

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors, Alleghany County, Virginia held on Tuesday, October 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. Mrs. Cox gave the invocation and the audience remained standing for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chairman stated that Item 9G under New Business (PPTRA rate for 2023) is being added to the agenda.

MINUTES:

Hearing no corrections or deletions, the Chairman declared the following minutes approved as submitted: (1) a regular meeting held on September 5, 2023.

PUBLIC HEARING AND APPROVAL - AMENDMENT TO THE BUDGET FOR FY24 (CARRY FORWARDS AND OUTSTANDING ENCUMBRANCES):

Public Hearing was held to consider an amendment to the County Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-24. The amendment is needed due to carry forwards in the amount of \$4,088,896.00 and outstanding encumbrances in the amount of \$1,091,146.82 from the Fiscal Year 2022-23 budget. The total budget amendment is \$5,180,014.82.

The Chairman announced that this public hearing was advertised in the Virginian Review on Tuesday, September 26, 2023 in accordance with the Code of Virginia. He then called the public hearing to order.

Ms. Adcock stated that this public hearing is held in October of each year and is familiar to the Board. She commented that a majority of carry forward dollars are to build capital in order to make large purchases (i.e. garbage trucks, etc.) and others are ongoing projects. She mentioned that the outstanding encumbrances include contracts designated for specific purposes which have been encumbered and carried into the next fiscal year. These items were obligated in the previous year, but not completed during that time.

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors, after holding a public hearing on October 3, 2023 to amend the FY23-24 budget, hereby approve the carry forward and appropriation of the following from Fiscal Year 2022-23

to the Fiscal Year 2023-24 budget (including appropriate revenue line items):

General Operating	\$2,357,304
CARES Act COVID-19	\$1,327,060
CDBG Wrightstown	\$ 82,143
CIP	\$ 218,589
Water/Sanitary Capital	\$ 103,800
TOTAL CARRY FORWARDS	\$4,088,896

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board that the following funds be budgeted and appropriated in the FY 2023-24 budget to cover outstanding encumbrances at the end of FY 2022-23:

General Operating	\$ 39,535.49
COVID-19	\$ 197,538.50
CDBG Bens Run	\$ 21,539.00
CDBG Wrightstown	\$ 200,013.42
CIP	\$ 549,750.24
Water/Sanitary Operating	\$ 73,523.69
AHEDC	\$ 9,246.48
TOTAL OUTSTANDING ENCUMBRANCES	\$1,091,146.82

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):

Mr. David Chambers, 303 E. Parrish Street, spoke regarding having a summer home on Riverland Road. He mentioned that the neighbor has an outdoor wood stove that is used year round that has a 7' stack and is 20' from the property line. He asked for help in requiring the stack be built up higher as the smoke blows toward his home.

Ms. Naomi Quantz read the following prepared statement:

Hello, my name is Naomie Quantz. I live on Big Ridge located in Alleghany County. The issue I would like to speak on is the continuation of the lack of internet, phone, and emergency service communication.

First off, I would like to start with a message of gratitude regarding 9/26 special meeting for the citizens of western Alleghany County. I would like to stress in 2023 this should not be a conversation that is occurring. We are taxpayers of Alleghany County and Virginia. Our tax dollars are there for purposes of many things but most relative to this situation - emergency and medical services and schooling.

A little back story on us, we moved to the western end of the County approximately four years ago and there is a significant lack of services in this end compared to other areas. We have for the past four years complained about issues. We have three children under the age of eight. We live in a very secluded spot. Our closest neighbor is miles away and is elderly. In 2023, items such as internet, cell, and phone services are non-negotiable and are no longer considered luxuries, they are modern day requirements.

So, let's start off with the first issue - lack proper phone line and emergency services communication. Most of the ride towards our home does not offer cell service and if it does its at best spotty service (we have tried several carriers). Our personal home does not have cell service unless it runs through the internet. The house line at our home is the original line from 1960. We were promised a new updated line a year ago, it never happened. The line is often hard to hear others, static filled, drops the call, or in some cases we can hear other conversations on the line. Some in the community don't even get phone coverage from Frontier or have a very hard time getting them to come out and install. A phone is crucial for emergency situations whether it be a home phone or cell coverage. I was completely appalled at the meeting on 9/26 that the answer to solve this problem was to drive to service and make an emergency call. In my case with three kids, it isn't always feasible to get them all buckled up to drive 10 minutes to make a semi reliable phone call. What would happen if I were to get hurt? My children aren't old enough to drive to service like suggested. Someone elderly may not have a cell phone or even a vehicle to drive to service in emergency situations. What if the weather is unsafe for driving conditions - how are we supposed to abide by the solution given?

The next issue is the internet ordeal. Our children need reliable internet for part of their schooling. These children are our future and whether this country succeeds or not setting them up without the proper tools isn't a great foundation for success. Some areas can get Frontier internet services at their home; however, we cannot. We are located 10 miles from the line. Even though we were initially told we could receive their internet we cannot. We are only able to receive satellite internet. We have been through 3 providers of satellite internet and within the past year have finally found a decent company. But not all families are fortunate enough to be able to purchase this expensive internet plan. In November 2021, Lumos Networks announced 100% Completion of Fiber Networks in Alleghany Highlands. According to the Alleghany Highlands tourism site and signs posted throughout the County we are part of the Alleghany Highlands and do not receive these services. The statement wasn't 100% of their coverage area instead it was 100% coverage of the Alleghany Highlands. Why weren't we given these services and how can that statement be made?

So, with just these two items it also affects another margin, real estate. Buyers in today's market expect to have

access to internet, cell, and phone services. It is a disservice to those of western Alleghany County for our property to go cheaper or not sell because we aren't afforded those modern-day necessities. In the long run this also affects Alleghany County as a whole - it hinders growth. If you looked around on 9/26 meeting, it was primarily older citizens. Again, the future of our County belongs to the youth. You will not grow if you do not change. The older population will die out and what are you left with is a community that will soon dissolve.

This isn't a new issue. So, in conclusion, I will leave you with this quote by Abraham Maslow "In any given moment we have two options: to step forward into growth or step back into safety." Thank you for your time and this opportunity to speak.

Ms. Becky Maupin, 2050 Cove Creek Road, spoke regarding the meeting held on September 26th with the community in relation to the terrible service from Frontier in the Crows-Hematite area; the number of times she and others have had phone service go out recently (@14 times); that they need help to get reliable internet and phone service, 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

- Continuing with County-wide brush cleanup.
- Ditching and repairing shoulders on Rts. 220N, 666, and 638.
- Secondary mowing is complete on east side of County. West side is underway now.
- Completed grading on Big Ridge Road.
- Removed tree on Schoolhouse Road.
- Completed dry runs on equipment in preparation for winter operations.
- Will be cutting tree on Rt. 616 across from shooting range in the next week.
- I-64 mowing should be complete by the end of October.
- Paving underway on I-64 at mile marker 2 westbound.
- Rt. 696 bridge (at Low Moor interchange) deck will be repaired this month. All work will be done at night.
- Rt. 42 bridge over the railroad will be repaired in November.

Mrs. Cox stated that a tree was previously cut at Ms. Callaghan's property, but the ditch is still stopped up. She mentioned that she is deceased and her son called about the ditch and was told it would need to be put on a work order, but it has not been addressed. She commented that she will send the address to Ms. Hammond to check into. She asked if the tunnel she mentioned at the August meeting has been looked at. Ms. Hammond replied she understands that they cleaned the ditch out and checked the pavement.

Mr. Bennett asked if Ms. Hammond had heard anything about getting street lights at the Low Moor interchange. He mentioned that the amount saved in guardrail replacement would probably pay for the lights. Ms. Hammond replied that it requires a study and she will check on the status.

Mr. Griffith asked if the base pole is moved back 5' if the trucks could have more room to turn. Ms. Hammond replied that she will check with the signal department.

Mr. Garten asked if Ms. Hammond has a future winter outlook. Ms. Hammond replied that she heard it is supposed to be a wet/snowy winter and they are prepared.

APPROVE RESOLUTION OF RESPECT FOR MR. LEONARD J. ROSE, JR.:

Mr. Garten read the draft Resolution of Respect for Mr. Leonard J. Rose, Jr.

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Leonard J. Rose, Jr., former Chairman and member of the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors from the Boiling Spring District from January 1, 1992 to October 15, 1995, passed away on August 30, 2023; and

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Rose served in numerous capacities to better the Alleghany Highlands, including as a former Chairman

and member of the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors; former member of the Community Services Board, TAP Board of Directors, and Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission; and former officer in the United Steel Workers union.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors, in honor and respect, does hereby recognize the life of Mr. Leonard J. Rose, Jr. 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. Rose.

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

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 (July through September). The handouts are a part of the records of this meeting. He commented that as far as litter control several bags of trash were obtained in certain areas and three charges were placed from information found in those bags. He mentioned that on September 20, 2023 the Alleghany Regional Jail has been approved for certification and this has occurred 16 years in a row. 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 October 3, 2023 (247 active learners, 7652 hours, 532,061 credits, 59,133 courses completed, etc.). The handout is a part of the records of this meeting. He also reviewed some of the classes available for the inmates utilizing the tablets. He mentioned that a lot of inmates need to work on getting their GED and he is speaking with the school system for assistance. 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. Nicely asked how long animals are kept in the shelter. Sheriff Hall replied that is up to the shelter and we are allocated a certain number of spots from the contribution by the County.

Mr. Garten mentioned the responses to the statistics of the inmate survey handed out and it appears to give a character evaluation to understand the personality of a person. Sheriff Hall commented that the responses are used to assist in lining up needed courses.

Mr. Bennett stated that the main push of the program is to keep individuals from coming back to jail. He asked if there is enough data to see how it is working. Sheriff Hall replied that there has not been enough time at this point, but there are less in the jail now than before.

Sheriff Hall mentioned a program that started in Michigan called IGNITE (Inmate Growth Naturally and Intentionally Through Education) and that there are only 8 programs in the country with one program in Roanoke City called RIGNITE. He commented that the program offers comprehensive education, job certification, and post-incarceration work opportunities and assistance to incarcerated individuals. He stated that we needed to have the tablet program to move forward with this program. He mentioned that they visited Roanoke City last week to learn more about their program and we would not be able to do everything that they do due to space. He commented that they do a lot of community/business partnering for in-house training, CDL training, etc.

APPROVE AWARDS OF TERM ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES:

Mr. Garten stated that there is a memo in the agenda packet from Public Works in relation to awards for term architectural and engineering services. He commented that there are six categories (small projects; large projects-engineering services; transportation and related studies and services; economic development services; architectural services; and MEP services) and Public Works has recommended awards under each category.

Mr. Nicely asked if there is a time/cost when contracts would go before the Board. Mr. Walters replied that he would work with them initially. Mr. Guynn replied that project specific contracts can be awarded up to \$80,000 before having to come before the Board and the term contract just sets forth basic terms.

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 authorized Mr. Reid Walters, County Administrator, to award Term Architectural and Engineering Services to the following firms for projects as needed in each category listed:

Category 1 (small projects):

- AECOM
- Hurt & Proffitt
- Spectrum Design
- TRC

Category 2 (large projects - engineering services):

- AECOM
- Hurt & Proffitt
- Spectrum Design

Category 3 (transportation and related studies and services):

- AECOM
- Hurt & Proffitt
- Spectrum Design

Category 4 (economic development services):

- AECOM
- Hurt & Proffitt
- Spectrum Design

Category 5 (architectural services):

- AECOM
- Spectrum Design

Category 6 (MEP services):

- AECOM
- Salas O'Brien
- Spectrum Design

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 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS IN FY24 (ARPA FUNDS AND SHARE OF AMBULANCE COST):

Ms. Adcock-Nicely stated that the County has been awarded the last half of the LATCF (ARPA) funding in the amount of \$340,325.62. She commented that the other item is the County's share of the cost of an ambulance for Boiling Spring Rescue and the funds would come from the public safety fund balance which has been set up for this purpose.

There was some discussion with Mr. Fitch regarding the ambulance funding in relation to it being a 50/50 grant through the Virginia Rescue Squad Assistance Fund; if this could be done in the future as a lease purchase like was done with fire trucks; there is no new money being utilized for the purchase; a 1997 ambulance is being replaced; if the older ambulance will be sold to put money back in the fund (the departments retain their own vehicles and if sold the funds would go to that station); etc.

On motion of Mrs. Cox, 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 appropriations in FY 24:

1.	<i>ARPA-COVID Funds - LATCF Funding</i>	
	<u>Revenue Account</u>	
	Federal CARES Act/ARPA (19000000-419115)	\$340,325.62
	<u>Expenditure Account</u>	
	Professional Services (19019100-530002)	\$340,325.62
2.	<i>Public Safety Equipment & Vehicles - Boiling Spring Rescue Ambulance</i>	
	<u>Fund Equity</u>	
	Fund 240-Fund Equity (240-33001)	\$126,250.00
	<u>Expenditure Account</u>	
	Purchase of Vehicles (3206-570005)	\$126,250.00

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 ACCEPTANCE OF ALLEGHANY FOUNDATION GRANT FOR THE "ALLEGHANY COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY SELF CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS PROGRAM" AND A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS AWARDED:

Mr. Fitch stated that the County (on behalf of the Alleghany County United Fire and Rescue Association) has been awarded a grant of \$276,749 from the Alleghany Foundation for 30 self contained breathing apparatus. He asked that the Board accept the grant on behalf of the County and approve a supplemental appropriation for the funds awarded.

Mrs. Cox asked if the breathing apparatus will be distributed evenly to departments. Mr. Fitch replied that the departments with the most need (Falling Spring and Dunlap) will get them first and they may be able to purchase more than the intended 30 units with the funds.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors accept the grant from The Alleghany Foundation in the amount of \$276,749 for the "Alleghany County Public Safety Self Contained Breathing Apparatus Program" and authorize Mr. Reid Walters, County Administrator, to sign the acceptance letter on behalf of the County;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board approve a supplemental appropriation for the grant award as follows:

1.	<i>Public Safety Equipment & Vehicles</i>	
	<u>Revenue Account</u>	
	Cont'b. Alleghany Foundation (24000000-418918)	\$276,749.00
	<u>Expenditure Account</u>	
	Machinery & Equipment (3206-570001)	\$276,749.00

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

ENDORSE REAPPOINTMENT OF MR. JACK HARLOW AND MS. DIANNA SMITH ON THE BOARD OF

ZONING APPEALS TO THE CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE:

Mr. Garten stated that the terms of Mr. Jack Harlow (Jackson River District) and Ms. Dianna Smith (Clifton Forge West District) on the Board of Zoning Appeals expire October 31, 2023. Terms are for 5 years and both are eligible to be recommended for reappointment to the Circuit Court Judge.

Mr. Bennett commented that Mr. Harlow would like to be reappointed.

Mr. Dodd stated that Ms. Smith would also like to be reappointed.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors endorses the reappointment of Mr. Everette J. "Jack" Harlow (Jackson River District), 6107 Rich Patch Road, Covington, VA 24426 to the Alleghany County Board of Zoning Appeals for term of five years beginning November 1, 2023 and ending October 31, 2028.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board also endorses the reappointment of Ms. Dianna K. Smith (Clifton Forge West District), 224 Highland Street, Clifton Forge, VA 24422 to the Alleghany County Board of Zoning Appeals for a term of five years beginning November 1, 2023 and ending October 31, 2028.

This resolution of endorsement is to be submitted to the Judge of the Circuit Court to make the appointment.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

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

APPROVE PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF (PPTRA) RATE FOR TAX YEAR 2023:

Mr. Garten reviewed a memo from Mrs. Valerie Bruffey, Commissioner of the Revenue, to the Board which is at each seat. The memo is as follows and is a part of the records of this meeting:

As you may remember, the Personal Property Tax Relief percentage now changes from year to year. It is based on the total qualifying vehicles for the current year, and the set amount of money coming from the state, which does not change. We have completed the calculations for the personal property assessment book, and for 2023 the amount of relief granted will be 49%. As in the past, this applies to the first \$20,000 of value on cars, light trucks, and motorcycles. Also, vehicles valued at \$1,000 or less will receive 100% relief.

Melissa is preparing a resolution to this effect to be considered at your board meeting. I will be unable to attend the meeting, so please call or e-mail me at vbruffey@co.alleghany.va.us if you have any questions.

Mr. Garten added that the rate last year was the same rate of 49%.

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

WHEREAS, the Personal Property Tax Relief Act of 1998, Virginia Code Sections 58.1-3523 *et seq* ("PPTRA"), has been substantially modified by the enactment of Chapter 1 of the Acts of Assembly, 2004 Special Session I (Senate Bill 5005), and the provisions of Item 503 of Chapter 951 of the 2005 Acts of Assembly (the 2005 revisions to the 2004-06 Appropriations Act); and

WHEREAS, this resolution is adopted pursuant to Ordinance O-05-13 which was enacted by the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors on December 20, 2005 ("Ordinance"); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors now desires to set the rate of tax relief for tax year 2023 for purposes of this Ordinance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Allegheny County Board of Supervisors as follows:

1. That tax relief shall be allocated so as to eliminate personal property taxation for qualifying personal use vehicles valued at \$1,000 or less.
2. That qualifying personal use vehicles valued at \$1,001 - \$20,000 will be eligible for 49% tax relief.
3. That qualifying personal use vehicles valued at \$20,001 or more shall only receive 49% tax relief on the first \$20,000 of value.
4. That all other vehicles which do not meet the definition of "qualifying" (for example, including but not limited to, business use vehicles, farm use vehicles, motor homes, etc.) will not be eligible for any form of tax relief under this program.
5. That the percentages applied to the categories of qualifying personal use vehicles are estimated fully to use all available PPTRA funds allocated to Allegheny County by the Commonwealth of Virginia.
6. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

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 is a part of the records of this meeting:

Commerce Center Pad Site

With the nice weather this past month, there is quite a bit of progress at the Commerce Center Pad Site. The stormwater and wetland inspections have been going well. One item that will be coming up very soon will be when the road is excavated to lay the pipe and headwall under Piney Ridge Road. The road will need to be blocked for about three days. County Administrator Walters is working with the homeowners that utilize the roadway for a solution to this need.

Wells Fargo

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

Broadband

Supervisor Griffith, Supervisor Nicely, the County Administrator, and the Director of Public Safety met with 41 members of the Hematite/Crows area of Allegheny County to discuss broadband. Representative Cline and Senator Warner were represented by staff at the meeting. These are the last communities in the County needing this service and this area is currently serviced by Frontier Communications of West Virginia.

Similar to last year, the County will submit a Virginia Telecommunications Initiative grant application to the Department of Housing and Community Development this December. County Administrator Walters is working directly with Craig Botetourt Electric Cooperative on this application. Virginia has received a federal allotment of additional funds to put toward broadband and have recently released their 5-year plan regarding these funds.

River Retreat Apartments

Building 3 has passed its final inspection and buildings 4 and 5 of the River Retreat Apartments are currently under construction. R. Fralin is taking applications for tenants.

Jackson River Trail: Phase 5

The walls along Cedar Creek have been completed. The well is installed and we are waiting on the power company to establish service. The contractor is installing the culverts and will follow that with ditching and grading. We are working to have the stone on the ground by the end of October.

Halloween Community Event

The Allegheny County Public Works Department will hold a Halloween event on October 31st. "Trick or Treat with Public Works" will be held from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Employee Recognition

Donna Kimberlin - The payroll conversion to Munis has been a challenge. After a few minor tweaks, the conversion has been a success. I want to publicly recognize and thank Donna Kimberlin for her tireless work and countless hours on nights and weekends spent on this project to make it happen.

James Craft - Communications Director James Craft has recently passed his EMT certification. I would like to publicly recognize him for this accomplishment and it is nice that we have a paramedic working daily within our facility.

Next Board Meeting

As a reminder, per the Board By-Laws, the next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 8th as Tuesday is Election Day.

Other Items Mentioned:

Reassessment - A news release is at each seat that the reassessment firm will be out in the field beginning October 10, 2023.

Water Use Restrictions - A public notice is at each seat that water use restrictions are now in effect due to the level of Lake Moomaw. The restriction is put in place when the water surface elevation at the lake is 20 feet below normal pool level.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (INQUIRIES/REPORTS):

Miscellaneous

Mr. Dodd thanked residents from the western end of the County for coming out tonight. He commented that he would be lost without internet/phone service. He thanked Sheriff Hall for his report and commented that this is a great service at the jail.

Mr. Nicely stated that he appreciates the residents coming to the meeting and commented that it is hard to believe that areas are out there that do not have the service. He stated that the County has been working on a solution and hopes the project moves forward. He reminded everyone to vote.

Mr. Bennett stated that a former Board member (Dave Price) used to call that area of the County the "lost colony." He commented that he would be lost without service for calls. He mentioned that Mr. Walters is working to get this fixed.

Mrs. Cox thanked Sheriff Hall for his update. She commented that she believes all deserve a second chance. She mentioned that she was able to attend the August 12th Wrightsville celebration and it was very nice. She stated that she came on the Board in 2010 and there have been issues in the Crows-Hematite area well before her being on the Board. She commented that LUMOS made a speech at a VACo conference that the Alleghany Highlands has 100% coverage, but did not mention that it was just their coverage area. She mentioned there was a fire in the area and when 911 was called it was bounced to West Virginia. She commented that she will fight for those residents and she does not want to be on the Board and hear someone say that an elderly person down the road had no service to call 911 and passed away. She stated that Ms. Quantz has three kids that she home schools and is fortunate she was able to get the service needed to do this. She apologized for not being able to attend the meeting, but plans to be at the December 6th meeting.

Dr. Goings thanked Sheriff Hall for his dedication to the job by trying to reduce recidivism and the number of jail inmates. He commented that service is needed in the western end of the County and mentioned issues in Bath County with no cell service. He thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Mr. Griffith thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and Sheriff Hall for the good job being done with the program. He mentioned that individuals commented at the meeting regarding calling Frontier and getting no information. He stated that Senator Warner called him the next morning and gave him a number for the Connecticut headquarters so having them at the meeting paid off. He mentioned that there is a phone number on the service provider bill for the FCC that individuals need to call. He also mentioned that those with no service or a service disturbance should make a list of dates, etc. and report those to the County and the FCC. He commented that this is how the FCC measures services.

Mr. Garten commented that the Crows-Hematite situation should make them perfect candidates for funding as the provider is outside the area, there is a sparse population, etc. He mentioned that this has been on the forefront of the Board for several years and we will do all that is possible. He stated that it is great to see all of the support for high school athletics which has brought a great vibe to the area. He reminded everyone that elections are coming up and urged everyone to vote.

CLOSED MEETING:

On motion of Mr. Griffith, seconded by Mrs. Cox, that the Board go into a Closed Meeting under Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A)(8) for the purpose of: (1) consultation with legal counsel. Unanimously adopted.

On motion of Mr. Griffith, seconded by Mr. Nicely, 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/Ronald S. Goings	Yes
/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

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion of Mr. Nicely, seconded by Mr. Griffith, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:05 p.m. Motion carried.

G. Matt Garten
Chairman