

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors, Alleghany County, Virginia held on Tuesday, September 5, 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
Gregory A. Dodd
Ronald S. Goings
Cletus W. Nicely

and Reid Walters, County Administrator
Suzanne Adcock-Nicely, Director of Finance
Jim Guynn, County Attorney
Melissa A. Munsey, Deputy Clerk to the Board

ABSENT: Shannon P. Cox

CALL TO ORDER:

The Chairman called the regular meeting to order. Mr. Nicely gave the invocation and the audience remained standing for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chairman stated that Item 10E under New Business (transfer station fees) is being removed from the agenda for further review.

MINUTES:

Hearing no corrections or deletions, the Chairman declared the following minutes approved as submitted: (1) a regular meeting held on August 1, 2023.

PRESENTATION REGARDING THE VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (VACo) ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:

Mr. Garten stated that there is a press release in the agenda packet regarding the VACo Best Achievement Award that the County won in regards to the Alleghany/Covington School Consolidation.

Mr. Jeremy Bennett, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs with VACo, stated that the Achievement Award program began in 2003. He commented that this year they had 135 entries and 33 winners from 20 counties with Alleghany County winning the highest award. He mentioned that the award was for the Alleghany/Covington School Consolidation which was rare and a multi-year effort that is a cost savings to taxpayers, shows intergovernmental cooperation, and is a model to other local governments. He congratulated the County for the excellent program. He presented the award to the County and a picture was taken by the press with him, Mr. Garten, Mr. Griffith, and Mr. Jonathan Arritt. He commented that the County will also be recognized at the VACo conference in November.

Mr. Bennett mentioned being a part of two other attempts to consolidate schools that failed and congratulated those who accomplished it this time.

PUBLIC HEARING AND APPROVAL - AMENDMENT TO THE BUDGET FOR FY24 (ATHLETIC FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS AT AHS):

Public Hearing was held to consider an amendment to the County Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-24 in the amount of \$1,081,311.00. The amendment is needed for a supplemental appropriation to the School Operations Fund which will be expended in this fiscal year on Athletic Facility Improvements at the high school.

The Chairman announced that this public hearing was advertised in the Virginian Review on Tuesday, August 29, 2023 in accordance with the Code of Virginia. He then called the public hearing to order.

Ms. Adcock-Nicely stated that there is a memo in the agenda packet from the school system explaining the request for a supplemental appropriation of funds that were returned to the County for the AHS track project. She commented that the track project was discussed a couple years ago with the Board and this is not new money.

Mr. Nicely mentioned that this was discussed before consolidation.

Mr. Garten asked if the track would then qualify to hold regional meets. Ms. Kim Halterman, Superintendent, replied that it would qualify for regional meets.

Dr. Goings commented that the track at the former middle school was made incorrectly and too long. He asked if anything can be done with that. Ms. Halterman replied that they considered that option, but the cost would be higher due to reshaping the track and the cost to transport students.

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

On motion of Mr. Griffith, seconded by Mr. Bennett, that the Board waive its policy of not acting on a public hearing on the same night.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Allegheny County Board of Supervisors, after holding a public hearing on September 5, 2023 to amend the FY 23-24 budget in the amount of \$1,081,311, hereby budget and approve the following supplemental appropriation to the School Operations Fund which will be expended in this fiscal year for Athletic Facility Improvements at the high school:

<u>Fund Balance</u>	
Fund 110 - Fund Equity (110000000-330001)	\$1,081,311
<u>Expenditure Account</u>	
Fund 110 - School Operations (11066000-556005)	\$1,081,311

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Stephen A. Bennett	Yes
Shannon P. Cox	Absent
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, stated that the Wrightsville dedication ceremony was held on August 12th. She commented that Mrs. Cox represented the Board and thanked Mr. Garten for his contribution. She spoke about filing a complaint with Mr. Walters as Program Administrator for the grant regarding incidents occurring in regards to the construction at 695 Wrightstown Avenue pertaining to bullying, discrimination, defaming the contractor, an incident that occurred on-site between their family member and an employee of the contractor, racism, etc.

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

- Significant County-wide tree/debris cleanup on primary and secondary routes.
- Skin patching on Indian Draft, Johnson's Creek, and Cline Meadow Subdivision.
- Boom axed Grafton Street out of Clifton Forge, all of Carlton Drive, Thorny Lane, and Rt. 605.
- Completed shoulder work on Rt. 18 slope repair. Still waiting for guardrail installation.
- Removed fallen debris from behind concrete barrier on Rt. 220.
- In process of ditching East Morris Hill Road.
- Repairing potholes on gravel roads County-wide.
- Graded Rt. 770.
- Started second round of mowing on secondary routes. Mowing on primaries is complete.
- Will be installing two object markers on Rt. 159 at the outlet of the culvert that feeds into channel.

- *Signing up contractors for snow removal this winter.*

Mr. Bennett stated that he has gotten calls regarding a tree that is ready to fall on Pitzer's Ridge Road just in the County coming from Covington. He also mentioned a tree leaning over the highway on Rt. 616 near the rifle range.

Mr. Garten commented that he appreciates the shale at the Rt. 220 barricades being cleaned up.

APPROVE RESOLUTION OF RESPECT FOR MRS. ANNA L. FOX:

Mr. Garten read the draft Resolution of Respect for Mrs. Anna L. Fox.

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

WHEREAS, Mrs. Anna L. Fox, former Alleghany County Treasurer for 24 years, passed away on July 25, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Fox gave unselfishly of her time to the community and the Alleghany Highlands, setting an example of citizenship throughout her life; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Fox served in numerous capacities to better the Alleghany Highlands, including as a former employee of the Treasurer's Office for six years and then elected as the Alleghany County Treasurer for an additional 24 years;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors, in honor and respect, does hereby recognize the life of Mrs. Anna L. Fox for her loyalty, dedication, and service to her 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 Mrs. Fox.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

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

MRS. INGRID BARBER, ALLEGHANY HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY SERVICES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - DISCUSS AND APPROVE FY24/25 PERFORMANCE CONTRACT WITH THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES:

Mrs. Ingrid Barber, Alleghany Highlands Community Services Executive Director, read the following statement:
Chairman Garten, Mr. Walters, and other members of the Board of Supervisors, I am here tonight to present and seek approval of our FY24/25 performance contract for Alleghany Highlands Community Services. Thank you for your local support not only of our CSB, but also psych and group services in the jail.

As an update, the performance contract delineates the responsibilities between the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and the CSB for the purpose of providing local public mental health, developmental and substance abuse services. It specifies the condition to be met in order for CSB's to access State and Federal controlled funding and includes requirements for accountability to the State.

Some of the changes this year include Exhibit D's where the department reviews, processes and tracks funding. Administrative Requirements and Processes have been updated for clarity. There is also changes to service process quality management. This is where the CSB is monitored on meeting requirements of Step VA.

We have several new initiatives that the CSB will be implementing in the near future. We will be responsible for starting local mobile crisis, permanent supportive housing, crisis receiving centers, and crisis stabilization units. We are looking at having 6 beds, and we are also looking for land in the Low Moor area because it is closer to the hospital.

Ms. Barber reviewed costs and services shown in Exhibit A which was included in the agenda packet. She stated that she will be happy to entertain any questions the Board may have.

There was some discussion regarding the increase in funding received from the State for additional services (funds are restricted, some opioid funding, etc.); number of employees the CSB has (166) and how many more may be needed (15-20 vacancies with different credentials needed); the CSB has approximately 1,400 clients and this is comparable to other areas; the CSB can not assist individuals across the state line and can only assist residents of the County and Covington; etc.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors approve the performance contract between the Alleghany Highlands Community Services Board and the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services for FY 24/25.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

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

APPROVE SCHOOL CAPITAL PROJECTS:

Ms. Adcock-Nicely stated that when the school financing agreement was put together there is a section that says that any capital improvement over \$100,000 would need to come before the County and Covington for approval. She commented that there is a memo from the school system in the agenda packet with those capital improvements and funding sources listed. She mentioned that no new money is involved and this is just a procedure per the agreement.

Mr. Griffith suggested having a list of projects to review and approve at budget time.

There was discussion regarding moving the tennis courts from the former middle school to the high school; the current tennis courts are failing as they were not compacted properly which requires continuous repairs; the school system is looking to build the new tennis courts on the top tier adjacent to the gravel parking lot; a copy of the engineering study on the compaction was requested to be given to the Board; consider location of tennis courts not impacting any future expansion of JRTC; if JRTC could be moved into the Clifton Academy (prefer to keep JRTC where the kids are); all projects on the list have existing funds allocated, but the tennis courts cost would need to be appropriated at a future date from the funds returned to the County; the funding for the tennis courts has not officially been recommended by the School Board and if the project continues with planning they will have more detail to share with the Board at a later date; outdoor classrooms are outside spaces for learning that are open air like a picnic shelter; the digital cloud based cameras are a one time expense; etc.

The Board agreed by consensus to remove the tennis court capital project from the draft resolution and for it to be considered at a later date when further planning occurs and an appropriation is needed.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors, pursuant to Section 2.2.4 of the Alleghany-Covington School Funding Agreement dated August 10, 2021, approve the following capital projects:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
• Alleghany High School Track	\$1,081,311
• Gymnasium Renovations (high school)	\$ 416,500
• Painting (middle and high school)	\$ 358,110
• Digital Cloud Based Cameras (all facilities)	\$ 412,500
• Outdoor Classrooms (CES, MVES, SES)	\$ 150,000
• HVAC Control Improvements (high school)	\$ 100,000

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

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

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

APPROVE STREET NAME CHANGE (PORTION OF FRONTIER LANE):

Mr. Garten stated that there is a memo in the agenda packet from Ms. Beth Stull, County Planner, requesting to change the name of a portion of Frontier Lane to Cook Lane. The memo is as follows:

The G. P. Cook Lands were platted prior to the adoption of the zoning ordinance, which was recorded in August 1978. At this time a 50 foot easement was established for 3 property owners.

Currently, there are 5 residents with assigned house numbers along this private road. A request for an address to a structure, located on property adjoining the 50 foot easement, was submitted. This will be the 6th address assigned to the private road. Under County policy, roads containing 3 or more dwellings qualify to have the street named.

Letters were sent out to the residents accepting suggestions for the name of the road and their input. At this time, no one has contacted me regarding suggestions or input. Therefore, we are requesting the approval to rename the road, the 50 foot easement, to Cook Lane.

Please let me know if you have questions.

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Allegheny County Board of Supervisors that the following name be adopted as an official street name for Allegheny County:

<u>MAP NO.</u>	<u>OLD APPROVED NAME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NEW NAME</u>
37	Frontier Lane (part of)	Private road off Frontier Lane	Cook Lane

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Stephen A. Bennett Yes
 Shannon P. Cox Absent
 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:

Commerce Center Pad Site

Branch Construction is showing tremendous progress developing the Commerce Center Pad Site. To date, we have encountered less rock than anticipated and the acreage has good topsoil. Currently, the eastern portion of the site is under development.

Wells Fargo

Everything will be in place for the closing on the Wells Fargo building this month.

Broadband

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) are releasing the perimeters of this year's Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) grant application on September 15. County Administrator Walters will be working on an application with our local broadband providers and submitting it by December 19th. Last year Allegheny County did not receive funds due to the cost of each passing exceeding \$8,000.

DHCD has not determined the perimeters of the recently announced Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) program. This program is currently being developed and is funded with the \$1.4B Virginia recently received from the federal government for broadband expansion. BEAD applications are reserved for the private sector and localities will not have direct access to the funds.

In June, County Administrator Reid Walters contacted the federal legislative delegation regarding the recent federal funds allocated for broadband expansion and the landline communication issues occurring in the western part of the county.

River Retreat Apartments

Buildings 4 and 5 of the River Retreat Apartments are currently under construction. The roof was just completed on building number 4.

Jackson River Trail: Phase 5

Jackson River Trail Phase 5 continues to progress. The trestle rehab has been completed and will serve as the 6th bridge on the trail with five being from Phase 3 of the project. Culvert installation is well underway. Once those are complete grading and surfacing should follow.

Rose Dale Park

The Jackson River area Kiwanis held their first ever "Duck Race" at Rose Dale Park this past month. The rubber ducks were dumped off the Rosedale bridge and raced down the Jackson River. The event serves as a fundraiser for the club. There have been talks since the race of expanding the event to include even more activities.

Youth Sports

Youth football/cheerleading starts this Thursday (9/7) with games being played at Memorial Park in Clifton Forge to kick off the season. Girls' basketball and flag football will be starting in the coming weeks.

Wrightsville

The substantial reconstruction is 30% complete. Mrs. Munsey, the rehab specialist, and the contractor met with the homeowner last Friday regarding the remaining home to be rehabilitated.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (INQUIRIES/REPORTS):

Miscellaneous

Mr. Dodd thanked School Board representatives, Ms. Quarles, Mrs. Barber, and Mayor Irving for coming to the meeting.

Mr. Nicely stated that the financing agreement for the school system is to be revisited by finance staff. He mentioned that the County and Covington pay their portion of projects. He commented that he would like to see what they come up with.

Mr. Bennett thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He asked the school system to try to protect property for any future building expansion site for JRTC.

Dr. Goings thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He commented to Mrs. Barber that the work they do at the AHCSB is commendable. He thanked the school representatives for coming to the meeting and presenting a lot of plans with a good interchange of input.

Mr. Griffith thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and the presentations from Mrs. Barber and the school system.

Mr. Garten commented that it is hard to believe that the kids are back in school and two football games have already been played. He thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He mentioned that a lot of progress has been made and that the award from VACo shows what working together can do.

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion of Mr. Griffith, seconded by Mr. Nicely, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:30 p.m. Motion carried.

G. Matt Garten
Chairman