

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors, Alleghany County, Virginia held on Tuesday, August 1, 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
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

ABSENT: Stephen A. Bennett

CALL TO ORDER:

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

The Chairman stated that he will be moving Item 9B (Instrument of Vacation request from Mr. Tejendrakumar Patadia) up to Item 9A under New Business as that topic goes along with the public hearing.

MINUTES:

Hearing no corrections or deletions, the Chairman declared the following minutes approved as submitted: (1) a regular meeting held on June 6, 2023; (2) an adjourned meeting held on June 13, 2023; and (3) an adjourned meeting held on June 20, 2023.

PUBLIC HEARING AND APPROVAL - REZONING REQUEST FROM BALZER & ASSOCIATES FOR MR. TEJENDRAKUMAR PATADIA (FIVE STARS, LLC):

Public Hearing was held to consider an application from Balzer & Associates on behalf of Tejendrakumar Patadia who operates under Five Stars, LLC to rezone the eight existing parcels located at 1005 Longdale Furnace Road from a Residential R-2 zone classification to a Business B-1 zone classification to allow a new neighborhood retail store with connected small restaurant/drive thru. The property is further identified as Tax Map 44E, Section 2, Block 11, Lots A through F and Tax Map 44E, Section 1, Block 10, Lot 17. The property is located in a "Residential Transition Area" as contained in the Comprehensive Plan.

The Chairman announced that this public hearing was advertised in the Virginian Review on Tuesday, July 18, 2023 and Tuesday, July 25, 2023 in accordance with the Code of Virginia. He then called the public hearing to order.

Ms. Beth Stull, Zoning Administrator, reviewed the staff report which is as follows:

STAFF REPORT

Case Number: RZ-93
Name of Petitioner(s): Balzer & Associates - Five Stars, LLC
Date Request Filed: June 1, 2023
Public Hearing Date: July 12, 2023 (PC) August 1, 2023 (BOS)
Staff Reviewer: Elizabeth Stull, Zoning Administrator

SUMMARY OF REQUEST

The applicant, Balzer & Associates on behalf of Tejendrakumar Patadia who operates under Five Stars, LLC, is requesting to rezone eight existing parcels located at 1005 Longdale Furnace Road from a Residential R-2 zone classification to a Business B-1 zone classification to allow a new neighborhood retail store use with connected small restaurant/drive-thru. The property is further identified as Tax Map 44E, Section 2, Block 11, Lots A thru F and Tax Map 44E, Section 1, Block 10, Lot 17.

The location, formerly Emmanuel Baptist Church, is currently a vacant building. The applicant is proposing to demolish the existing building and build a new retail store/gas station with a restaurant.

The property is currently zoned Residential R-2 and for Mr. Patadia to operate his business at the property, he will need to have the property rezoned to Business B-1 to allow for 'Retail stores and shops, and service establishments, including restaurants'.

The property is included in the Clifftondale area that has a mix of residential and commercial uses, with multiple zone classifications. North of the property is I-64. Properties to the Southeast are zoned AR and contain the Clifftondale Country Club and residential dwellings on Longdale Furnace Road. The Mobil is located to the West of the site and is zoned B-1. Also

to the West is undeveloped property that is zoned R-2 and Business B-1.

The property is located in a "Residential Transition Area" which consists of significant single family residential areas that exist in close proximity to the City of Covington, the Town of Clifton Forge, and the Town of Iron Gate. These areas allow for a transition from the lower intensity of the rural areas into the higher density urban environments.

Access to the property is being proposed in two (2) locations. One full access located along Route 60 (Grafton Street) and the second full access located on Longdale Furnace Road. These locations have been preliminarily discussed with the locality and Virginia Department of Transportation to provide required access to the property in appropriate locations with their relationship to the adjacent street network. A general traffic summary has been provided and VDOT has confirmed that the proposed project does not exceed the thresholds to require a Chapter 527 Traffic Impact Analysis for the site.

Development on the property will be required to comply with all setback requirements for a Business B-1 zone district. No side yards are required but shall have a minimum rear yard setback of ten feet.

The applicant is proposing a ten (10) foot landscape buffer to be provided between the proposed B-1 zoning district and existing AR zoning district along the southern property line to provide a landscape buffer/screen from the adjacent properties and the proposed commercial use.

Exterior lighting will be provided for the site, fuel canopy, and building to provide safety for patrons and employees. Fuel canopy and building will have mounted signage as well as a freestanding sign will be on the site.

The applicant will be responsible for compliance with the off-street parking regulations as stated in the zoning regulations. (1 space for every 200 sq. ft. of floor area)

The property is not located within a flood hazard area as shown on the FIRM Panel 51005C0233D.

The property has capabilities to connect to County water and sewer, as well as other services. Refuse collection will be provided by Alleghany County.

The project is compatible with the surrounding land uses as neighboring parcels are all zoned Business B-1. The properties are also surrounded on three (3) sides by public right of ways, which include Longdale Furnace Road, Grafton Street, and Whittier Avenue.

Additional Notes/Comments:

The "refresh" of this property and new construction is an excellent example of how Mr. Patadia plans to prioritize redevelopment of former vacant sites. It is anticipated that the business will have approximately ten employees to start. The proposed use as a neighborhood retail store and fueling station is compatible in scale and format with the surrounding character of the area.

If the rezoning request is approved, future development of the property will require compliance with all applicable local, state and federal regulations.

The Alleghany County Planning Commission held a public hearing on this request on July 12, 2023. They made a recommendation at that time to the Board to approve the rezoning request.

Mr. Ben Crew, Balzer & Associates, stated that the father of the applicant (Mr. D.B. Patadia) is present tonight. He commented that Ms. Stull covered the request very well and they are available to answer any questions the Board may have.

Mr. Nicely asked if the church will be demolished and what access will be utilized. Ms. Stull replied that the church will be demolished and the two entrances will be off Longdale Furnace Road and Whittier Avenue.

Mr. Griffith asked about the buffer. Ms. Stull replied that a 10' buffer is part of the zone designation.

Dr. Goings asked if the property is located across from Mobil, if the empty lots that are used for yard sales are a part of the parcel, and if the abandoned gas station is part of the development. Ms. Stull replied that the property is located across from Mobil, the empty lots used for yard sales are a part of this development, and the abandoned gas station is under the ownership of Mobil.

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

On motion of Dr. Goings, seconded by Mr. Griffith, 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:

Stephen A. Bennett	Absent
Shannon P. Cox	Yes
Gregory A. Dodd	Yes
Ronald S. Goings	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes

James M. Griffith Yes
G. Matt Garten Yes

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

WHEREAS, an application was received from Balzer & Associates on behalf of Tejendrakumar Patadia who operates under Five Stars, LLC to rezone the eight existing parcels located at 1005 Longdale Furnace Road from a Residential R-2 zone classification to a Business B-1 zone classification to allow a new neighborhood retail store with connected small restaurant/drive thru. The property is further identified on the Real Property Identification Maps as Map 44E, Section 2, Block 11, Lots A through F and Tax Map 44E, Section 1, Block 10, Lot 17; and

WHEREAS, a Notice to the Public advertising a public hearing on this rezoning application was advertised once a week for two successive weeks in the Virginian Review on July 18, 2023 and July 25, 2023, and adjoining property owners were notified in writing by certified mail on July 13, 2023; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held by the Alleghany County Planning Commission on July 12, 2023 and took action to recommend approval of the rezoning to the Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held by the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors on August 1, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Zoning Administrator prepared a staff report that was presented to the Board of Supervisors at the public hearing. A copy of the report is part of the official minutes of that meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Board did consider the items addressed in The Code of the County of Alleghany, Virginia, Chapter 66-Zoning, Article XV-Administration and Enforcement, Section 66-481-Rezoning Procedures in reviewing this request. The items were also addressed in the staff report prepared for the Board; and

WHEREAS, the property is located in a Residential Transition Area as contained in the Alleghany County Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, any future development on the property will require compliance with all applicable local, state, and federal regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors that the rezoning request submitted by Balzer & Associates, on behalf of Tejendrakumar Patadia, be approved as requested.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Stephen A. Bennett	Absent
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):

Ms. Deloris Quarles, 701A Wrightstown Avenue, gave an update on the Wrightsville project which included: planning began in 2017; a \$1.4 million grant was awarded from DHCD; the contract began in January 2020; a brief history of the Wrightsville community (founded by slaves, was moved to the current location when I-64 came through, etc.); on the third County Administrator with the project; lost five residents since the project began; the project is 80% complete; Hammond-Mitchell completed the infrastructure part of the project (roads paved and drainage improvements); street lights were installed; have received two contract extensions from DHCD; a dedication ceremony is being held on August 12th at 7:00 p.m at the Masonic Theatre and it is a community sponsored event (presentation, dinner, etc.); gave information on obtaining tickets to the dedication; etc. She commented that it has been a long, but rewarding journey.

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

- Completed first round of mowing on secondary and primary routes.
- Cleared tree debris and choke points on secondary and primary routes.
- Replaced pipe in Iron Gate on Chalybeate Avenue.
- Placed plant mix on primary and secondary routes including Pitzer's Ridge and Rt. 220 between Verge Street and Iron Gate.
- Skin patching on Rts. 616, 621, 661, 719, and 683. Also on Carlton Drive and Rt. 616 (starting from Low Moor side).
- Swept Rts. 616, 621 and Carlton Drive.
- Boom axed underbrush on secondaries and cut brush around signs for sight distance.
- Graded gravel roads after storms.
- Rip rap installation complete on Rt. 18. Guardrail to be installed soon.

Mr. Nicely asked if Iron Gate is in the secondary plan of the County. Ms. Hammond replied that they are part of the County's secondary plan and VDOT maintains their streets.

Mr. Nicely mentioned that Iron Gate has concerns regarding a couple streets and asked if Ms. Hammond can look into them or contact the Mayor. Ms. Hammond replied that they will and they are following up on other issues the Mayor has brought up.

Mrs. Cox stated that when going southbound at the tunnels at Alleghany just outside of the tunnel it is getting wider and deeper. She commented that at Rt. 18 where the guardrail is to be reinstalled there were some trees cut, but there are others sticking out. She mentioned that the contractor doing the work did a great job.

Ms. Hammond commented that it is a steep slope there and probably will not need to be cut more as the root system is still intact. She stated that they will keep it on their watch list.

Mr. Garten commented that the Rt. 220 barricades are getting full of shale.

APPROVE INSTRUMENT OF VACATION BETWEEN ALLEGHANY COUNTY AND MR. TEJENDRAKUMAR PATADIA TO VACATE LOT LINES (INCLUDING ALLEYS CONTAINED THEREIN) ON PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE LONGDALE FURNACE AREA OF THE COUNTY:

Mr. Garten stated that Mr. Tejendrakumar Patadia is asking to vacate all lot lines and alleys within the area previously approved for a rezoning to make one parcel for his development. There is a copy of a memo from Mrs. Beth Stull in the agenda packet, along with an application and draft instrument of vacation with the plat.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors authorize Mr. Reid Walters, County Administrator, to sign the Instrument of Vacation by Tejendrakumar Patadia. This Instrument of Vacation would vacate certain lots and any undeveloped streets/alleys, as described therein, of the Clifton Forge Company Subdivision plat.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

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

MS. KIMBERLY HALTERMAN, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS - STATE OF THE SCHOOL DIVISION PRESENTATION:

Ms. Kimberly Halterman, Superintendent of Schools, reviewed the State of the School Division presentation which the Board was given a copy of and is a part of the records of this meeting. The presentation included:

- *Intention of the Presentation (updating community stakeholders, including community leaders, on the progress in AHPS - Covington Council 7/11/23, Clifton Forge 8/8/23, and Iron Gate 9/18/23)*
- *Thank You for Your Generous Support (level funding, consolidation exerting downward pressure on rising educational costs, support from many forms)*

- *Your Support Led a Sensible Consolidation Process (no involuntary job loss or loss of take-home base pay, continuation of important traditions for one more year, school organization that aligns with the consolidation agreement)*
- *Overview of the 22-23 School Year (begin with belief, developed the AHPS Strategic Plan, Jeter-Watson Elementary School changes name, continued the process of adding opportunities, lots of activities to bring together secondary staff, accelerated process of staffing for 23-24 school year, heightened focus on communication)*
- *Additional Opportunities and Provisions for Students (added Career-Technical Education options in advanced health care in collaboration with MGCC, expanded swimming team and wrestling team, expanded services for students with giftedness, equalized library funding, new drumline/winter guard group, fresh appearance in many areas of Alleghany High School and Covington Middle School)*
- *Overview of the 23-24 School Year (begin again with confidence, redistricting to sensibly distribute elementary resources, secondary schools fully consolidated, continued emphasis on intentional gratitude)*
- *Additional Opportunities and Provisions for Students (proposed building managed CTE program, expanded CLASS program, security camera updates, significant improvements to AHS track and gym, enhanced services to English language learners, enhanced preschool programming housed in AHPS, SchoolGuard Safety App)*
- *Sample Student and Staff Achievements (six Jackson River Governor's School graduates, significant accolades in cross country and baseball, individual student accomplishments, Darrell Gleason recognition regarding Black History Month with NSPRA, School Board members and Superintendents presented at statewide VSBA event, John Littleton appointed to VDOE Statewide Special Education Advisory Committee, Jeter-Watson Elementary School reading efforts featured in VSBA Showcase for Success, Callaghan Elementary School made substantial progress in student attendance, Mountain View Elementary School made substantial progress in SOL scores, Sharon Elementary and Jeter-Watson Elementary led student achievement progress through the pandemic, division awarded a recruitment and retention grant from VDOE)*
- *Keeping Up with the School Division (AHPS Facebook page and Website)*

There was some discussion that there will be growing pains during the transition period; there are some vacancies for teachers listed on their website; the former Clifton Middle School will be renamed Clifton Academy and utilized for the CLASS Program; if the Governor's School could be moved to the former CHS (can mention to them, but they have their own Board); that the Governor's School should be expanded for more things than STEM programs; the potential bad side of obtaining college credits in high school with lower grades versus waiting and getting better ones; if there are counselors for students taking college prep classes (it is a grant funded position and there are tutors at the Governor's School); etc.

APPROVE EXTENSION TO THE PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT WITH R. FRALIN COMPANIES, INC.:

Mr. Walters stated that the County previously entered into an agreement with R. Fralin Companies, Inc. to complete an initial 48 apartment units by September 9, 2023. He commented that they are nearing completion on the 48 units, but have requested an extension to December 31, 2023. He mentioned that they are in various phases of constructing all 96 units.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors, pursuant to the Performance Agreement between Alleghany County, the Covington-Alleghany County Industrial Development Authority, and R. Fralin Companies, Inc., agree to extend the performance date from September 9, 2023 to December 31, 2023.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Stephen A. Bennett	Absent
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 RELATING TO THE SUPPORT OF THE VIRGINIA AMERICA 250 COMMISSION:

Mr. Garten stated that there is a resolution in the agenda packet in support of the Virginia America 250 Commission in relation to the 250th anniversary of Virginia's participation in American independence and to form a committee to aid in the planning for the commemoration period.

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

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF ALLEGHANY
RELATING TO THE SUPPORT OF THE VIRGINIA AMERICA 250 COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Alleghany County ("the County") is dedicated to the furtherance of economic development and tourism in Alleghany County; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia America 250 Commission (VA250) was created in 2020 by the General Assembly for the purpose of preparing for and commemorating the 250th anniversary of Virginia's participation in American independence; and

WHEREAS, VA250 has requested that each locality form a committee to aid in planning for the commemoration period; and

WHEREAS, Alleghany County will form a local VA250 committee; and

WHEREAS, the committee will plan and coordinate programs occurring within the locality and communicate regularly with VA250; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors wishes to undertake this endeavor with VA250 to promote and commemorate this important historic milestone;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors:

1. The Board of Supervisors hereby desires to support the Virginia America 250 Commission and their efforts to commemorate the 250th anniversary of Virginia's participation in American independence.
2. Alleghany County will form a committee to aid in the planning for the commemoration period.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Stephen A. Bennett	Absent
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 MR. GARY EANES, WAMPLER-EANES APPRAISAL GROUP, LTD., AS PROFESSIONAL ASSESSOR FOR THE COUNTY'S 2025 GENERAL REASSESSMENT:

Mr. Garten stated that a committee consisting of him, Mr. Griffith, Mr. Walters, and Ms. Adcock-Nicely vetted companies for the 2025 general reassessment and the Board approved Wampler-Eanes Appraisal Group, Ltd. at the last regular meeting. He commented that the Board now needs to approve Mr. Gary Eanes as the Professional Assessor per the Code of Virginia.

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors that in accordance with Section 58.1-3275 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, the Board hereby appoints Mr. Gary L. Eanes as the County's Professional Assessor for the purposes of the County's 2025 General Reassessment, effective for the 2025 tax year.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Stephen A. Bennett	Absent
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 IN REGARD TO PARTICIPATION IN THE COMBINED VIRGINIA JUVENILE COMMUNITY CRIME CONTROL ACT (VJCCCA) PLAN:

Mr. Garten stated that the resolution would approve participating in the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act program with Lexington, Covington, Buena Vista, Botetourt, and Rockbridge with the City of Lexington as the fiscal agent. He commented that this solidifies the existing format for the program and the County will continue to pay a maintenance of effort contribution of \$3,617 annually to participate.

Mr. Griffith questioned the amount funded in relation to information in the agenda packet.

Ms. Adcock-Nicely commented that State funding pays for most of the program as shown in the letter from the Department of Juvenile Justice and the County makes its annual contribution of \$3,617. She mentioned that it was previously called the Diversion Program for juveniles. She stated that participation with the program has a cost savings as some would end up in juvenile detention.

Mrs. Cox mentioned that the third paragraph of the email gives a listing of services (court-ordered electronic/GPS monitoring for pre-dispositional youth, on-line courses to address substance abuse and aggression management for youth participating in formal diversions, post-dispositional or probation supervision, and other specialized program services (assessments, counseling) for youth participating in formal diversions, post-dispositional or probation supervision).

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors that Alleghany County will participate in the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act (VJCCA) and accept funds for the purpose set forth in this Act until it notifies the Department of Juvenile Justice, in writing, that it no longer wishes to participate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board that Alleghany County will combine with the governing bodies of the Cities of Lexington, Covington and Buena Vista; and the Counties of Botetourt and Rockbridge to operate a Juvenile Community Crime Control Act program. The City of Lexington will act as fiscal agent for these localities.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED by the Board that the Lexington City Manager is hereby authorized to execute a local plan on behalf of the County of Alleghany.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Stephen A. Bennett	Absent
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 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION IN FY23:

Ms. Adcock-Nicely stated that Public Works has been selling items on GovDeals and a supplemental appropriation is needed in FY23 in relation to revenues received and the expenditure line item(s).

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors budget and approve the following supplemental appropriation in FY 23:

1. Refuse Collection and Transfer Station - Proceeds from sale of vehicles:	
<u>Revenue Account</u>	
Sale of Vehicles (110-4150205)	\$10,602.77
<u>Expenditure Accounts</u>	
Vehicle/Power Supplies (4203-55408)	\$7,700.00
Vehicle/Power Supplies (420421-55408)	\$2,902.77

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Stephen A. Bennett	Absent
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 AMENDMENTS TO THE CLASSIFICATION PAY PLAN:

Ms. Adcock-Nicely stated that there are proposed amendments to the Classification Pay Plan in the agenda packet that include the addition of a few positions and amending the title of another. She mentioned that no additional funding is being requested.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Allegheny County Board of Supervisors approve revisions and additions to the Classification Pay Plan to be effective July 3, 2023.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Stephen A. Bennett	Absent
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 is a part of the records of this meeting:

Housing Summit

Utilizing the resources of Virginia Housing, Allegheny County is working with Covington, Clifton Forge and the Allegheny Highlands Economic Development Corporation (AHEDC) to conduct a housing summit in April 2024. Virginia Housing is helping organize this summit and has a \$5,000 grant that can be utilized for any needs associated with the activity. Communities throughout the Commonwealth have held summits and had great success bringing the attention of developers to their community.

President of the Richmond Federal Reserve

Tom Barkin, the president and chief executive of the Richmond Federal Reserve, is visiting Allegheny County on August 1st and 2nd. The purpose of the visit is as follows: 1) to learn about the state of the economy by talking to business and community leaders on the ground, 2) to get to know the regions we serve (what makes their economies run, plus challenges they’re facing and innovations around them that we might want to share with other communities), and 3) to build this relationship in hopes of having continued two-way communication in the future.

Ground Breaking: Pad Site

Bryan Thompson, interim manager of the AHEDC, hosted a groundbreaking for the pad site that brought our region some attention in the media. The project is going well. Adams Construction is currently moving the asphalt pilings off the site and Branch Construction is moving forward with the cuts and initial grading. There has already been quite a bit of work done on the site.

Wells Fargo

The Wells Fargo attorney is completing title work for the Wells Fargo building and we can anticipate a closing date in the coming weeks.

Broadband

County Administrator Reid Walters has been in contact with the federal legislative delegation regarding the recent federal funds allocated to the Commonwealth for broadband and the landline communication issues occurring in the western part of the County. The landlines in this portion of the County were down on July 31st.

Wrightsville

The construction of the last substantial reconstruction home is 20-25% complete. One bid was received on July 19th for the last rehabilitation. The rehab specialist is working with the contractor and homeowner on the bid amount received and clarification on work items submitted in relation to the scope of work.

River Retreat Apartments

Buildings 4 and 5 of the River Retreat Apartments are currently under construction. The parking lot has been striped and landscaping is underway. The first tenants of the apartments have moved in.

Jackson River Trail: Phase 5

Col. Brian Halbert, Commander of the Army Corps of Engineers, visited the Allegheny Highlands for his annual visit to Lake Moomaw. While on his visit, he and two other members of the Corps of Engineers toured the portion of the Jackson River Scenic Trail currently under construction. They were impressed with the work of Summit Construction and Hurt and Proffitt. Because of a labor shortage, the contractor anticipates a substantial completion date this October. The shelter has been assembled, the bathrooms have been set, and the well has been drilled.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (INQUIRIES/REPORTS):

Miscellaneous

Mr. Dodd thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He commented that at the last School Board meeting the City Police discussed bussing. He asked how many School Resource Officers (SRO) will be at the school. Ms. Melinda Snead-Johnson, Assistant Superintendent, replied that there is one full-time SRO and a floating SRO to work traffic and be on site as needed.

Mr. Nicely thanked Mr. Patadia and commented that a new business is welcome. He thanked Ms. Halterman regarding the school presentation.

Mrs. Cox thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and Ms. Quarles for her presentation. She mentioned that she will be attending the August 12th Wrightsville dedication. She commented that the school system is doing a great job. She mentioned that there will be ups and downs and she feels that community negativity has died down which is probably due to more communication. She thanked Mr. Walters for his work in trying to get broadband in her area. She mentioned the recent outages in that area with no electric, landlines, etc. and that anything that can be done is appreciated. She stated that the VA250 resolution came from Ms. Teresa Hammond, Chamber of Commerce, and mentions putting together a committee. She asked if the Board needs to do anything. Mr. Walters replied that he will work with Ms. Hammond on putting together a committee and that approving the resolution will help with obtaining funding and grants.

Dr. Goings mentioned that there have been articles in The Cardinal about the area (i.e., School Board and consolidation, football, GTI opening, etc.).

Mr. Griffith thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and the presentation on the school system. He commented that it has been a long road and he wishes them good luck.

Mr. Garten thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He welcomed Mr. Ben Jackson to the school system to assist Mr. Eric Tyree. He mentioned that the school banners are up and he loves the new mascot. He thanked the Social Services Director for being present.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

G. Matt Garten
Chairman