

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors, Alleghany County, Virginia held on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Alleghany County Governmental Complex, Covington, Virginia, thereof:

PRESENT: G. Matt Garten, Chairman
James M. Griffith, Vice-Chairman (electronically)
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
Chad Williams, Director of Parks and Recreation
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. He noted that Mr. Griffith is participating in the meeting electronically (via Zoom) due to medical reasons and asked for a motion to allow Mr. Griffith to participate in this manner.

On motion of Mr. Bennett, seconded by Dr. Goings, that the Board agree to allow Mr. James Griffith, Board member, to participate in the meeting electronically per the Board's Remote Participation Policy. Unanimously approved.

Mrs. Cox gave the invocation and the audience remained standing for the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES:

Hearing no corrections or deletions, the Chairman declared the following minutes approved as submitted: (1) a regular meeting held on February 4, 2025; and (2) a special call meeting held on February 25, 2025.

PUBLIC COMMENT (5 MINUTE TIME LIMIT):

No one spoke at this time.

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

- Repaired shoulder on Rts. 616, 619, 602, 662, 220N, 159, 311N and S.
- Patching potholes County-wide.
- Removed trees on Rts. 42, 629, 220N and S.
- Repaired headwalls at pipes on Rts. 786, 159, 311 and 661.
- Crews continue to clean pipes on primary routes and will move to secondary routes.
- Graffiti on Rt. 60 east of Clifton Forge was removed.
- Bridge work with lane closure is underway on Rt. 42 over the railroad. Repairing curbs, joints, and finishing with deck overlay.
- Rt. 633 (McKinney Hollow Road) truss bridge removal has been delayed to March 17th. Crane setup is on March 15th. Weather dependent.
- Overhead lights have been installed at all four ramps at Exit 21.

Mrs. Cox thanked Ms. Hammond regarding information she sent her regarding Cove Creek.

Mr. Bennett asked about survey work being done at bridges on Rt. 159. Ms. Hammond replied that those bridges will be replaced and be a design build. Mr. Bennett asked if there is a timeline for the work. Ms. Hammond replied that she will check on this.

Mr. Garten commented that at the intersection of Rt. 220N and Rt. 687 it is hard to see when looking back to go onto Rt. 220N as trees are blocking the site line and need to be trimmed back. He mentioned that the crosswalks for the trail over Rt. 687 have faded and are hard to see. He stated that the swinging bridge asphalt seems to be chewed up with no center lane painted. Ms. Hammond stated that the asphalt rides smoothly and that they can not do line painting in the winter.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER REQUEST FROM SOCIAL SERVICES FOR FUNDING TO MOVE THEIR AGENCY:

Mr. Garten stated that Ms. Tammy Wilson, Director of Social Services, has requested that this item be removed from the agenda tonight. It will be revisited during budget time.

APPOINTMENT OF MR. MICHAEL FOSTER TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION:

Mr. Garten stated that a replacement needs to be made for Mr. David Halsey (Clifton Forge West District) on the Planning Commission whose term expired March 1, 2025. Terms are for 4 years and this appointment is by district.

Mr. Dodd stated that Mr. Michael Foster is interested in the appointment.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board that Mr. Michael L. Foster (Clifton Forge West District), 48 Bath Street, Clifton Forge, VA 24422 be appointed to the Planning Commission for a term of four years beginning March 2, 2025 and ending March 1, 2029.

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

MR. JEREMY HOLMES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - ROANOKE VALLEY-ALLEGHANY REGIONAL COMMISSION ANNUAL PRESENTATION:

Mr. Jeremy Holmes, Executive Director, handed out and reviewed a presentation which is a part of the records of this meeting. The presentation included:

- *Background on the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission (RV-ARC)*
- *Project Highlights: Legislative Luncheon*
- *Project Highlights: VOAA Pre-App (Opioid Abatement Authority)*
- *Project Highlights: EV Infrastructure Implementation (electric vehicles)*
- *Project Highlights: Ready Appalachia (hired professional grant writers)*
- *Upcoming Projects FY25 (Regional Truck Parking Study, Regional Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan, 5-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy update)*

Dr. Goings mentioned the Electric Vehicle (EV) study and asked if there is much need in our area for this infrastructure. Mr. Holmes commented that there are tools with maps to highlight current locations and there could be a need for this type of infrastructure primarily in or around Covington or Clifton Forge. He mentioned that it is a way to draw individuals into those areas too.

Dr. Goings commented that the Clifton Forge Town Manager has indicated that he is working to set something up. He stated that he has an EV and when he drives from Staunton to Fincastle there are no charging stations in between. He mentioned that EV infrastructure is needed in areas other than just along the interstate.

APPROVE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION IN FY25 (SHERIFF'S OFFICE DONATION):

Ms. Adcock-Nicely stated that the Sheriff's Office has received a donation from the Moose Lodge and those funds need to be appropriated in order to be expended.

On motion of Mr. Bennett, 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 FY25:

1. ***Sheriff's Office - Donation from Moose Lodge 610***
Revenue Account
Miscellaneous Grants (11000000-424499) \$6,000.00

Expenditure Account

Police Supplies (11031021-554009)

\$6,000.00

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

REAPPOINTMENT OF MR. DAVID OLIVER TO THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY:

Mr. Garten stated that the term of Mr. David Oliver (Falling Spring District) on the Industrial Development Authority expires March 25, 2025. Terms are for four years and Mr. Oliver is eligible for reappointment. He mentioned that Mr. Oliver would like to be reappointed.

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors that Mr. David M. Oliver (Falling Spring District), 5511 Jackson River Road, Hot Springs, VA 24445 be reappointed to the Covington-Alleghany County Industrial Development Authority for a term of four years beginning March 26, 2025 and ending March 25, 2029.

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 are a part of the records of this meeting:

Island Ford Transfer Station

The Island Ford Transfer Station was recently inspected by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) and passed with high marks. The County employees charged with the operation of our transfer station are doing an exceptional job in maintaining and operating this facility.

Impound Lot for the Sheriff’s Department

This past year, County staff and members of the Sheriff’s Department have been working on creating an impound lot located at the wastewater treatment plant to alleviate space needs at the Alleghany County Governmental Complex. The new impound lot is now finished and will soon be in use.

Board of Equalization

The Board of Equalization will be scheduling meetings regarding appeals later this month. Once the dates are advertised, property owners seeking an appeal can then schedule a meeting.

Informal Intergovernmental Committee

Per the conversation at the last Board meeting at the suggestion of Mayor Irvine of Clifton Forge, the local governments are looking to reconvene the Informal Intergovernmental Committee that ceased meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board of Supervisors will need to establish two volunteers for this informal committee.

Mr. Garten and Mr. Griffin volunteered to participate in the committee.

County Administrator’s Resignation

This past summer, I informed the Board of Supervisors of my intent to resign from this position to focus on cancer treatment and to make my children my top priority as I navigate my way through treatment. My tenure as County Administrator of Alleghany County will soon come to an end. It has been an honor to serve the Board of Supervisors, County staff, and residents of Alleghany County as their County Administrator and I am extremely grateful for the opportunities it has granted me and the new friends I have gained living and working in the Alleghany Highlands.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (INQUIRIES/REPORTS):

Miscellaneous

Mr. Dodd thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He stated that he will miss Mr. Walters and wishes he could stick around to see things finished that he started.

Mr. Nicely commented that he appreciates all that Mr. Walters has done for the County and will keep him in his prayers.

Mr. Bennett stated that he appreciates Mr. Walters and family comes first.

Mrs. Cox commented that the County is very fortunate to have had Mr. Walters and wished him the best. She offered prayers for him and his family and stated that he is doing the right thing. She mentioned that it is easy to be a good Board when you have a great Administrator and employees. She thanked Mr. Walters for taking the lead on the Broadband project. She commented that Mr. Steve Weikle lost his life in the line of duty. She mentioned that he was her neighbor and she can not say enough good things about him. She stated that the community lost someone that can never be replaced. She asked everyone to continue to keep his family, the Boiling Springs Fire Department, and the community in your prayers.

Dr. Goings commented that Mr. Walters has set a high standard and bar to meet. He thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Mr. Griffith stated that it has been a pleasure to work with Mr. Walters on the Board and with the AHEDC. He mentioned that he took the bull by the horns with the Broadband project. He thanked Mr. Walters and commented that he also considers him a friend.

Mr. Garten thanked Mr. Walters. He commented that he has gone through a lot and still remained focused. He stated that Mr. Walters was the perfect fit for us, but now it is his family's turn. He mentioned that he will be leaving a great foundation for the Board to build upon.

CLOSED MEETING:

Mr. Garten asked Mr. Lee Downey of Hunton Andrews Kurth and Mr. Bryan Cichocki of Timmons Group to remain in the room for a part of the Closed Meeting discussion.

On motion of Mr. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Nicely, that the Board go into a Closed Meeting under Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A)(1), (3), (7) and (8) for the purpose of: (1) personnel matter; (2) property acquisition; (3) potential litigation; and (4) contractual matter. Unanimously adopted.

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

CERTIFICATION
SECTION 2.2-3712

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

/s/G. Matt Garten	Yes
/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
/s/James M. Griffith	Yes (electronic)

Following the Closed Meeting, the following action was taken:

APPROVE ENTERING INTO A REAL ESTATE PURCHASE CONTRACT WITH THE CITY OF COVINGTON FOR PURCHASE OF PROPERTIES OWNED BY KEMPER PROPERTIES, L.L.C.:

On motion of Mr. Bennett, 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 enter into a Real Estate Purchase Contract on behalf of the County with the City of Covington for the joint purchase of

properties owned by Kemper Properties, L.L.C. in the amount of \$8,700,000 (\$174,000 deposit and \$8,526,000 balance of purchase price once due diligence work is completed). Funds will be expended from the Local Economic Development Effort budget line item.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion of Mrs. Cox, seconded by Dr. Goings, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:30 p.m. to Wednesday, May 12, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. in the Board Room of the County Governmental Complex. Motion carried.

G. Matt Garten
Chairman