

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors, Alleghany County, Virginia held on Tuesday, January 3, 2023 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 Adcock-Nicely, Director of Finance
Jonathan Fitch, Director of Public Safety
Jim Guynn, County Attorney
Melissa A. Munsey, Deputy Clerk to the Board

CALL TO ORDER:

The Chairman called the regular meeting to order. Father Thomas McHenry gave the invocation and the audience remained standing for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN:

Mr. Walters, acting as Chairman *Pro Tem*, called for nominations for Chairman of the Board.

Mr. Bennett nominated Mr. G. Matt Garten for Chairman.

On motion of Dr. Goings, seconded by Mr. Dodd, that nominations for Chairman of the Board be closed.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

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

On motion of Mr. Bennett, seconded by Dr. Goings, that Mr. G. Matt Garten be elected Chairman of the Board.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

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

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN:

Mr. Garten, the elected Chairman, took over the meeting. He asked for nominations for Vice-Chairman of the Board.

Mr. Bennett nominated Mr. James M. Griffith for Vice-Chairman.

On motion of Mr. Bennett, seconded by Mrs. Cox, that nominations for Vice-Chairman of the Board be closed.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

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

On motion of Mr. Bennett, seconded by Mrs. Cox, that Mr. James M. Griffith be elected Vice-Chairman of the Board.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

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

ADOPTION OF CODE OF ETHICS:

Mr. Garten commented that the Board has a draft resolution of the Code of Ethics in the agenda packet which is the same as last year.

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors that the Board and County officials will be guided by the following Code of Ethics:

The ethical elected and non-elected County official should:

- * Properly administer the affairs of the County.
- * Promote decisions which only benefit the public interest.
- * Actively promote public confidence in County government.
- * Keep safe all funds and other properties of the County.
- * Conduct and perform the duties of the office diligently and promptly dispose of the business of the County.
- * Maintain a positive image to pass constant public scrutiny.
- * Evaluate all decisions so that the best service or product is obtained at a minimal cost without sacrificing quality and fiscal responsibility.
- * Inject the prestige of the office into every day dealings with public employees and associates.
- * Maintain a respectful attitude toward employees, other public officials, colleagues, and associates.
- * Effectively and efficiently work with governmental agencies, political subdivisions, and other organizations in order to further the interest of the County.
- * Faithfully comply with all laws and regulations applicable to the County and impartially apply them to everyone.

The ethical elected and non-elected County official should not:

- * Engage in interests that are not compatible with the impartial and objective performance of his or her duties.
- * Improperly influence or attempt to influence other officials to act in his or her own benefit.
- * Accept anything of value from any source which is offered to influence his or her action as a public official.

The ethical elected and non-elected County official accepts the responsibility that his or her mission is that of servant and steward to the public.

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

ADOPTION OF BOARD BY-LAWS:

Mr. Garten stated that the Board has a draft resolution in the agenda packet to adopt the Board's By-Laws which are the same as last year.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the By-Laws of the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors be amended in Section (1) Regular Meetings, subsection (A)(3) to change the day the agenda is finalized to noon on the Tuesday prior to any Board meeting.

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

The adopted Board By-Laws and Public Comment Guidelines are as follows:

**BY-LAWS
ALLEGHANY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

These by-laws are for the purpose of promoting properly conducted meaningful and orderly meetings of the County Board of Supervisors in the transaction of County business, and to maintain decorum at all times. The by-laws are designed to allow the Board and its Chairman to conduct the meetings efficiently, allowing all necessary and appropriate opportunities for any person to address the Board on matters under consideration.

SECTION (1) REGULAR MEETINGS:

(A) *The Alleghany County Board of Supervisors shall meet in one (1) Regular Meeting a month on the first Tuesday at 7:00 P.M. in the Board Room of the County Governmental Complex for the purpose of conducting the business of Alleghany County. Any Regular Meeting that falls on Election Day in November shall be held on the following day (Wednesday).*

(1) *The Agenda for the Regular Meeting shall be prepared by noon on the Thursday prior to the first Tuesday in each month. The Agenda shall be placed on the County web site on the Friday prior to the first Tuesday of each month. The agenda shall be as follows:*

- Call to Order*
- Invocation*
- Pledge of Allegiance*
- Minutes*
- Public Hearing*
- Public Comment*
- Unfinished Business*
- New Business*
- County Administrator's Report*
- Board Member Comments (Inquiries/Reports)*
- Closed Meeting (as needed)*
- Adjournment*

(2) *The following is an explanation of various agenda headings:*

Public Hearings are conducted in accordance with the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, for the purpose of receiving public input on the topic of the public hearing. The Board has a policy to not act on a public hearing on the same night, but may waive this policy and take action with unanimous approval of members present.

Public Comment gives the public an opportunity to address the Board on matters appropriate to the responsibilities of the Board. There shall be a maximum time limit of five (5) minutes for comments from each speaker with a maximum time limit of 30 minutes allocated to Public Comment in any one meeting. A sign-up sheet will be provided at a table near the meeting room for Public Comment. Adopted Public Comment Guidelines for speakers will also be provided on the table. If the number of individuals on the sign-up sheet would exceed the allotted 30-minute time-frame, the Chairman has the latitude to place a shorter limit on individuals. After the Board has heard comments from those who signed up, others in the audience who have not had an opportunity to speak and desire to do so will be invited to speak, time permitting. If speakers have copies of comments available, they should be provided to the Deputy Clerk to the Board for inclusion in the minutes. If this section is amended at any time, then the adopted Public Comment Guidelines will automatically be amended.

Unfinished Business consists of items that have been presented and discussed at a previous meeting, but more discussion was necessary for clarification prior to a vote or the item was tabled. Items under Unfinished Business can be voted on at any time.

New Business consists of items that have not been presented or discussed or is something new in relation to an item that has previously been presented or discussed. Items under New Business can be voted on at any time.

(3) *The agenda shall be finalized by noon on the Tuesday prior to any Board meeting. The agenda shall not thereafter be changed except by Board action taken at the meeting.*

Persons wanting a topic placed on the agenda shall make the request to the County Administrator or Deputy Clerk to the Board. The County Administrator will then report to the Chairman on the request.

(4) *Matters not on the agenda for the Regular Meeting may be considered by the Board when requested by the Administrator, or his/her representative, the County Attorney, or a member of the Board. The item will be added to the New Business or Unfinished Business section of the agenda.*

(5) *All meetings of the Board of Supervisors shall be governed by the Code of Virginia, Roberts Rules of Order, as revised, and these by-laws.*

- (6) *The County Attorney or his Assistant shall be the parliamentarian and the legal advisor to the Board of Supervisors at all meetings.*
- (7) *A roll call vote shall be held for all motions except to go into a Closed Meeting, come out of a Closed Meeting, and to adjourn.*

SECTION (2) SPECIAL MEETINGS/PUBLIC HEARINGS/WORK SESSIONS/ADJOURNED MEETINGS:

- (A) *Special meetings, public hearings, work sessions, and adjourned meetings shall be held when necessary in accordance with provisions in the Code of Virginia pertaining thereto.*

SECTION (3) ADHERENCE TO POLICY:

- (A) *Policy matters of the Board shall be followed and adhered to and no action should be taken by the Board of Supervisors if such action would actually be in conflict or at cross purposes with the intent of an established policy. The Board may, where circumstances warrant, waive a given policy for a particular situation and action as the Board deems desirable, with unanimous approval of members present.*

SECTION (4) PRECEDENCE OF LAWS:

- (A) *These by-laws shall govern in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the federal, state, or local law.*
- (B) *Any provision of any part of these by-laws which are found to be in conflict with the Code of Virginia or the Constitution shall be null and void and the remaining provisions shall continue to apply.*

SECTION (5) CHANGES OR AMENDMENTS:

- (A) *These by-laws may be changed or amended by action of the Board of Supervisors at any regular meeting, provided that each Board member is given proper notice of any proposed change or amendment.*

Deputy Clerk to the Board

PUBLIC COMMENT GUIDELINES

- *A sign-in sheet will be placed near the Board Room door for citizens who wish to speak during the Public Comment. Citizens should list their name, address, and topic to be addressed. After all speakers who signed up have spoken, anyone else interested in speaking will be given the opportunity.*
- *Speakers are limited to five minutes. There is a maximum time limit of 30 minutes allocated to Public Comment in any one meeting. If the number of individuals on the sign-up sheet would exceed the allotted 30-minute time-frame, the Chairman has the latitude to place a shorter limit on individuals.*
- *Speakers are to provide a copy of remarks to the Deputy Clerk, if in writing.*
- *The Board of Supervisors encourages and values citizen input on all topics or issues of relevance to the Board's responsibilities.*
- *Speakers shall direct all comments to the Board (not individual members or employees of the Board).*
- *Profane or vulgar language, partisan political statements, or comments related to the conduct or performance of Board members or staff are not appropriate in this setting.*
- *Board members are not expected to respond to questions or comments unless the Chairman deems such response appropriate. Board members may seek clarification or additional information from speakers through the Chair.*

MINUTES:

Hearing no corrections or deletions, the Chairman declared the following minutes approved as submitted: (1) a regular meeting held on November 1, 2022.

RECOGNITION OF RETIREE FOR 2022 AND APPROVE RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION:

Mr. Garten stated that the following individual retired from the County in 2022:

- Donald Wolfe, Public Works - 15 years, 8 months

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Donald Wolfe retired from the Public Works Department on June 1, 2022 after providing 15 years, 8 months of service to the citizens of Alleghany County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wolfe has faithfully served the County in the capacity of Meter Reader/Maintenance Technician;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors recognizes Mr. Donald Wolfe for his invaluable contribution to the citizens of Alleghany County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board extends its appreciation to Mr. Wolfe for his service to the County, congratulations upon his retirement, and best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT (5 MINUTE TIME LIMIT):

No one spoke at this time.

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

- *Brush/tree debris pickup County-wide on primary and secondary routes.*
- *Shoulder and mailbox pullout repairs on secondary routes.*
- *Cold patched potholes County-wide on secondary routes.*
- *Boom axed/hand brush cutting on Rt. 311 north.*
- *Cleaned pipes on secondary routes County-wide.*
- *Repaired potholes on Rumsey, Castile, and Hickory Hill.*

Construction

- *Replaced pipes on Sycamore Bend (Rt. 637) Rural Rustic Project.*

Mr. Bennett asked for an update on the bridge over Dunlap Creek. Ms. Hammond replied that the old bridge was dismantled and removed and the fabricated bridge put in. She mentioned that some work was done in-house and the rest by a contractor.

Mrs. Cox mentioned that Mr. Derrick Barr has had issues with speeding in the area and she understands that he has spoken with VDOT and law enforcement about it.

Mr. Garten stated that the Rt. 220 wall is working great. He commented that there is a sycamore tree on Rt. 687 just past Mount Pleasant Drive (across from the edge of the graveyard) where the roots have created a hump in the road that has gotten worse.

MR. BOB BENNETT - DISCUSS CAR INSURANCE AND TAXES:

Mr. Bob Bennett was not present at the meeting.

SHERIFF KEVIN HALL - UPDATE ON ANIMAL CONTROL, LITTER CONTROL, AND THE PATHWAY TO ACHIEVE PROGRAM:

Sheriff Kevin Hall stated that the Board was emailed a summary of animal control calls for Alleghany County and Clifton Forge and reviewed the numbers for this quarter (October through December). The handouts are a part of the records of this meeting. He gave an overview of the Pathway to Achieve program which began on October 3, 2022. He mentioned that the program consists of the use of tablets that inmates can use for classes 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. Also, inmates can do video visitation. He mentioned that they obtained 100 tablets utilizing no tax dollars. He handed out a summary on the Pathway to Achieve program and reviewed data on the program through December 31, 2022 (153 active learners, 4046 hours, 339,119 credits, 41,188 courses completed, etc.). The handout is a part of the records of this meeting. He reviewed some of the classes available for the inmates utilizing the tablets (i.e., GED, college courses, anger management, substance abuse, behavioral therapy, kitchen/food service, parenting, AA, diesel equipment technology, domestic violence, CDL classes, etc.). He commented that when the inmates get out of jail they will be living with

us and this program gives them an opportunity, as well as hope to not go back to jail. He invited the Board to visit the jail to observe the way the program is working.

Mr. Bennett suggested working with Mountain Gateway Community College on CDL classes/testing. Sheriff Hall stated that they are looking into that and also WestRock classes for job skills.

Mr. Griffith commented on Fairfax County having programs that were mentioned at a VACo meeting and that they were setting up visits for others to see what they are doing. He stated that he will contact Sheriff Hall to see if there is a group that would like to go.

APPROVE RESOLUTION OF RESPECT FOR MR. FRANK HEPLER:

Mr. Garten read the draft Resolution of Respect for Mr. Frank Hepler, former Board member.

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

WHEREAS, Mr. J. Frank Hepler, former member of the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors from the Boiling Spring District from April 16, 2002 to April 5, 2005, passed away on December 10, 2022; and

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Hepler served in numerous capacities to better the Alleghany Highlands, including as a former member of the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors, a self-employed general contractor, member of Lone Star Baptist Church, and volunteered with many organizations;

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

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

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

APPROVE RESOLUTION ENDORSING A VIRGINIA FIRE SERVICES BOARD STUDY:

Mr. Fitch reviewed a letter in the agenda packet from him to the Board. The letter is as follows:

Alleghany County is very fortunate to have some of the best men and women in the country that serve in our Fire and EMS system. These men and women are very dedicated and spend countless hours in the firehouses and out in the community. However, it is no secret that volunteer fire and EMS has been plagued with many issues over the years and the number of volunteers is in decline.

Collectively as a County administration, we have been working to alleviate some of these issues and further support our Fire and Rescue system. We feel that the Virginia Fire Services Board study would provide greater insight into our systems operation. This study would provide a broad overview of our entire Fire and EMS system. Once complete, a report would be generated with observations about the current state of the system. This study is provided by the Virginia Fire Services Board to the locality at no cost.

The mission of the Fire and EMS system is to provide the highest quality service possible to the communities of Alleghany County. With this goal in mind, I would ask the Board's endorsement of this study.

Mr. Fitch added that areas of concentration of the study would include: organization, budget and administration, training, delivery of services, fleet design and management (equipment/apparatus), operations, and the Alleghany County Fire & Rescue Association. He added that the study should take less than 6 months to complete and he will bring back the findings

to the Board.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors endorses making a request to the Virginia Fire Services Board to conduct a study of the fire and EMS system in Alleghany County at no cost to the County.

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

REAPPOINTMENT OF MS. ROBIN SWEENEY AND APPOINTMENT OF MRS. DIANNE GARCIA TO THE ALLEGHANY HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD:

Mr. Garten stated that the terms of Ms. Robin Sweeney (Jackson River District) and Mrs. Anne Dean (Covington District) on the Alleghany Highlands Community Services Board expired December 31, 2022. Terms are for three years. Ms. Sweeney is eligible for reappointment. Mrs. Dean is not eligible for reappointment as she has served 3 consecutive terms. A replacement (Mrs. Dianne Garcia) has been recommended.

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors that Ms. Robin Sweeney (Jackson River District), 909 E. Dolly Ann Drive, Covington, VA 24426 be reappointed to the Alleghany Highlands Community Services Board (AHCSB) for a term of three years beginning January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board that Mrs. Dianne Garcia (Boiling Springs District), 208 Summit Drive, Covington, VA 24426 be appointed to the AHCSB for a term of three years beginning January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2025.

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

REAPPOINTMENT OF MR. DAVID BYER TO THE BOARD OF BUILDING CODE APPEALS:

Mr. Garten stated that the term of Mr. David Byer (Falling Spring District) on the Board of Building Code Appeals expires January 20, 2023. Terms are for 5 years and Mr. Byer is eligible for reappointment. He commented that Mr. Byer would like to be reappointed.

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors that Mr. David Byer (Falling Spring District), 216 N. Smith Bridge Road, Hot Springs, VA 24445 be reappointed to the Board of Building Code Appeals for a term of five years beginning January 21, 2023 and ending January 20, 2028.

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:

Innovation Park

Hurt and Proffitt is currently completing their update of the 20-year-old study on the 170-acre site located on Highway 42. They are in the final stages of producing an initial rendering of the site for the County to review. A small internal committee made up of County staff and Vice-Chairman Griffith and Supervisor Nicely will conduct an initial review and make initial recommendations. We should be on schedule to conduct this review this month.

Commerce Center Pad Site: Virginia Business Ready Site Program

Eight individuals representing the Virginia Economic Development Partnership were in Low Moor this past month for an on-site tour of the Commerce Center pad site. Our team conducted a presentation; including, an overview of project milestones, the business case and return on investment potential, the phases of the project, and wet utilities servicing the area, including monetary projections for wastewater treatment plant expansion needs.

There were around 100 applicants and we made the final 20 for a site visit and presentation. It is anticipated that Governor Youngkin will make an announcement regarding the funds within the next two weeks.

Brochure for the Commerce Center Pad Site

Attached is the brochure developed by the consultant team working for the Allegheny Highlands Economic Development Corporation for the marketing of the Commerce Center pad site. The entire landing page for this marketing effort is now online. (The brochure is a part of the records of this meeting.)

Wrightsville

The infrastructure portion of the Wrightsville housing project is complete. One house is currently under construction and bids are due on one substantial reconstruction and one rehab the week of January 9th.

December 23rd Warming Shelter

With the extreme cold and power outages going into the evening of the 23rd, Public Safety Director Jonathan Fitch worked with the Sheriff's Department and Allegheny County opened our Administration Complex as a temporary warming shelter in case there was a need for our residents. As far as was reported, there were no residents in major distress during this period of extreme cold.

EMS Committee

The EMS Committee met December 13th. The minutes from this meeting are attached. (The minutes are a part of the records of this meeting.)

Board of Supervisors Planning Session

Brian Reed, Deputy Director of the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission, is available Saturday, January 28th to assist the Board of Supervisors with a planning session to establish short and long-term goals for the County and help the Board establish a 5-year plan. If this date is suitable at the end of this meeting, we will need a motion to adjourn this meeting to 9:30 a.m. January 28th at a location to be determined.

Other

Mrs. Cox asked if there is an update on the application for internet in the Crows area. Mr. Walters replied that DHCD has not made an announcement yet although it was supposed to be by the end of December. He commented he will check on this.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (INQUIRIES/REPORTS):

Miscellaneous

Mr. Dodd thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and stated that he hopes everyone had a nice Christmas and New Year.

Mr. Nicely commented that he is happy no money was spent tonight. He wished everyone a Happy New Year. He mentioned that the School Superintendent is present tonight and he hopes everything moves forward smoothly this year.

Mrs. Cox thanked Mr. Fitch for all he has done with the EMS Committee and noted that he is always prepared. She thanked Sheriff Hall and his staff and commented that there is a lot that they do which they are not given credit for. She commented that the tablets can give the inmates hope and it is good to use their minds correctly. She stated that Ms. Garcia will be great on the AHCSB. She mentioned that the loss of Mr. Hepler was a shock. She commented that he gave her wonderful advice and he will be missed.

Dr. Goings stated that Christmas is a time to count your blessings and be thankful and the New Year is a time to look to the future. He commented that the January 28th meeting is a way to do that. He commended Sheriff Hall for his hard work and thanked the Superintendent of Schools, Social Services Director and others for coming to the meeting.

Mr. Griffith thanked Sheriff Hall for the information on the program and Mr. Fitch for helping to get the EMS Committee work off the ground. He also thanked the Commonwealth Attorney and Superintendent of Schools for being present tonight. He wished everyone a blessed New Year.

Mr. Garten thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and the Board for allowing him to continue serving as Chairman. He commented that it has been a learning experience and things are looking bright for the area. He thanked the Superintendent of Schools, Commonwealth Attorney, and Social Services Director for being in attendance.

Discuss Due Date of Taxes

Mr. Bennett stated that he has heard complaints regarding the December 5th tax due date (i.e. too close to Christmas, etc.). He commented that he spoke with the Commissioner of Revenue and the Treasurer and both said the date could be moved back 30 days to November 5th at no additional cost. He mentioned that they have 90 days from the date the tax rates are adopted to apply them to property, then it goes to the Treasurer who needs two to three weeks to mail out the bills.

Dr. Goings commented that he spoke with the Treasurer and she said moving the date back a month would be cutting it close and also if the County receives the money a month early then it would be earning interest sooner in the bank account.

Mr. Garten stated that it is worth looking into and can be discussed further at the next regular meeting.

Mr. Bennett mentioned that Clifton Forge's taxes are also due December 5th and the County making a change would spread out the cash flow for those residents.

CLOSED MEETING:

On motion of Mr. Nicely, seconded by Mrs. Cox, that the Board go into a Closed Meeting under Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) for the purpose of: (1) property acquisition. Unanimously adopted.

On motion of Mr. Nicely, seconded by Mrs. Cox, 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/Stephen A. Bennett	Yes
/s/Cletus W. Nicely	Yes

/s/Gregory A. Dodd Yes
/s/Shannon P. Cox Yes
/s/Ronald S. Goings Yes

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion of Mr. Nicely, seconded by Mrs. Cox, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:30 p.m. to Saturday, January 28, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. at a location to be determined. Motion carried.

G. Matt Garten
Chairman