VDOT Resident Engineer, on the following VDOT activities:

Maintenance

- Multiple tree and debris cleanups County-wide.
- York raked Rts. 600, 614, 613, and 602.
- Leaf dam removals on several routes County-wide.
- Daylight signs on various primary and secondary routes.
- Corrected an erosion problem on Rt. 18 across from Oneida Trail.
- Pipe replacement on Rt. 311.
- Skin patching Rts. 605, 640, 704, 678, 663, and 830.
- Addressed Vassar Street drainage concerns.
- Hydroseeded slide on Rt. 623.
- Valley Ridge slide repairs completed by contract forces.
- Line painting completed on Rt. 159 and Rt. 629.
- Addressed Selma drainage redirection to avoid alley.
- Cold mix patched various primary and secondary routes.
- Various drainage complaints were taken care of using hand tools.

Construction

- Rt. 696 bridge replacement project is on schedule.

Mr. Lanford asked the Board to contact him or Ms. Hammond with any comments or issues.

MS. BRENDA DEPRIEST, REPRESENTATIVE FOR RESPECT FOR OUR LOVED ONES GROUP - DISCUSS ALLEGHANY MEMORIAL PARK:

Mr. Garten stated that no one is present from the Respect for Our Loved Ones Group in relation to Alleghany Memorial Park, but there is a letter in the agenda packet.

Mr. Bennett asked Mr. Lanford to give the Board an overview of the situation.

Mr. Lanford stated that he and others in County Administration, the Public Works Office, and the Sheriff's Office have spoken with folks over the past year. He commented that there is a drainage issue that is causing damage to the back wall of the mausoleum, as well as other issues listed in their letter in the agenda packet. He mentioned that for-profit cemeteries are regulated and licensed by the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR) and the County has no local jurisdiction. He stated that the letter indicates that they have contacted DPOR and have not received a response. He feels that the group wanted to express its concerns regarding Alleghany Memorial Park and make you aware of the issue.

Ms. Vannorsdall asked if StoneMor Corporation (that owns the cemetery) is local. Mr. Lanford replied that they are not local.

APPROVE NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY IN RELATION TO PROJECTS USING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDING:

Mr. Lanford stated that the Board has previously adopted a Non-Discrimination Policy in relation to projects using Community Development Block Grant funding. He commented that the wording has been revised at the State level and the new version needs to be adopted. A draft of the policy is included in the agenda packet.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors adopt the Non-Discrimination Policy in relation to projects using Community Development Block Grant funding through the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Shannon P. Cox	Absent
James M. Griffith	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
Richard Lee Shull	Yes
M. Joan Vannorsdall	Yes
Stephen A. Bennett	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

APPOINTMENT OF MR. JOHN ZEEK TO THE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION:

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors that Mr. John Zeek (Clifton Forge East District), 801 Douglas Street, Clifton Forge 24422 be appointed to the Water and Sewer Commission to complete the term of Ms. Donna Kimberlin beginning immediately and ending March 1, 2022.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Shannon P. Cox	Absent
James M. Griffith	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
Richard Lee Shull	Yes
M. Joan Vannorsdall	Yes
Stephen A. Bennett	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

APPOINTMENT TO THE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION (JACKSON RIVER DISTRICT):

Mr. Garten stated that an appointment needs to be made to complete the term of Ms. Beverley Bowers (Jackson River District) on the Water and Sewer Commission beginning immediately and ending March 1, 2022.

Mr. Bennett stated that he is in discussions with someone regarding the appointment, but does not have an answer at this time.

The Chairman stated that this item will be on the next regular meeting agenda for action.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Lanford gave a report on the following items:

CARES Act Funding

He stated that the second round of CARES Act funding is being distributed and the County will receive another \$1,296,478 which can be used through December 31, 2020. A certain percentage of those funds will go to Clifton Forge and Iron Gate to use like the first round received. He commented that the County will use funds in part to reimburse for Zoom equipment, modifications at the Courthouse, upgrades to this building (touchless light fixtures, water fountains, etc.), and other items. He mentioned that we are also working with DSLCC on those that have been laid off to get them re-employed. He stated that it will be a real challenge to spend the money by December 31<sup>st</sup>, especially in relation to construction projects and we are looking for clarification on construction projects that could be in progress that are encumbered.

Drug Court Update

He commented that a meeting was held yesterday afternoon with local law enforcement, Judge, parole officers, attorney's, AHCSB representatives, and others regarding a local drug court which is tentatively scheduled to kick-off on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

FOCUS Program

He commented that the Giles County FOCUS Program was previously discussed to help the communities that uses reactive services (i.e., DSS, AHCSB, etc.). A representative from Bridge the Gap came to the area to speak regarding that program. He mentioned that the RV-ARC will be assisting with GIS data mapping so that we can see the communities to focus on. He stated that a group will be going to Giles County next week on their program.

COVID-19 Budget Impact Update

He commented that he and Ms. Adock had discussed earlier in our last budget year regarding concerns with budget impacts in relation to COVID-19. He stated that those tax revenues expected to be impacted (BPOL, sales, meals, and lodging) were only \$5,331 under what was projected which is good news.

Site Development

He commented that in August of last year, we met with the Alleghany Foundation and presented a scenario to move economic development in the area forward utilizing the joint revenue sharing agreement with Covington. He stated that no response has been received from the Alleghany Foundation. He commented that we will work on other avenues to develop a site.

Ms. Vannorsdall asked if this would be creating pad sites. Mr. Lanford replied that we are looking at either a pad/graded site or shell building. He commented that we are on lists all over the State, but if there are no high quality, readily available sites to begin construction or a shell building, then we are out of the game.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (INQUIRIES/REPORTS):

Miscellaneous

The Board thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and congratulated Ms. Delethea Quarles on her accomplishments.

Ms. Vannorsdall asked all to continue contacting representatives on reinstating the \$503,000 in funding for Green Pastures.

Mr. Garten stated that a lot of people want in the picture when you are successful, but very few want to help make it happen. He commented that we need to look to do for ourselves (pad ready site, etc.) and look for other sources. He mentioned that he missed the meeting last month because the new addition to his family came two months early and they were bringing him home from the hospital.

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion of Mr. Bennett, seconded by Ms. Vannorsdall, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:15 p.m. Motion carried.

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G. Matt Garten  
Chairman