

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors, Alleghany County, Virginia held on Tuesday, May 6, 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  
Stephen A. Bennett  
Shannon P. Cox  
Gregory A. Dodd  
Ronald S. Goings

and Reid Walters, County Administrator  
Kenneth McFadyen, Incoming County Administrator  
Suzanne Adcock-Nicely, Director of Finance  
Beverley Bowers, Deputy Director of Public Works  
Jim Guynn, County Attorney  
Melissa A. Munsey, Deputy Clerk to the Board

ABSENT: Cletus W. Nicely

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.

MINUTES:

Hearing no corrections or deletions, the Chairman declared the following minutes approved as submitted: (1) a regular meeting held on April 1, 2025.

JOINT PUBLIC HEARING WITH VDOT AND APPROVAL - PROPOSED SIX YEAR PLAN AND SECONDARY CONSTRUCTION BUDGET:

Public Hearing was held with the Virginia Department of Transportation to consider the proposed Six Year Plan for FY 2026 through 2031.

The Chairman announced that this public hearing was advertised in the Virginian Review on Tuesday, April 22, 2025 and Tuesday, April 29, 2025 in accordance with the Code of Virginia. He then called the public hearing to order.

Ms. Susan Hammond, VDOT Resident Engineer, stated that the Board has a copy of the draft budget and plan in its agenda packet. She commented that the VDOT Secondary Improvement Budget allocation through 2031 is \$286,627 and for FY 2026 the total is \$44,426 for improvements on secondary highway systems (route number 600 and above) in the County from two funding sources (TeleFee and District Grant Unpaved funds). She mentioned that there are a couple Rural Rustic Roads in the plan which can be done at a lower cost. She then gave a brief overview of projects contained in the draft Secondary Six Year Improvements Program:

- Route 637** (Sycamore Bend Road) Rural Rustic Road Project. Under construction and to be completed this summer.
- Route 600** (Rumsey Road) Rural Rustic Road Project. To begin in 2031.

She stated that the rest of the items listed are for County-wide traffic services for safety, preliminary engineering/minor surveying, and fertilization/seeding. She commented that the other document contains the budget information on each road with each funding source listed in more detail.

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	Absent

James M. Griffith      Yes  
G. Matt Garten        Yes

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

WHEREAS, the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on Tuesday, May 6, 2025 regarding the Virginia Department of Transportation Secondary Improvement Budget for 2026 and revisions to the Secondary Improvement Program for FY 2026 through 2031 and comments were received;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors approve the Virginia Department of Transportation Secondary Improvement Budget for FY2026 in the amount of \$44,426;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board accept the Secondary Improvement Plan for FY 2026 through 2031 as presented.

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        Absent  
James M. Griffith       Yes  
G. Matt Garten         Yes

PUBLIC HEARING AND APPROVAL - AMENDMENT TO CH. 50-SOLID WASTE OF THE COUNTY CODE (ADDITIONAL DUMPSTER COLLECTIONS):

Public Hearing was held to consider an amendment to Chapter 50-Solid Waste of "The Code of the County of Alleghany, Virginia" in Article IV - Refuse Rates to change the fee for additional dumpster collections.

The Chairman announced that this public hearing was advertised in the Virginian Review on Tuesday, April 22, 2025 and Tuesday, April 29, 2025 in accordance with the Code of Virginia. He then called the public hearing to order.

Ms. Bowers stated that the amendment to the dumpster fee for additional weekly pickups would change from \$85/ton (which was adopted last year) to a flat \$85 fee. She commented that the request is being made due to the inability to weigh each individual dumpster and to be consistent with billing. She mentioned that the first weekly dumpster pickup is included in the annual fee.

Mr. Dodd asked about charges for churches. Ms. Bowers replied that she is unsure if they pay the annual fee and will check on this.

Mr. Bennett commented that the numbers can be checked after a year and reevaluated if needed.

A citizen that did not give their name commented that the dumpster can be weighed when taken in and when brought back out to get the weight. Ms. Bowers replied that they are dumped into the trash truck on site so there is no way to differentiate the weight.

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

James M. Griffith      Yes  
G. Matt Garten        Yes

On motion of Mr. Griffith, seconded by Dr. Goings, the following amendments proposed at the Public Hearing held on Tuesday, May 6, 2025 to The Code of the County of Alleghany, Virginia in Chapter 50 entitled "Solid Waste" be adopted as follows:

**CH. 50  
SOLID WASTE**

**ARTICLE IV. REFUSE RATES**

**CURRENT:**

**Sec. 50-98.    Other refuse rates established; additional pickups; etc.**

The following additional refuse rates shall apply in the county:

- (1) *Business with dumpsters.*
  - a.     The business will receive one pickup a week based upon the annual fee established in section 50-96.
  - b.     For additional pickups in a week, the minimum charge will be \$85.00 per ton.

**CHANGE TO:**

**Sec. 50-98.    Other refuse rates established; additional pickups; etc.**

The following additional refuse rates shall apply in the county:

- (1) *Business with dumpsters.*
  - a.     The business will receive one pickup a week based upon the annual fee established in section 50-96.
  - b.     For additional pickups in a week, the minimum charge will be \$85.00 per dumpster.

Adopted: May 6, 2025

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

Adopted by the following roll call vote:

Mr. Bennett	Yes
Mrs. Cox	Yes
Mr. Dodd	Yes
Mr. Garten	Yes
Dr. Goings	Yes
Mr. Griffith	Yes
Mr. Nicely	Absent

ALLEGHANY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk to the Board

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. 850, 629, 311, 647, and 623.
- Graded Rts. 613, 658, 614, 600, and 603.
- Patched potholes on Rts. 42, 18, 60, 159, 311, 220N&S, and secondaries County-wide.
- Removed debris and trees on Rts. 159, 311, 269, 220S, 18, and secondaries County-wide.
- Replaced pipe on Rt. 610.
- Waiting for bucket truck to remove hanging limbs on Rts. 616, 60, 629, and 220B.
- Last section of truss bridge on McKinney Hollow Road has been removed.
- Rt. 42 bridge over railroad will have single lane closures with temporary signals from May 6<sup>th</sup> to September 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Repair work to bridge deck on Rt. 696 over I-64 will start later in June.

Construction

- Rural Rustic project Sycamore Bend (Rt. 637) is under construction.

Mr. Bennett asked about the extra weight signs on bridges for emergency vehicles. Ms. Hammond replied that Federal regulations require a separate weight for emergency vehicles and her understanding is that this is due to the spacing of axles.

Mrs. Cox commented that when VDOT does work on roads/ditches there is a one-lane road sign, but she had two

complaints from work in Potts Creek where one said they waited 41 minutes to get through and another person said they waited 17 minutes. She mentioned that one of the locations was at Armentrout Road.

Ms. Hammond commented that the wait should not be more than ten minutes and she will check on this.

Mr. Bennett stated that sometimes things happen that cause a longer delay (i.e., drive shaft coming out of truck, etc.). He commented regarding VDOT picking up the trash on Pitzer's Ridge that the inmates collected. He mentioned that it was a tough job and he appreciates what the inmates did.

Mr. Garten asked about when trees would be cut back on Rt. 220N. Ms. Hammond replied that it is on the list and they are waiting on a shared bucket truck to address those trees and several others.

Mr. Garten commented that residents are concerned with speeding on Morris Hill and asked if the speed limit sign can be put back up that got knocked down. He mentioned that he will also speak with the Sheriff on patrolling. Ms. Hammond replied that she will have the sign(s) put back up.

Mr. Dodd asked if VDOT has looked at the slide before the wall heading in to town and mentioned there are rocks in the ditch. Ms. Hammond replied that the Superintendent is aware of and keeping an eye on it.

Mr. Ronnie Graham, 7327 Ogles Creek Road, spoke regarding culverts not being fixed on Rt. 661, that they have sunk where put in, and a lot of salt was put on the road so the asphalt is coming up.

A citizen that did not give their name spoke regarding the little bridge going across Dunlap Creek below Stonewall having chunks coming out of it, holes in the Rosedale bridge, and VDOT needing good equipment/workers.

APPROVE SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL SERVICES AGREEMENTS WITH THE CITY OF COVINGTON AND BATH COUNTY:

Mr. Walters stated that the County has been working on solid waste disposal services with Bath County and Covington for over a year or so. He commented that Covington is going to be shutting down the Peters Mountain Landfill which triggered the agreements for use of the County's transfer station. He mentioned that the language of the agreements is similar to what there would be if an authority were created and all could transition to that in the future. He stated that the agreements are cut and dry and include the billing process, fee, etc. He mentioned that Bath County is currently utilizing the transfer station. He commented that the County will monitor space and can take both localities utilizing the same amount of staff. He mentioned that the transfer station is permitted with DEQ to take in 600 tons/day.

Mr. Garten stated that this is a step towards regionalism.

Dr. Goings asked how much they would be billed. Mr. Walters replied that it is currently \$85/ton. He mentioned that we will bill Covington and they will bill residents.

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

WHEREAS, Bath County and the City of Covington have been disposing of their municipal solid waste at the Peters Mountain Landfill; and

WHEREAS, the City of Covington has been advised by its engineers that the landfill's remaining useful life is set to expire on or about July 2025; and

WHEREAS, Alleghany County has been approached to accept the municipal solid waste from Bath County and the City of Covington at its Island Ford Transfer Station;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors authorize Mr. Reid Walters, County Administrator, to enter into a "Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Services Agreement" with Bath County and the City of

Covington to utilize the Island Ford Transfer Station.

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	Absent
James M. Griffith	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

APPROVE RESOLUTION CONSENTING TO THE CONVEYANCE OF THE JEFFERSON SCHOOL TO THE TOWN OF CLIFTON FORGE:

Mr. Garten stated that there is a resolution in the agenda packet along with a quit claim deed in relation to the County consenting to the conveyance of the Jefferson School to the Town of Clifton Forge.

Dr. Goings commented that he wholeheartedly approves of the conveyance as the school has history and was a black school before desegregation. He stated that the school has been empty for over 20 years and the town has a plan. He mentioned that this is just housekeeping in relation to the title.

Mr. Bennett stated that the County gave Clifton Forge the school buildings during reversion and someone must have dropped the ball in regards to the deed transfer.

Mayor Jeff Irvine commented that they will be coming back to request the conveyance of the old high school at a later date.

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

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ALLEGHANY COUNTY CONSENTING TO THE CONVEYANCE OF THE JEFFERSON SCHOOL TO THE TOWN OF CLIFTON FORGE**

WHEREAS, the Jefferson School property, comprising Tax Map Numbers 124-1-4-7, 124-1-4-8, 124-1-4-9, 124-1-4-10, 124-1-4-11, and 124-1-4-12A (the "Jefferson School"), is no longer used for educational purposes; and,

WHEREAS, the Jefferson School appears to be most appropriate for private future use and development, and the Town of Clifton Forge has indicated its desire to acquire the Jefferson School, which it has maintained for many years under the mistaken understanding that it already owned the School; and,

WHEREAS, the Jefferson School was last conveyed to the School Board of the City of Clifton Forge, Virginia, to which the Alleghany Highlands School Board appears to be the lawful successor; and,

WHEREAS, the Alleghany Highlands School Board has taken action on disposition of the Jefferson School to the Town of Clifton Forge, in accordance with law, and has found that the Jefferson School is surplus and requested the Board of Supervisors' consent to its conveyance to the Town of Clifton Forge, as provided by Section 22.1-129(A) of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Alleghany County, Virginia, that:

- (a) The Board hereby consents to the Alleghany Highlands School Board's conveyance of the Jefferson School to the Town of Clifton Forge, as requested by the School Board's resolution of April 14, 2025.
- (b) The Chair, Vice Chair and County Administrator, any one of whom may act, are hereby authorized and directed to execute a deed of conveyance of the Jefferson School from the Alleghany Highlands School Board to the Town of Clifton Forge, as consenter on behalf of the Board of Supervisors, upon approval of the deed by the County Attorney.
- (c) This resolution is in effect upon 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	Absent
James M. Griffith	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

APPROVE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION IN FY25 (SPECIAL LAW FUND):

Ms. Adcock-Nicely stated that funding for tasers and compliant gloves came up during FY26 budget discussions and in speaking with the Sheriff those items can come from the balance in the Special Law Fund. She commented that an appropriation from fund equity can take care of those items in the current budget year.

On motion of Mr. Griffith, seconded by Mr. Dodd, 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:

<b>1. <u>Special Law - Purchase of Taser/Compliant Gloves:</u></b>	
<u>Fund Equity</u>	
Fund 246-Fund Equity (24600001-330035)	\$75,000.00
<u>Expenditure Account</u>	
Purchase of Weapons (24631801-570004)	\$75,000.00

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	Absent
James M. Griffith	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

ENDORSE APPOINTMENT OF MS. PENNY MCFALL TO THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS:

Mr. Garten stated that a replacement for Ms. Nicole Wolfe is needed on the Board of Zoning Appeals and Ms. Penny McFall is interested in the appointment. The term would begin immediately and end October 31, 2029.

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 endorses the appointment of Ms. Penny B. McFall, 208 Clearwater Drive, Covington, VA 24426 to represent the Covington District on the Alleghany County Board of Zoning Appeals to complete the term of Ms. Nicole Wolfe beginning immediately and ending October 31, 2029.

The 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	Absent
James M. Griffith	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

APPOINTMENT OF MRS. NICOLE TUCKER TO THE ALLEGHANY HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD:

Mr. Garten stated that Mrs. Nicole Tucker is interested in completing the term of Ms. Shawn Wright on the Alleghany Highlands Community Services Board. The term would begin immediately and end December 31, 2026.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors appoint Mrs. Nicole Tucker (Falling Spring District), 3603 Jackson River Road, Covington, VA 24426 to the Alleghany Highlands Community Services Board to complete the term of Ms. Shawn Wright beginning immediately 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	Absent
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:

Jackson River Trail Phase 5

*The Alleghany Parks and Recreation Department held a ribbon cutting for the final section of the Jackson River Scenic Trail. There were around 100 individuals in attendance for the event. This section of trail is unique and picturesque. Walking or riding a bicycle along this section of trail, which meanders along Cedar Creek, is beautiful and truly amazing.*

Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI)

*Monthly meetings of the Project Management Team continue. The first remittance has been submitted to DHCD.*

Commerce Center Pad Site

*The Alleghany Highlands Economic Development Corporation (AHEDC) will host a ribbon cutting celebration for the finished pad site. The event will be held May 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. and is located in the 1200-block of Commerce Center Drive.*

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (INQUIRIES/REPORTS):

Miscellaneous

Mr. Dodd thanked everyone for coming to the meeting, the comments from the gentlemen on the roads, and for the presence of Mayor Jeff Irvine and City Manager Chuck Unroe. He asked everyone to have a safe month with upcoming graduations and Memorial Day.

Mr. Bennett complimented the new water billing form that shows previous usage on the bill. He congratulated the Sheriff's Department employees and inmates for the cleanup on Pitzer's Ridge.

Mrs. Cox thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. She commented that it is good to see Ms. Kim Halterman tonight and mentioned that school is almost over. She thanked Mr. Matt Bowser for being here and for the time he spent with the County. She commented that she did not know that the job elimination last month had a person attached to the position and it may not have changed anything, but she apologized if she overlooked this or did not hear it said. She mentioned that in the future if a position is eliminated that the Board needs to make sure this is stated up front.

Dr. Goings thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He mentioned that he did not know someone was in the position either.

Mr. Griffith thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and the representatives present from the school system and Clifton Forge. He mentioned that Memorial Day is coming up and to remember the veterans.

Mr. Garten thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He commented that summer is almost here and asked everyone to be safe as kids will be out of school. He wished Mrs. Munsey a belated happy birthday.

CLOSED MEETING:

On motion of Mrs. Cox, seconded by Mr. Bennett, that the Board go into a Closed Meeting under Code of Virginia Sections 2.2-3711(A)(5) and (8) for the purpose of: (1) prospective business or industry; and (2) contractual matter. Unanimously adopted.

On motion of Mr. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Griffith, 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/Shannon P. Cox	Yes
/s/Ronald S. Goings	Yes
/s/James M. Griffith	Yes
/s/Stephen A. Bennett	Yes
/s/Gregory A. Dodd	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Absent

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion of Mr. Griffith, seconded by Mrs. Cox, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:40 p.m. to Thursday, May 8, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the County Governmental Complex. Motion carried.

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G. Matt Garten  
Chairman