

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors, Alleghany County, Virginia held on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 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
Cletus W. Nicely
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

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) an adjourned meeting held on February 2, 2021; and (2) a regular meeting held on February 2, 2021.

PUBLIC COMMENT (5 MINUTE TIME LIMIT):

Ms. Deloris Quarles, 701 Wrightstown Avenue, spoke regarding tractor trailer issues on Dolly Ann Drive. She stated that the trucks are trying to get to Smokey Bear Lane, but GPS is sending them to Dolly Ann Drive and there is nowhere for them to turn around. She asked Ms. Susan Hammond, VDOT Engineer, if a sign or signs (i.e. No Trucks) could be put up. She mentioned that there have been four trucks in that area in the last four days.

Ms. Hammond replied that a "No Through Truck" restriction would require action from the Board which is normally a last resort after trying other avenues which she will look into.

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. She was present electronically.

Maintenance

- Responded to multiple winter weather events. Cleaned and repaired equipment after each event. Restocked salt and abrasives.
- County-wide removed downed trees and debris as a result of high winds, ground saturation, and heavy snows.
- Boom-axed Pitzer's Ridge.
- Getting a lot of breakup on pavement around the County and will be doing a lot of patching.

Construction

- Rt. 696 bridge replacement - Traffic will be switched to the new structure possibly tomorrow afternoon. As part of this switch, the stop bars at both Selma/Low Moor Road and Rich Patch Road will be offset between 18-20 feet. Project is on time and on budget.

Other

- She will be setting up the joint public hearing between VDOT and the Board for April 6th on the Secondary Six Year Plan.

Mr. Bennett commented that the lane completed for the bridge is just ½ of the bridge. He asked if the other half will be completed toward the end of summer. Ms. Hammond replied that is correct

Mr. Griffith stated that the bridge approach on Rt. 60 heading west at Humpback needs patched as it is getting bad.

Mrs. Cox mentioned that there was gravel put in an area of the pavement across from Armentrout Road going northbound, but the gravel has come out and it is sinking more which can cause damage to small cars.

Mr. Garten commented that more shale is coming off from the highwall on Rt. 220 near Honda Nissan due to the

changing weather. He asked if VDOT has looked any more into some kind of fencing or some form of material capture (rip-rap) at toe of slope and if this could be included in the Six Year Plan improvements. Ms. Hammond replied that there has been some discussion in the office regarding alternatives. She mentioned that Rt. 220 is a primary road and funding in the Six Year Plan is only for secondary roads.

MS. SUSAN HAMMOND, VDOT RESIDENT ENGINEER - DISCUSS AND APPROVE REQUEST FOR ABANDONMENT AND ADDITION OF PORTIONS OF RT. 696 DUE TO THE ROAD REALIGNMENT AND BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT (SELMA):

Ms. Hammond commented that there was a realignment of the road/bridge in Selma approximately 8 or 9 years ago and the normal action to abandon the old section and add the new alignment slipped through the cracks. She stated that the resolution from the Board is to clean up VDOT records.

Mr. Bennett asked who the land would go to. Ms. Hammond replied that it is a deeded right-of-way that was part of old Rt. 60 and is just not open as public access. She commented that if someone wanted to purchase the property from VDOT that option would be open just to adjoining property owners.

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

RESOLUTION
§33.2-705 & §33.2-912 - Addition to Secondary Route & Abandonment with Replacement Road

WHEREAS, a portion of Route 696 has been realigned and a new segment constructed to standards equal to the Virginia Department of Transportation's Secondary Street Acceptance Requirements as a requisite for acceptance for maintenance as part of the Secondary System of State Highways; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Transportation has inspected this street and found it to be acceptable for maintenance; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors, this the 02 day of March, 2021, that the old segment of Route 696 identified on the attached Form AM 4.3, is no longer needed as part of the Secondary System of State Highways as the new road serves the same citizens as the old road and is hereby requested to be abandoned by the Virginia Department of Transportation pursuant to §33.2-912, *Code of Virginia*, 1950 amended.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Virginia Department of Transportation be, and it hereby is, requested to add and maintain the new segment identified on the attached Form AM 4.3 as part of the Secondary System of State Highways, pursuant to §33.2-705, *Code of Virginia*, 1950 amended, and the regulatory requirements of VDOT.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board of Supervisors does hereby guarantee unencumbered rights-of-way plus the necessary easements for cuts, fills, and drainage for this added segment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Virginia Department of Transportation.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Stephen A. Bennett	Yes
Shannon P. Cox	Yes
Gregory A. Dodd	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
M. Joan Vannorsdall	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

MR. CORBIN STONE, ROBINSON FARMER COX ASSOCIATES - PRESENTATION OF THE COUNTY AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2020:

Mr. Corbin Stone, Robinson Farmer Cox Associates, (presenting electronically) stated that the Board has a copy of the audit for year ending June 30, 2020, as well as a presentation in the agenda packet. He mentioned that the audit went

well with all departments and they did not have a problem getting information needed. He reviewed the presentation which included: (1) a chart showing a comparison of the General Fund from 6/30/11 to 6/30/20 (shows annualized growth rates with total revenues having a 1.66% growth and expenditures a 1.16% growth) and a fund balance of \$12,889,311 which includes unspent bond proceeds of \$7,414,390, \$3,007,999, and \$1,974,276 at the end of 2018, 2019, and 2020 respectively; (2) a graph showing general fund revenues by fiscal year; (3) a graph showing general fund expenditures by fiscal year; (4) a chart showing a comparison of the School Operating Fund from 6/30/11 to 6/30/20 (shows annualized growth rates with total revenues having a 1.04% decrease and expenditures a 0.40% decrease) and a fund balance of \$4,832,982; (5) a graph showing school fund revenues by fiscal year; (6) a graph showing school fund expenditures by fiscal year; (7) a chart showing a summary of original tax assessments (total annualized growth rate of 0.76%); (8) a chart showing select financial data (general fund balance of \$10,915,035 and a debt per capita of \$3,540.22 with the State's debt per capita \$5,814.45); (9) letter on governance; (10) audit recommendations memo (due to turnovers at Social Services and CSA there were several recommendations, and a few other recommendations); and (11) handout on GASB changes. He commented that he is impressed with the County having an adequate fund balance (recommend at least 10%) and low debt, as well as holding the line tight on expenditures, especially with the population decline since 2008.

Ms. Vannorsdall commented that on page 7 it shows the machinery and tools tax revenue down approximately 27 million since 2008. She asked why this occurred. Mr. Stone replied that this was pollution control equipment at WestRock. Mr. Lanford added that there was a large drop when legislation was passed that environmental pollution control equipment would no longer be categorized as machinery and tools.

Mr. Garten asked the Board to contact Mr. Stone if they have any questions after reviewing the full audit report.

MR. ROSCOE STEPHENSON, ALLEGHANY-BATH-HIGHLAND BAR ASSOCIATION - DISCUSS AND APPROVE RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF MR. FLETCHER WATSON:

Mr. Roscoe Stephenson, Alleghany-Bath-Highland Bar Association, asked the Board to consider passing a resolution in memory of Mr. Fletcher Watson, a local retired attorney who passed away on January 26th at the age of 99. He gave a brief overview of Mr. Watson's life (came to the area in 1952 at the age of 30, his law practice in the area, time spent at the Courthouse in the records room, how well he was liked by all, etc.). He mentioned that he, Mr. Bill Wilson, and Mr. Russ Updike put together the resolution submitted to the Board which not only honors Mr. Watson, but also would name the records room at the Courthouse the "Fletcher D. Watson Records Room."

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

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ALLEGHANY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, IN MEMORY AND HONOR OF THE LATE FLETCHER D. WATSON

WHEREAS, FLETCHER D. WATSON, attorney at law, who grew up in Accomack County, Virginia, arrived in Covington in 1952, a recent graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law, accompanied by his wife, Jane, and his law partner, William E. "Kit" Carson, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, thus, began a long and very successful law practice for Fletcher spanning over 62 years. Although he had a great sense of humor; Fletcher was quiet, dignified, and reserved and always looked the part of a lawyer with his coat and tie, starched shirt, and shined shoes; and

WHEREAS, Fletcher's legal passions were real estate, wills, and estates, and he had a well-deserved reputation for meticulous detail; and

WHEREAS, at the Clerk's Office, of the Circuit Court of Alleghany County, where Fletcher spent part of almost every day, poring over deeds and wills in the records room, he was always helpful and courteous to the clerks, and was quick to offer his assistance to anyone in need; and

WHEREAS, Fletcher looked and acted the part of the consummate lawyer and well represented the legal profession, serving as a role model for all lawyers; and

WHEREAS, FLETCHER D. WATSON departed this life on January 26, 2021.

NOW THEREFORE, in recognition of the example **FLETCHER D. WATSON** set for the local bar, and for the legal profession in general, it hereby resolved by the **ALLEGHANY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS** (the Board) as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board recognizes the many years of ethical and outstanding law practice of **FLETCHER D. WATSON**, as demonstrated by over 62 years of service in the Covington and Alleghany County area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that as a gesture of appreciation and thanks for that service, and the example he set for the legal profession and the public, the Board, with the approval of Circuit Court Judge Edward K. Stein and Circuit Court Clerk Debra Byer, as indicated by their signatures below, does hereby designate the room where deeds, wills, and other documents are kept in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Alleghany County, as the "**FLETCHER D. WATSON RECORDS ROOM**" with an appropriate plaque so designating that room; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that attested copies of this resolution shall be delivered by the Clerk of Court to Fletcher's son, Fletcher D. Watson, Jr., and to Carole S. Huffman, Fletcher's longtime friend and companion.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Stephen A. Bennett	Yes
Shannon P. Cox	Yes
Gregory A. Dodd	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
M. Joan Vannorsdall	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

APPROVE AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR TOURISM AND MARKETING SERVICES TO THE ALLEGHANY HIGHLANDS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM:

Mr. Lanford stated that the County contracted with the Alleghany Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Tourism in 2010 for tourism and marketing services when the lodging tax was increased to 5%. He commented that anything over 2% is required to go for those services. He mentioned that a Request for Proposal is solicited every five years and just one proposal was received from the Chamber.

Ms. Vannorsdall asked if the Chamber is completely funded by the lodging tax. Mr. Lanford replied that the lodging tax is a majority of their funding, but they also receive funding from Covington, Clifton Forge, and grant sources.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors accept the proposal from the Alleghany Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Tourism for Tourism and Marketing Services

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board authorize Mr. Jonathan A. Lanford, County Administrator, to execute the Tourism and Marketing Services Agreement with the Alleghany Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Tourism.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Stephen A. Bennett	Yes
Shannon P. Cox	Yes
Gregory A. Dodd	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
M. Joan Vannorsdall	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

APPROVE AWARD OF CONTRACT TO TYLER TECHNOLOGIES FOR SOFTWARE AND SERVICES:

Ms. Adcock stated that it was mentioned during budget discussions that the current software system for the County is approximately 26 years old and we are having significant issues (i.e., tax tables not being able to be loaded on time, unable to get reports needed, not able to do refuse fee computations and have to use Quickbooks, lack of support on new issues, etc.). She commented that the new system would be capable of those items as well as the needed tax computations, collections, utility billing, work orders, better teleworking capability, off-site hosting of the system to avoid buying new servers,

etc. She mentioned that County staff has had demonstrations over the years on various systems and the Tyler system has been chosen. She stated that Covington also uses this system and are happy with it. She commented that some of the CARE funds would be utilized to help with the cost and the attorney's have reviewed the contract.

There was some discussion on the time-frame for implementation (3 years for total implementation with segments transferred to the new system piece by piece); if there is any liability for lost data during the conversion (will check on, but have not heard of any issues with the migration of data); if there is protection from hacking of data (the County has coverage under VACorp and Tyler Technologies also has coverage); the cost is \$744,817 over a 3-year period which includes the software, licensing, travel costs, training, maintenance, etc.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors accept the proposal from Tyler Technologies for software and services with a three-year value of the contract of \$744,817.00, payable in installments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board authorize Mr. Jonathan A. Lanford, County Administrator, to award and sign the abovementioned contract on behalf of the County in form approved by the County Attorney.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Stephen A. Bennett	Yes
Shannon P. Cox	Yes
Gregory A. Dodd	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
M. Joan Vannorsdall	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

REAPPOINTMENT OF MR. DAVID OLIVER TO THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY:

Mr. Garten stated that the term of Mr. David Oliver (Falling Spring District) on the Industrial Development Authority expires March 25, 2021. Terms are for four years and Mr. Oliver is eligible for reappointment. He commented that Mr. Oliver does want to be reappointed.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors that Mr. David M. Oliver (Falling Spring District), 5511 Jackson River Road, Hot Springs, VA 24445 be reappointed to the Covington-Alleghany Industrial Development Authority for a term of four years beginning March 26, 2021 and ending March 25, 2025.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Stephen A. Bennett	Yes
Shannon P. Cox	Yes
Gregory A. Dodd	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
M. Joan Vannorsdall	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

RECOMMEND APPOINTMENT OF MS. DIANA SMITH TO THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS:

Mr. Garten stated that a replacement needs to be made for Mr. Gregory Dodd (Clifton Forge West District) on the Board of Zoning Appeals. The term would begin immediately and expire October 31, 2023. He mentioned that there are two emails of interest in the agenda packet (Ms. Courtney Howard and Ms. Diana Smith).

Mr. Lanford mentioned that with BZA appointments, the Board makes a recommendation to the Circuit Court Judge to make the appointment.

Ms. Vannorsdall commented that Ms. Smith has been active on the Clifton Forge Planning Commission for a long time. She stated that she feels she would be qualified and has the skills to serve on the BZA. She mentioned that the Board had resumes for both individuals at the last meeting when discussing the Board of Supervisor appointment.

Mr. Griffith stated that Ms. Smith served on the Comprehensive Plan Committee a while back.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors endorses the appointment of Ms. Diana K. Smith (Clifton Forge West District), 224 Highland Street, Clifton Forge, VA 24422 to the Alleghany County Board of Zoning Appeals to complete the term of Mr. Gregory A. Dodd beginning immediately and ending October 31, 2023.

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
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
M. Joan Vannorsdall	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

Mr. Lanford gave a report on the following items:

USFS Meeting(s) on Maintenance of Facilities

Since the last Board meeting, he and others have met with representatives from the offices of Senator Kaine, Senator Warner, and Congressman Griffith either in person or virtually regarding dissatisfaction on Forest Service maintenance of facilities (Lake Moomaw, etc.). They will work with us to address the issue and he hopes to have more news later.

Opportunity Zone Prospectus

The Opportunity Zone prospectus was shared with the Board and also with the AHEDC, State economic development organizations, etc. It is hoped to get outside investments.

Bridging the Gap

Mapping has been finished for the Bridging the Gap program and it was found that 7% of addresses consume 50% of reactive services (i.e., law enforcement, Social Services, CSB, etc.). The data will be used to target folks to see how to be successful.

April Clean Up Month

A proclamation signing for April as Clean Up month is being coordinated for all localities.

Budget Update

Budget packets have been sent out to Department Heads and agencies. He asked Mr. Garten and Mr. Griffith to help craft the County budget for this year with County staff as they have worked on the school merger over the last couple years. Both agreed.

Regional Jail Overcrowding

A meeting was scheduled with Rockbridge County on options for respective jails due to overcrowding on February 22nd. The meeting ended up being held virtually due to the weather. We will be looking at forming a partnership and working together. A committee will be formed to work on the overcrowding issue as well as alternatives to the incarceration of individuals. The cost at our jail to house prisoners at other locations was \$100,000/year four years ago and now it is \$500,000/year. It was suggested that the committee be comprised of representatives from local law enforcement, Judges,

AHCSB, Sheriff, parole office, probation office, Board/Council members, etc. to work together on alternatives. He asked for feedback from the Board on who would like to participate on the Committee.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (INQUIRIES/REPORTS):

Miscellaneous

The Board welcomed Mr. Dodd to the Board

Ms. Vannorsdall stated that she is grateful for Mr. Lanford's advocacy with the Forest Service. She mentioned that everyone should look at the Masonic Theatre website on upcoming happenings.

Mrs. Cox shared a memory of meeting Mr. Watson when she was in college and how he impressed her even though she did not know who he was at the time. She commented that she was happy to see the resolution in his honor in the agenda packet.

Mr. Bennett mentioned to Mr. Dodd to not be afraid to ask questions or ask for an explanation. He asked that he feel free to call any of us and that the Board communicates and works well together as a team. He stated that the filming of the movie Dope Sick has finished and they spent a lot of money in the area.

Mr. Dodd thanked everyone for their comments and Mr. Lanford and Mrs. Munsey for making him feel welcome.

Mr. Griffith also suggested that Mr. Dodd call any members of the Board with questions as we are a team even though sometimes we do not always agree.

Mr. Garten thanked everyone for another successful audit.

CLOSED MEETING:

On motion of Mrs. Cox, seconded by Mr. Griffith, that the Board go into a Closed Meeting under Code of Virginia Sections 2.2-3711(A)(3), (5), and (8) for the purpose of: (1) disposition of publicly held real property; (2) consultation with legal counsel pertaining to actual litigation; and (3) a Performance Agreement with a business or industry. Unanimously adopted.

On motion of Mr. Bennett, seconded by Ms. Vannorsdall, 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/James M. Griffith	Yes
/s/Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
/s/Gregory A. Dodd	Yes
/s/Shannon P. Cox	Yes
/s/M. Joan Vannorsdall	Yes
/s/Stephen A. Bennett	Yes

ADJOURNMENT:

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

G. Matt Garten
Chairman