

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors, Alleghany County, Virginia held on Tuesday, April 4, 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  
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

ABSENT: Ronald S. Goings

CALL TO ORDER:

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

MINUTES:

Hearing no corrections or deletions, the Chairman declared the following minutes approved as submitted: (1) a regular meeting held on March 7, 2023; and (2) an adjourned meeting held on March 14, 2023.

PUBLIC COMMENT (5 MINUTE TIME LIMIT):

Mr. Gregg Brelsford, 217 Sherry May Street, spoke regarding an issue this past weekend at Phase 5 of the trail (i.e., water under firewall into creek, large sandbags in creek, etc.) and the Corps of Engineers has been made aware of the situation. He mentioned that he has a video that can be submitted and recommended an onsite visit.

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

Ms. Susan Hammond, VDOT Resident Engineer, gave an update on VDOT activities as follows:

Maintenance

- Completed ditching on Rt. 629 and Turner Road.
- Boom axing on secondary roads.
- County-wide pipe cleaning and debris pickup on primary and secondary roads.
- Repaired shoulders on secondary routes County-wide.
- Started grading gravel roads. Approximately halfway completed.
- Tree trimming and removal of hazard trees with bucket truck on primary and secondary routes.
- Sweeping intersections, bridges, walls and curbs.
- Started shoulder repair and pipe replacement on Rt. 159. Lane closure will continue over the weekend.
- Continue to patch potholes County-wide.
- Picked up trash bags from volunteer County cleanup.
- Port-a-Johns have been set at Humpback Bridge.

Construction

- Need to schedule secondary six year plan joint public hearing. Would like to set date for May 2, 2023.

Mr. Griffith stated that on Rt. 60 (stucco wall) at the "S" curves from Covington that the swale in the asphalt has cracked open and going down Boys' Home hill there are a couple locations going west.

Mr. Bennett commented that a lot of trucks were contracted for winter weather events that did not happen. He asked if they are still compensated. Ms. Hammond replied that they are.

Mr. Bennett stated that there is a new three-way stop at the Rich Patch Union Church intersection and asked if there was a specific reason for this as he is getting questions from the community. Ms. Hammond replied that several intersections were looked at due to crashes and a 3-way solution worked best in that location.

Mrs. Cox stated that she has one for her to check on, but will send an email tomorrow with the exact address.

Ms. Hammond mentioned that the tree situations that Mrs. Cox mentioned at the last meeting have been taken care of.

Mr. Garten commented that more boats are using Rt. 687 at this time and from Mount Pleasant to Indian Draft the pipe replacements have settled which is an issue when boat trailers hit them.

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 (January through March). The handouts are a part of the records of this meeting. He commented that an email was also sent out regarding an overview and updated numbers for the Pathway to Achieve program as well as courses available. He reviewed usage numbers.

APPROVE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFER FROM OPERATING CONTINGENCY IN FY23 (VARIOUS):

Ms. Adcock-Nicely stated that there are three supplemental appropriations that are housekeeping items:

- Circuit Court Clerk award of a Library of Virginia grant
- Asset Forfeiture Fund to cover overages (money in that fund balance)
- Sheriff - Law Enforcement receipt of insurance proceeds

She also mentioned that transfers are needed from Operating Contingency for the auditing line item due to additional auditing costs in relation to leases and for the E-911 repairs and maintenance line item as tower equipment no longer in use has to be removed.

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 budget and approve the following supplemental appropriations in FY 23:

<b>1.</b>	<b><i>Circuit Court Clerk - award of a Library of Virginia grant:</i></b>	
	<u>Revenue Account</u>	
	Circuit Court Grants Revenue (1100-4230825)	\$26,317.00
	<u>Expenditure Account</u>	
	Circuit Court Grants Awarded (210611-54025)	\$26,317.00
<b>2.</b>	<b><i>Asset Forfeiture Fund (Commonwealth's Attorney) - cover overages:</i></b>	
	<u>Fund Equity</u>	
	Fund 249 Asset Forfeiture Fund Equity (249-33001)	\$2,648.39
	<u>Expenditure Account</u>	
	Mileage/Subsistence/Lodging (3119-55510)	\$2,648.39
<b>3.</b>	<b><i>Sheriff - Law Enforcement - receipt of insurance proceeds:</i></b>	
	<u>Revenue Account</u>	
	Insurance Recoveries (1100-4150212)	\$6,303.00
	<u>Expenditure Account</u>	
	Vehicle/Power Supplies (310211-55408)	\$6,303.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board approve and appropriate the following transfers from Operating Contingency in FY23:

<u>Transfer From:</u>		
Operating Contingency (9100-54001)		\$19,850.00
<u>Transfer To:</u>		
Auditing Joint Services (120611-53002)		\$ 7,300.00
E-911 Repairs and Maintenance (3509-53004)		\$12,550.00

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

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

APPROVE AMENDMENT TO THE COUNTY CLASSIFICATION PAY PLAN TO ADD SOLID WASTE SUPERVISOR POSITION:

Ms. Adcock-Nicely stated that there is a memo in the agenda packet from Mr. Ricky Bourne, Public Works Director, which is as follows:

*We would like to add the title of Solid Waste Supervisor. The Supervisor classification already exists with the pay-scale starting at \$44,720 and we have the adequate funding to support this position. We are requesting Board approval per the County Personnel Policy.*

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 approve a revision to the Classification Pay Plan to add a Solid Waste Supervisor position to be effective April 1, 2023.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

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

APPROVE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE APRIL AS NATIONAL FAIR HOUSING MONTH:

Mr. Garten stated that there is a draft resolution in the agenda packet recognizing April as National Fair Housing Month which is one of the annual activities recommended by the State in relation to the Community Development Block Grant from the Department of Housing and Community Development. He read the draft resolution.

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

**FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, on April 11, 1968, the Fair Housing Act was enacted into law. The law recognizes that all Americans should have the right to purchase or rent shelter without being discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation or gender identity; and

WHEREAS, Alleghany County is committed to the mission and intent of the Fair Housing Act to provide fair and equal fair housing opportunities for all; and

WHEREAS, the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors believe that access to fair housing laws have made our communities stronger and more vibrant in Alleghany County; and

WHEREAS, Alleghany County is committed to programs that will help educate the public about the right to fair housing in the County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors recognize that April is National Fair Housing month and thank the many people and organizations in our communities who have opened the doors of housing opportunities to all citizens of Alleghany County.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Stephen A. Bennett	Yes
Shannon P. Cox	Yes
Gregory A. Dodd	Yes
Ronald S. Goings	Absent
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:

### Commerce Center Pad Site: Virginia Business Ready Site Program

Members of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) will be in Alleghany County on April 6<sup>th</sup> for a tour of the Alleghany Commerce Center Pad Site and the current construction of the Green Thumb Industries facility located in the former Bacova Building.

### Innovation Park

AECOM is in the process of developing a preliminary engineering report for the utility needs for the 170-acre site the County owns off of Highway 42. Hurt and Proffitt recently completed a rendering of what the site may look like when developed. County Administrator Walters has spoken with the County Administrator of Rockbridge County and the City Manager of Lexington about the potential future development benefitting the regional housing needs.

### Wrightsville

To date:

- Infrastructure (road work and drainage) has been completed.
- Two blighted structures have been demolished.
- Two house rehabilitations have been completed with one more to be completed this week.
- The County has not received any bids for the final rehabilitation.
- One substantial reconstruction has been completed. Another is 95% complete. Construction of the final new home will be started this month.

### Jackson River Scenic Trail

Phase 5 of the Jackson River Scenic Trail is progressing nicely. Several retaining walls have been completed with vegetation already growing and the contractor is ready to begin the next wall this week. Once all the retaining walls are finished the contractor will begin culvert installation and then the actual trail construction can begin. The restrooms have been delayed by supply chain issues with the restroom company. They are now scheduled to be installed by the last week of May. If the weather continues to cooperate, the project should be completed by the end of June.

### Island Ford Transfer Station

Approximately five years of accumulated brush was ground and the mulch (untreated) will be offered free to the public and, as available, County staff will load the mulch. Scheduling is recommended and staff can be reached at 540-965-1626.

### Board of Supervisors Planning Session

Brian Reed, Deputy Director of the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission, facilitated a planning session to help establish short and long-term goals for the County and help the Board establish a 5-year plan. Additionally, the information received in this planning session will help guide the next update to the comprehensive plan. Mr. Reed and County Administrator Walters are working on the final product from this planning session. A draft of the information is included in this report.

### Kids' Fishing Day

Alleghany County Parks and Recreation will host the 33<sup>rd</sup> annual original free Kids' Fishing Day on Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup> on Dunlap Creek at Boys' Home. The event is open to kids ages 4 to 15. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. There will be a picnic lunch and prizes.

### General Reassessment Evaluation Committee

Two Board members are needed to assist with the selection of a reassessment firm for the 2025 General Reassessment. As has been done in previous years, the County solicits proposals from firms and two Board members along with the County Administrator and the Commissioner of the Revenue review, interview, and make a selection for recommendation to the Board. Proposals are due on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Garten and Mr. Griffith volunteered to serve on the informal reassessment evaluation committee.

### Other

He stated that his father passed away on the day of the last Board meeting and mentioned how important his father was to him. He commented that for the two weeks he was out that he did not receive calls and he appreciates that, as well as the community outreach he has received.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (INQUIRIES/REPORTS):

Miscellaneous

Mr. Dodd thanked Sheriff Hall for his report and commented that it seems the program is working well. He mentioned that Mayor Jeff Irvine and Ms. Kim Halterman, Superintendent, are present. He thanked everyone for their prayers when he was in the hospital last week.

Mr. Nicely stated that he is glad that Mr. Dodd is okay and that it good to see Ms. Halterman here. He mentioned the problems across the country with school shootings. He commented that CMS has one way in and one way out, but CHS has streets all around the school. He stated that everyone needs to look at the big picture and utilize a school that is secure as the number one priority is the kids.

Mr. Bennett thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Mrs. Cox thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. She wished Mr. Dodd and Mr. Walters continued prayers. She commented that she had the same thought pattern as Mr. Nicely as well, but there is good and bad with both (one way in and out at one school and having streets around the other, but police close by).

Mr. Griffith thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Mr. Garten thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

CLOSED MEETING:

On motion of Mrs. Cox, seconded by Mr. Griffith, 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. Bennett, 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 ( <i>only stayed for first part of Closed Meeting and turned the meeting over to Mr. Griffith</i> )
/s/Shannon P. Cox	Yes
/s/James M. Griffith	Yes
/s/Stephen A. Bennett	Yes
/s/Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
/s/Gregory A. Dodd	Yes
Ronald S. Goings	Absent

After the Closed Meeting, the following action was taken:

APPROVE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY FROM JAMES W. SIZEMORE FAMILY, LP:

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors authorize Mr. Reid Walters, County Administrator, to finalize the purchase of 15.99 acres (portion of Tax Map #04200-00-000-001L) from James W. Sizemore Family, LP at a cost not to exceed \$85,000 (\$79,950 for the property purchase and the balance for any related closing costs);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board approve a budget transfer in the amount of \$85,000 from Operating Contingency (9100-54001) to Economic Development-Acquisition (8113-57013).

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

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

APPROVE ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT TO PURCHASE THE FORMER WELLS FARGO BUILDING:

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors authorize Mr. Reid Walters, County Administrator, to enter into a contract once approved by the County Attorney for the purchase of the former Wells Fargo building located at 239 W. Main Street, Covington, VA 24426 for \$700,000.00 (\$25,000 earnest money and \$675,000 balance of purchase price).

Adopted by the following roll call vote:

Stephen A. Bennett	Yes
Shannon P. Cox	Yes
Gregory A. Dodd	No
Ronald S. Goings	Absent
Cletus W. Nicely	No
James M. Griffith	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Absent

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion of Mr. Bennett, seconded by Mrs. Cox, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:10 p.m. Motion carried.

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G. Matt Garten  
Chairman