

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors, Alleghany County, Virginia held on Tuesday, December 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
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
John Fitzgerald, Assistant 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.

Mr. Garten stated that two items are being removed from the Closed Meeting (personnel matter and consultation with legal counsel).

MINUTES:

Hearing no corrections or deletions, the Chairman declared the following minutes approved as submitted: (1) a regular meeting held on November 8, 2023.

RECOGNITION OF RETIREES FOR 2023 AND APPROVE RESOLUTIONS OF APPRECIATION:

Mr. Garten stated that the following individuals retired from the County in 2023. He asked individuals in attendance to stand when their name is called (Ms. Humphries, Mr. Gibson, and Ms. Persinger were present):

- James Vest, Sheriff's Office - 16 years, 6 months
- Paul Hatcher, Sheriff's Office - 22 years, 3 months
- Monroe Keith, Public Works - 22 years, 4 months
- Iris Humphries, Sheriff's Office - 22 years, 5 months
- Casey Gibson, Sheriff's Office - 22 years, 10 months
- Langston Johnson, Jr., Public Works - 30 years, 1 month
- Judith Persinger, Sheriff's Office - 33 years, 5 months
- Lesia Wheeler, Victim Witness - 35 years, 8 months
- Charles Kellison, Public Works - 49 years, 5 months

Mr. Garten thanked the retirees for their service and mentioned that there are draft resolutions of appreciation in the agenda packet which he asked the Board to approve.

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

WHEREAS, Mr. James Vest retired from the Sheriff's Office on July 1, 2023 after providing 16 years, 6 months of service to the citizens of Alleghany County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vest has faithfully served the County in the capacity of Dispatcher;

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

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

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Paul Hatcher retired from the Sheriff's Office on October 1, 2023 after providing 22 years, 3 months of service to the citizens of Alleghany County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hatcher has faithfully served the County in the capacity of Deputy;

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

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

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

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

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Monroe Keith retired from the Public Works Department on January 1, 2023 after providing 22 years, 4 months of service to the citizens of Alleghany County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Keith has faithfully served the County in the capacity of Maintenance Tech II;

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

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

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

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

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

WHEREAS, Ms. Iris Humphries retired from the Sheriff's Office on April 1, 2023 after providing 22 years, 5 months of service to the citizens of Alleghany County; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Humphries has faithfully served the County in the capacity of Jail Cook;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors recognizes Ms. Iris Humphries for her invaluable contribution to the citizens of Alleghany County.

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

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

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

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Casey Gibson retired from the Sheriff's Office on September 1, 2023 after providing 22 years, 10 months of service to the citizens of Alleghany County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gibson has faithfully served the County in the capacity of Deputy;

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

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

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

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

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Langston Johnson, Jr. retired from the Public Works Department on October 1, 2023 after providing 30 years, 1 month of service to the citizens of Alleghany County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson has faithfully served the County in the capacity of Sanitation Worker I;

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

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

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

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

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

WHEREAS, Ms. Judith Persinger retired from the Sheriff's Office on March 1, 2023 after providing 33 years, 5 months

of service to the citizens of Alleghany County; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Persinger has faithfully served the County in the capacity of Deputy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors recognizes Ms. Judith Persinger for her invaluable contribution to the citizens of Alleghany County.

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

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

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

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

WHEREAS, Ms. Lesia Wheeler retired from Victim Witness on September 1, 2023 after providing 35 years, 8 months of service to the citizens of Alleghany County; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Wheeler has faithfully served the County in the capacity of Director;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors recognizes Ms. Lesia Wheeler for her invaluable contribution to the citizens of Alleghany County.

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

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

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

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Charles Kellison retired from the Public Works Department on November 1, 2023 after providing 49 years, 5 months of service to the citizens of Alleghany County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kellison has faithfully served the County in the capacity of Utility Maintenance Tech III;

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

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

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Stephen A. Bennett	Yes
Shannon P. Cox	Yes
Gregory A. Dodd	Yes

Ronald S. Goings	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

PUBLIC HEARING AND APPROVAL - AMENDMENT TO THE FY24 BUDGET FOR "ALL IN VA" SCHOOL FUNDING:

Public Hearing was held to consider an amendment to the County Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-24 in the amount of \$1,337,340.00. The amendment is needed for a supplemental appropriation to the School Operations Fund due to the receipt of "ALL In VA" funding from the State.

The Chairman announced that this public hearing was advertised in the Virginian Review on Tuesday, November 28, 2023 in accordance with the Code of Virginia. He then called the public hearing to order.

Ms. Adcock-Nicely stated that the State has allocated "ALL In VA" funding to schools to address Covid 19 absenteeism and the school system has received \$1,337,340 which needs to be appropriated in the budget.

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

On motion of Mr. Bennett, 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. Griffith, 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 December 5, 2023 to amend the FY 23-24 budget in the amount of \$1,337,340, hereby budget and approve the following supplemental appropriation to the School Operations Fund due to the receipt of "ALL In VA" funding from the State:

<u>Revenue Account</u>	
Fund 260 - Alleghany County Share Schools (26000000-4191501)	\$1,337,340
<u>Expenditure Account</u>	
Fund 260 - School Expenditures (26062001-566008)	\$1,337,340

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. Dwaine Paxton, President of the Fire and Rescue Association, thanked Mr. Fitch, the Board, and the Alleghany Foundation for the recent grant received from the Alleghany Foundation for the purchase of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SBCA) to replace units that are 20-25 years old which were failing and unable to be repaired.

Sheriff Kevin Hall commented regarding this being his last Board meeting; thanked the Sheriff's Office retirees for their dedicated service; thanked the Board for 16 years of working together and assisting in providing necessary technology (i.e., radio system, dispatch equipment, etc.); that it was not about him, but doing things for his employees and citizens; being proud of programs instituted over the years (i.e., drug court, CIT, etc.); and asked the Board to continue to support law enforcement,

EMS, and the new administration.

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

- *Overhanging tree at Barr property and pipe settlement from the last Board meeting have been addressed.*
- *Flushed pipes on Rts. 220 and 60.*
- *Graded gravel roads.*
- *Removed trees on various routes throughout the County including Rts. 159 and 18.*
- *Boom axed inside curves on Rt. 687.*
- *Completed second mowing.*
- *Cleaned tree debris on primary and secondary routes County-wide.*
- *Replaced pipes on Rts. 719 and 600 and cold mix patched the crossings.*
- *Significant number of dead animal pickups.*
- *Trucks will be out after midnight to deal with some potential frozen precipitation.*

Mr. Griffith commented that there are two dead ash trees hanging over the road on Boys' Home hill.

Mrs. Cox stated that there is a hole on the side of the road traveling north before the store on Rt. 18. She mentioned that she had reported at the last meeting regarding the pipe settlement at her property and it has been paved and is smooth.

Mr. Garten stated that there is a big dip in the eastbound right lane on I-64 at Island Ford bridge at the transition from concrete to asphalt.

APPROVE RESOLUTION IN REGARDS TO APPLYING FOR VATI FUNDING FOR BROADBAND SERVICE IN THE CROWS/HEMATITE AREA OF THE COUNTY:

Mr. Walters stated that the County, in conjunction with Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative (CBEC), will be applying this month for a Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) grant for broadband service in the Crows/Hematite area of the County. He commented that the proposal has been re-engineered by CBEC which made the total cost decrease. He mentioned that CBEC will provide a 20% match and the County will provide a 10% match. He commented that the total cost is \$3,331,933 (VATI request of \$2,332,353, County 10% match of \$333,193, and CBEC 20% match of \$666,387). He stated that we could use some more letters of support to submit with the application, surveys that were sent out to that area of the County are coming in, and a meeting is being held tomorrow night with individuals in the project area to update them.

Mr. Griffith mentioned that the last two years is the only time this kind of funding has been available to do this type of project.

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 authorize Mr. Reid Walters, County Administrator, to proceed with applying for funding through the Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) for the Crows-Hematite Broadband Initiative.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board authorize Mr. Walters to enter into an agreement with Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative in relation to the abovementioned VATI grant if awarded.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Board agrees to set aside funding as its 10% match for the abovementioned VATI grant to be utilized if awarded.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

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

REAPPOINTMENT OF MS. SHAWN WRIGHT AND MR. NOLAN NICELY TO THE ALLEGHANY HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD:

Mr. Garten stated that the terms of Ms. Shawn Wright (Covington District) and Mr. Nolan Nicely (Sharon District) on the Alleghany Highlands Community Services Board expire December 31, 2023. Terms are for three years and both are eligible for reappointment. He commented that the letter in the agenda packet indicates that both wish to be reappointed.

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors that Mr. Nolan Nicely, Jr. (Sharon District), 4511 Longdale Furnace Road, P.O. Box 611, Clifton Forge, VA 24422 be reappointed to the Alleghany Highlands Community Services Board (AHCSB) for a term of three years beginning January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board that Ms. Shawn Wright (Covington District), 108 Parkview Avenue, Covington, VA 24426 be reappointed to the AHCSB for a term of three years beginning January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2026.

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 recent easements approved last month by the Board of Supervisors a pivotal portion of the project is now under construction. Piney Ridge Rd. is currently being excavated to lay the pipe and head wall under the road and the culverts will be set. This should be completed this week.

Wells Fargo

Alleghany County closed on the Wells Fargo Building in Covington this past month. A space needs assessment was conducted by AECOM and staff plans to present options for the building in the new year.

Broadband

The County will submit a Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) grant application to the Department of Housing and Community Development this month. County Administrator Walters is working directly with Craig Botetourt Electric Cooperative on this application. Notification of funding will come in April and the build-out will take 18 months. With the reengineering cost savings from last year and CBEC putting 20% toward the project, Alleghany County has a good chance of being funded.

River Retreat Apartments

Buildings 4 and 5 of the River Retreat Apartments are nearing completion and R. Fralin is taking applications for tenants. The performance agreement has been paid out with R. Fralin meeting their goal.

Jackson River Trail: Phase 5

Substantial completion of phase 5 of the Jackson River Scenic Trail will be on January 15th. Base stone has been installed for the entire project with final top stone installation scheduled for the first week of January. That along with completing the fencing and installation of amenities like trashcans, tables and grills will essentially complete the project with only some clean up and punch list items to remain.

Wrightsville Project

The last substantial reconstruction has been completed except for a few punch list items and the final rehabilitation is 30% complete.

Ban on Burning

The ban on burning (notice attached) is being lifted effective at noon tomorrow.

January's Board of Supervisors Meeting

The January meeting of the Board of Supervisors is scheduled for Wednesday, January 3rd due to the holiday schedule.

Dr. Goings asked how many of the River Retreat apartments have been rented. He commented that the individual that asked him was concerned if they are sitting empty when there is a housing shortage. Mr. Walters replied that he will check on the status of rentals and let the Board know.

Dr. Goings asked about the status of the Exit 29 property. Mr. Walters replied that AECOM has done a study on water and wastewater and he is meeting with them tomorrow.

Mrs. Cox commented that homes have been rebuilt in Wrightsville. She asked if owners have to meet codes to keep from destroying what was built. Mr. Walters replied that the trend is that 10-15 years after a project another one could be done. Mrs. Munsey stated that the County has codes (i.e., trash/weeds/abandoned vehicles) and the owners sign an initial homeowner agreement.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (INQUIRIES/REPORTS):

Miscellaneous

Mr. Dodd thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and congratulated the retirees. He mentioned that there is an event at Clifton Forge Town Hall on December 19th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. for the 3rd Annual First Response Toy Express Drive.

Mr. Nicely thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and thanked the retirees and Sheriff Hall for their service. He wished everyone a wonderful Christmas.

Mr. Bennett welcomed Mr. Richard Shull (former Board member) who was present at the meeting. He mentioned other individuals that are retiring (Jennifer Unroe, Valerie Bruffey, Teresa Hammond, and Sheriff Hall) and that the area is losing a lot of talent. He commented to Sheriff Hall that the chrome book program at the jail impressed him as much as anything as the same people keep going in and out of the jail. He stated that the program is the cheapest way to fix jail housing costs and overcrowding. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mrs. Cox welcomed Mr. Shull to the meeting and recognized Ms. Tammy Wilson, DSS Director, who was present. She stated that Sheriff Hall has supported her a lot and she has tried to support him too. She commented that many thought it was all about Sheriff Hall, but he did things for his people and the citizens. She mentioned that he will be missed and she feels he will help the incoming Sheriff as much as he can. She congratulated the retirees and told them to enjoy their retirement. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Dr. Goings stated that last week he, Mr. Garten, and Mr. Walters attended the VACo Annual Meeting at the Homestead and he learned a lot. He congratulated those that won the election and the retirees. He mentioned that the school system won a big award as Sharon Elementary School was named in the top 100 elementary schools in the State and were #4 in math. He commented that he asked the Superintendent the secret and she said it was a collaborative effort. He stated that they are the smallest of the elementary schools and this year are one of the best so maybe there is something to be said about having small schools.

Mr. Griffith congratulated and thanked the retirees. He commented that he has enjoyed working with Sheriff Hall. He wished everyone a wonderful and safe holiday and to remember what it is all about.

Mr. Garten stated that it is the holiday season and is the time to do something good for someone else. He thanked the retirees for their commitment and Sheriff Hall for his service.

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)(3) for the purpose of: (1) acquisition of property. Unanimously adopted.

On motion of Mr. Nicely, seconded by Mr. Bennett, that the Board come out of the Closed Meeting with the following certification:

CERTIFICATION
SECTION 2.2-3712

To the best of our knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under this chapter, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the Closed Meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the session.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion of Mr. Nicely, seconded by Mr. Griffith, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:35 p.m. Motion carried.

G. Matt Garten
Chairman