

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors, Alleghany County, Virginia held on Tuesday, June 3, 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  
Gregory A. Dodd  
Cletus W. Nicely  
Ronald S. Goings

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

ABSENT: Shannon P. Cox

CALL TO ORDER:

The Chairman called the adjourned meeting to order. He stated that the Closed Meeting is being removed from the agenda.

Mr. Nicely gave the invocation and the audience remained standing for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING AND APPROVAL - AMENDMENTS TO FY25 BUDGET (VARIOUS ITEMS):

Public Hearing was held to consider amendments to the County Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25 in the amount of \$1,369,338.17 due to the receipt of revenue from various sources: Opioid settlement funds, State school bonus funds, GovDeals sales, additional patrol revenue, insurance proceeds, Virginia State Police grant, and DCJS reimbursement.

The Chairman announced that this public hearing was advertised in the Virginian Review on Tuesday, June 27, 2025 in accordance with the Code of Virginia. He then called the public hearing to order.

Ms. Adcock-Nicely stated that there were various items in FY25 that had additional revenue come in: opioid funds received to be appropriated to the AHCSB; State school bonuses; sale of surplus items through GovDeals; and funds received for the Sheriff's Office (additional patrols, insurance recovery, DCJS reimbursement for housing prisoners, and Virginia State Police grant).

Mr. Bennett commented that Ms. Ingrid Barber, AHCSB Executive Director, is present and asked her to explain the use of the opioid funds.

Ms. Barber commented regarding the additional opioid settlement funding that will be used to further a renovation project to secure more service space to address substance use. She mentioned that the new project will provide a lab for drug screening, new group rooms, a community training room, staff offices, a peer drop-in center, and an additional reception area.

Mr. Bennett asked how long the funds will be distributed as one time expenses, versus operations, should be considered in case the funds dry up. Ms. Adcock-Nicely replied that funds will be received over the next 10-15 years.

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	Absent
Gregory A. Dodd	Yes
Ronald S. Goings	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Allegheny County Board of Supervisors, after holding a public hearing on June 3, 2025 to amend the FY24-25 budget in the amount of \$1,369,338.17, hereby budget and approve the following supplemental appropriations:

1.	<b><u>CSB Opioid Settlement Funds:</u></b>	
	<u>Revenue Account</u>	
	Proceeds Opioid Settlement (11000000-441050)	\$959,347.00
	<u>Expenditure Account</u>	
	CSB Opioid Settlement Funds (11052010-555250)	\$959,347.00
2.	<b><u>Additional SOQ Funding from the State:</u></b>	
	<u>Revenue Account</u>	
	State School Revenue (26600000-400061)	\$332,412.00
	<u>Expenditure Account</u>	
	School Expenditures (266620001-566008)	\$332,412.00
3.	<b><u>Gov Deals Sales (Various Depts.):</u></b>	
	<u>Revenue Accounts</u>	
	Sale of Materials/Supplies (11000000-415207)	\$4,974.88
	Sale of Materials/Supplies (53000000-415207)	\$20,560.12
	<u>Expenditure Accounts</u>	
	Vehicle/Power Supplies (11012100-550408)	\$67.00
	Other Operating Supplies (1101210-554013)	\$177.00
	Machinery & Equipment (1101210-570001)	\$210.00
	Vehicle/Power Supplies (11031021-550408)	\$789.00
	Purchase of Vehicles (11042030-570005)	\$625.00
	Other Operating Supplies (11043020-554013)	\$1,218.00
	Machinery & Equipment (11071100-570001)	\$1,888.88
	Purchase of Vehicles (53044010-570005)	\$5,151.00
	Machinery & Equipment (53044020-570001)	\$12,835.12
	W&S Meters, Fittings, Supp. (53044020-570011)	\$10.00
	Machinery & Equipment (53044030-570001)	\$2,564.00
4.	<b><u>Sheriff's Office - Additional Iron Gate Patrol Revenue:</u></b>	
	<u>Revenue Account</u>	
	Iron Gate Share Law Enf. (25300000-481000)	\$8,860.00
	<u>Expenditure Account</u>	
	Overtime Salaries and Wages (25331300-510002)	\$8,860.00
5.	<b><u>Sheriff's Office - VSP Heat Grant:</u></b>	
	<u>Revenue Account</u>	
	Misc. Grants - Joint (11000000-485200)	\$12,114.94
	<u>Expenditure Account</u>	
	Police Supplies (1131021-554009)	\$12,114.94
6.	<b><u>Sheriff's Office - Insurance Recoveries:</u></b>	
	<u>Revenue Account</u>	
	Insurance Proceeds/Vehicles (11000000-481600)	\$8,592.23
	<u>Expenditure Account</u>	
	Vehicle/Power Supplies (11031021-550408)	\$8,592.23
7.	<b><u>Sheriff's Office - Housing Prisoners (transport reimb.):</u></b>	
	<u>Revenue Account</u>	
	Housing Prisoners (11000000-482200)	\$22,477.00
	<u>Expenditure Account</u>	
	Vehicle/Power Supplies (11031021-550408)	\$22,477.00

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

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

PUBLIC HEARING - FY26 SEWER RATES FOR THE TOWN OF CLIFTON FORGE AND THE TOWN OF IRON GATE:

Public Hearing was held to consider, pursuant to Sections 15.2-107 and 15.2-2122 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, and agreements between the parties, the possible adoption of sewer rates for the Town of Clifton Forge and the Town of Iron Gate as follows:

	<b>FY 2026 Rate</b>
Clifton Forge	\$3.88 / \$1,000 gals.
Iron Gate	\$15,013.82 per month

The Chairman announced that this public hearing was advertised in the Virginian Review on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 and Tuesday, May 27, 2025 in accordance with the Code of Virginia. He then called the public hearing to order.

Ms. Adcock-Nicely stated that there is a memo in the agenda packet and the rates have been discussed in budget work sessions. The memo is as follows:

*The Bulk Rate for sewer services for the Town of Clifton and the Town of Iron Gate is based on the following: debt service initiation, three year rolling average flows, and O&M costs for the LJRWWTP. Following is the result of these calculations and how the bulk rate will change:*

**Clifton Forge Sewer Bulk Rate**  
FY 25-26            \$3.88/1000 gallons

**Iron Gate Sewer Bulk Rate**  
FY 25-26            \$15,013.82/month

She added that this is a standard bulk rate calculation utilizing the methodology from Draper Aden when the contract was approved.

Dr. Goings asked if this is an increase or decrease in rates. Ms. Bowers replied that the Clifton Forge rate went up \$0.19 and the Iron Gate rate decreased by \$1,796.17/month. She mentioned that the flow totals from the previous year are utilized.

Mayor Jeff Irvine, 1261 Commercial Avenue, commented that there was an increase in the bulk rate for Clifton Forge and asked how old the Draper Aden methodology is. Ms. Adcock-Nicely replied that it is the same methodology as when the contract was signed in 2016 and new numbers (flow, etc.) are plugged in each year to get a revised rate.

There being no one else who wished to speak, the Chairman declared the public hearing closed. He stated that action will be taken at the Board's June 10<sup>th</sup> adjourned meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING - AMENDMENTS TO CH. 62 "WATER, SEWER, AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL" OF THE COUNTY CODE (WATER AND SEWER RATES):

Public Hearing was held to consider amendments to Chapter 62-Water, Sewer and Sewage Disposal of "The Code of the County of Alleghany, Virginia" in Section 62-71 - Rates to increase water and sewer rates effective July 1, 2025. The water rate, sewer rate, and sewer only rate would each increase \$1.00. The overage rate would increase by \$0.50 per 1,000 gallons for water and \$0.50 per 1,000 gallons for sewer. The deposit amounts would also increase for owners and tenants in Sec. 62-140.

The Chairman announced that this public hearing was advertised in the Virginian Review on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 and Tuesday, May 27, 2025 in accordance with the Code of Virginia. He then called the public hearing to order.

Ms. Adcock-Nicely stated that the water and sewer rates typically increase yearly to offset increases in costs. She commented that water and sewer is an enterprise fund that must sustain itself.

There being no one else who wished to speak, the Chairman declared the public hearing closed. He stated that action will be taken at the Board's June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING - TAX RATE FOR TAX YEAR 2025:

Public Hearing was held to consider decreasing the existing tax rate of 73 cents per \$100 of assessed value to 49 cents per \$100 of assessed value on real property and mobile homes for the tax year 2025 and to reenact at the existing rate the levy of two dollars and ninety-eight cents (\$2.98) per \$100.00 of assessed value on tangible personal property (including

machinery and tools segregated by Section 58.1-3507, Code of Virginia) located in the County on January 1, 2025 and the respective levies being also applicable to the real estate and tangible personal property of public service corporations.

The Chairman announced that this public hearing was advertised in the Virginian Review on Tuesday, May 27, 2025 in accordance with the Code of Virginia. He then called the public hearing to order.

Ms. Adcock-Nicely stated that the County just had a reassessment and the Board of Equalization has completed hearings. She commented that she and the Commissioner of Revenue did the calculation and came up with a \$0.49 tax rate to not have an aggregate increase in revenues.

Mr. Ricky Graham, 7323 Ogle Creek Road, stated that he is not sure how the rate is calculated, but the Board of Equalization was a joke and the assessors should have been here. He mentioned that his assessment was doubled and there is no way it could have gone up that much (house from \$18,400 to \$40,000 and another property from \$57,000 to \$108,000).

Mr. Garten stated that the Board works independently from the reassessment process and is required by the State to have a reassessment at least every 6 years.

Mr. Clifford Persinger, 691 Riverview Lane, commented that he owns 208 Chapel Drive and 507 Brentwood Drive. He mentioned that he appreciates the email on the assessment and did not go to the hearings. He stated that the assessment was unfair. He mentioned that he will be back to the Board at future meetings until drainage is fixed at 507 Brentwood Drive.

Mr. Bennett commented that if individuals are still not satisfied with their assessment that they can go before the Circuit Court Judge as the last appeal in the process.

Ms. Linn Glisson, 128 Maple Lane, stated that she is glad to hear the revenue is not more than 1%. She asked what the expected difference would be. She commented that she expected some reassessments would be higher, but not 30%. Mr. Griffith replied that the total revenue will actually decrease around \$100,000 by going to a \$0.49 tax rate.

Mr. Howard Crush, 3206 Mallow Road, stated that five years ago he had an appraisal done and the reassessment paperwork mentioned needing proof to have the assessment revised. He asked if citizens are expected to get an appraisal every five years or so. He mentioned that his assessment went up 254%. Mr. Bennett replied that you are not required to have an appraisal, but could have found a house equal in value to show as a comparison.

Ms. Pam Lightfoot, 924 McCormick Blvd., spoke regarding her discussions with the assessors in regards to codes and terms they used on the assessment form which might have been helpful for individuals to know what they meant. She mentioned that the Town of Clifton Forge is also trying to adjust their tax rate in order to not hit the over 1% increase.

Ms. Kathy Saville, 707 White Rock Gap Rd., commented that she is concerned with the tax assessment. She mentioned that she lived here, left the area, and then moved back. She stated that if she had to sell her property she would have no place to go. She commented that she also does not want this to become a weekend or bedroom community.

There was then discussion regarding inflation; the large increase in resale prices in the area; the area not seeing property appreciation in 30 years; a lot of out-of-area people buying property; people moving from cities to more rural areas during COVID; new construction cost is \$240/sq. ft.; the only tool the Board has is to lower the tax rate; etc.

There being no one else who wished to speak, the Chairman declared the public hearing closed. He stated that action will be taken at the Board's June 10<sup>th</sup> adjourned meeting.

#### PUBLIC HEARING - FY 2025-26 COUNTY OPERATING BUDGET:

Public Hearing was held to consider the proposed FY 2025-26 budget for the year beginning July 1, 2025.

The Chairman announced that this public hearing was advertised in the Virginian Review on Tuesday, May 27, 2025 in accordance with the Code of Virginia. He then called the public hearing to order.

The budget was advertised as follows:

The following budget synopsis was prepared and published for information and fiscal planning purposes only. The inclusion in the budget of items does not constitute an obligation or commitment to appropriate any funds for that item or purpose. The budget has been prepared on the basis of the estimates and requests submitted by the Officers and Department Heads of this County. There are no allocations of any County funds for any purpose until appropriation for that purpose has been made by the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors.

**EXPENDITURES**

General Operating	\$43,596,415
School Operating	48,485,436
Public Safety Equip. and Vehicles	360,000
Career EMS	492,179
Law Library	4,500
Special Law	53,500
Drug Asset Forfeiture - Sheriff	8,500
Courthouse Security	237,105
Drug Asset Forfeiture - Com. Atty.	4,000
Sheriff - County Code Enforcement	47,366
Capital Improvement Program	1,294,063
Special Welfare	80,000
AHEDC	256,604
Water & Sewer Capital	199,674
Water & Sewer Operating	<u>5,773,393</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b><u>\$100,892,735</u></b>

**REVENUES**

General Operating (\$43,596,415):	
Local (66%)	\$28,773,634
State (30%)	13,078,924
Federal (4%)	1,743,857
School Operating	48,485,436
Public Safety Equip. and Vehicles	360,000
Career EMS	492,179
Law Library	4,500
Special Law	53,500
Drug Asset Forfeiture - Sheriff	8,500
Courthouse Security	237,105
Drug Asset Forfeiture - Com. Atty.	4,000
Sheriff - County Code Enforcement	47,366
Capital Improvement Program	0
Special Welfare	80,000
AHEDC	256,604
Water & Sewer Capital	199,674
Water & Sewer Operating	<u>5,773,393</u>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b><u>\$99,598,672</u></b>
CIP Fund Balance	1,294,063
	<b><u>\$100,892,735</u></b>

Ms. Adcock-Nicely commented that several meetings were held with the budget committee and the Board held a work session. She reviewed a sheet showing highlights of the budget that is included in the agenda packet which is as follows:

**Expenses**

- Career EMS is being funded at \$423,570 to begin supplemental EMS functions in the Alleghany Highlands.
- There is a 3% COLA for all in the County payroll system and a step increase for county-funded departments who currently utilize the local scales.
- State-supported employees are receiving a 3% COLA, plus a 1.5% bonus.
- Medical insurance increased by 9%
- Increased HSA contribution for the first time since the high-deductible plans were introduced.

**Capital Improvement Plan for Facilities (plans to stop “kicking the can”)**

- Spectrum Designs completed a facilities assessment during the past year that Public Works has turned into a working “roadmap” for projects over the next five years.
- We have initiated a similar study for Water & Sewer assets to provide a CIP and prioritization for projects.

**Revenue**

- To equalize the tax revenue, the proposed tax rate is \$.49/\$100, which is \$.24 less than the current real estate tax rate.
- Water & Sewer is balanced and reflects a \$1.00 increase on water and sewer, as well as a \$.50 increase in overages.

**Items of Interest for Next Year**

- Additional expansion of Career EMS.
- Some uncertainty about federal grant availability.
- Water & Sewer capital necessities.

Mr. Bennett commented that the County is very conservative. He mentioned that luckily over the last couple of years there has been some growth with GTI, Fralin apartments, and Love’s coming in otherwise the tax rates would have been higher without that growth. He mentioned the completion of the pad site and that there are other projects in the works. He stated that the County will probably have the lowest tax rate in the State with \$0.49.

Mr. Danny Byer, Iron Gate Fire Department, mentioned that the County got air packs through a grant and we were told that the County would reimburse us for the ones we got a loan for prior to the grant. He stated that was over 2 years ago. He commented that they paid \$90,000 for the air packs and are paying back \$1,000/mo.

Mr. Garten stated that this request was not part of the budget and suggested he speak with Mr. Fitch.

Mr. Clifford Persinger asked if they could get a copy of the minutes where recommendations were made and discussions held in relation to the air packs. Mrs. Munsey replied that there are over 2 years in Board meeting minutes that can be viewed on the County's website and the minute books are available for public inspection.

There being no one else who wished to speak, the Chairman declared the public hearing closed. He stated that action will be taken at the Board's June 10th adjourned meeting.

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

- Placed plant mix on Rts. 18, 604, and 608.
- Cleared debris, brush and cleaned pipes on Rts. 18, 311, 159, 42, 220N and S, and secondaries County-wide.
- Graded and performed shoulder work on Rts. 18, 311, 661 and various secondary routes.
- Will be placing plant mix on Rts. 42, 661 (Johnson's Creek and Ogle Creek), 641 (Indian Draft), and 18 for potholes and pipe crossings.
- Will be clearing out behind the concrete barrier on Rt. 220 in the next couple weeks.
- I-64 anti-skid surface being installed westbound from Low Moor to Island Ford Bridge.
- Will be doing bridge work on Rt. 696 over the interstate at night in the month of June to address deck repairs.
- Waiting for schedule from contractor on Rt. 42 bridge closure over the railroad. Will send information as soon as it's available.

Ms. Hammond added that if the Rt. 42 bridge closure is not done before July 4<sup>th</sup> then it will be scheduled after the holiday.

Mr. Nicely commented that the closure will cause people to drive an hour out of their way either way they go.

APPROVAL OF SCHOOL CAPITAL PROJECTS:

Ms. Tracy Persinger, School Finance Director, stated that there is a memo in the Board's agenda packet from Ms. Kim Halterman, Superintendent. She commented that CIP projects over \$100,000 not included in the plan are required to go before the governing bodies per the agreement and during the last CIP they were not aware of these items. She reviewed the memo which is as follows:

*Per the Alleghany-Covington Consolidated School Funding Agreement adopted in August 2021, this correspondence serves as a request for approval of several capital projects to benefit Alleghany Highlands Public Schools.*

*The first project is for Johnson Control to install two twenty-ton rooftop units on AHS to control the humidity in the gym. After the gym floors were refinished, additional humidity control is necessary to preserve our collective investment. The scope of the work for this project consists of removal of existing roof top units, installation of new high voltage wire including new breakers, new curb adapters, all necessary crane work, installation of two JCI rooftop units, and a complete start-up. We are paying for this with School Construction and Modernization Grant money in the general fund. The cost for this project is \$176,924.34. No additional allocation of funds is required.*

*The second project is Hoffman Mechanical to install a 100% outside air MAU at CMS. We need to have more fresh conditioned air going into CMS. This is a recommendation from our engineering firm. Hoffman is providing all the wiring, the crane to set the unit, removal of existing unit, provide and install new adapter curb and complete start-up. This unit will have gas heat and DX cooling to provide tempered fresh air into all common areas year round. The cost for this project is \$166,143.00. This will be paid from the general fund. No additional allocation of funds is required.*

*The third project is Civic Consulting Group PC, engineering fees for the tennis courts. The project management fees for the tennis courts were not known to be needed until we continued to explore the project. The cost for this project is \$185,180.00. The tennis court project is part of AHPS's ongoing descriptions of capital improvement needs. This will be paid from the general fund. No additional allocation of funds is required.*

There was some discussion regarding the location of the tennis courts (at the high school); who is responsible for the \$166,143.00 for CMS (funds are available in the school general fund which is one pot of money); what the engineering fees are for (design and drainage work, remove fuel island, restrooms, etc.); money spent at CMS due to closure; etc.

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

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

<u>Project</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
• HVAC Unit Replacement (AHS gym)	\$176,924.34
• Makeup Air Unit (MAU) Installation (CMS)	\$166,143.00
• Tennis Court (engineering fees)	\$185,180.00

Adopted by the following roll call vote:

Stephen A. Bennett	Yes
Shannon P. Cox	Absent
Gregory A. Dodd	No
Ronald S. Goings	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	No
James M. Griffith	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

APPROVE AWARD OF WELLS FARGO BUILDING INTERIOR DEMOLITION BID TO TAFF AND FRYE COMPANY, INC.:

Mr. Garten stated that the lowest bid received for the interior demolition of the Wells Fargo building was from Taff and Frye Company, Inc. in the amount of \$192,440.00. He mentioned that there is a bid review and evaluation from AECOM in the agenda packet, as well as a bid summary.

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 approve the lowest responsive and responsible base bid received from Taff and Frye Company, Inc. in the amount of \$192,440.00 for the interior demolition of the Wells Fargo building.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board authorizes the County Administrator to sign a contract with Taff and Frye Company, Inc. for the abovementioned project on behalf of the County after review by the County Attorney.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

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

DISCUSS ADOPTION OF REVISED CLASSIFICATION PAY PLAN:

Ms. Adcock-Nicely commented that the changes to the Classification Pay Plan are in relation to the 3% cost of living increases for County employees. She mentioned that this item will not be voted on by the Board until the June 10<sup>th</sup> adjourned meeting along with other budget items.

APPOINTMENT OF MS. HEATHER TERRELL TO THE ALLEGHANY HIGHLANDS REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD:

Mr. Garten stated that the term of Mr. Dennis Nelson (Covington District) on the Alleghany Highlands Regional Library Board expires June 30, 2025. Terms are for four years. Mr. Nelson is not eligible for reappointment as this is his second consecutive term. This appointment can be from any district. He added that there is an email at each seat noting that Ms. Heather Terrell is interested in being appointed. The email is a part of the records of this meeting.

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors that Ms. Heather Terrell (Jackson River District) 7414 Roaring Run Road, Covington, VA 24426 be appointed to the Alleghany Highlands Regional Library Board for a term of four years beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2029.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

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

REAPPOINTMENT OF MR. TY DOBBS AND APPOINTMENT OF MR. ANTHONY NICELY AND MR. NICOLAS LOMASNEY TO THE RECREATION BOARD:

Mr. Garten stated that the terms of Ms. Kathy Nicely (Sharon District), Mr. Ty Dobbs (Jackson River District), and Mr. John Stone (Boiling Springs District) on the Recreation Board expire June 30, 2025. Terms are for three years and all are eligible for reappointment. Mr. Nicely and Mr. Stone do not wish to be reappointed. He commented that Mr. Anthony Nicely and Mr. Nicolas Lomasney are interested in the vacant appointments.

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors that Mr. Thomas "Ty" Dobbs (Jackson River District), 2304 Sulfur Spring Rd., Covington, VA 24426 be reappointed to the Recreation Board for a term of three years beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2028;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board that the following individuals be appointed to the Recreation Board for a term of three years beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2028 due to vacancies:

Anthony Nicely (Sharon District), 4216 Nicelytown Rd., Clifton Forge  
Nicolas Lomasney (Boiling Springs District), 3410 Jamison Mountain Rd., Covington

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

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

REAPPOINTMENT OF MR. JAMES GRIFFITH TO THE ROANOKE VALLEY-ALLEGHANY REGIONAL COMMISSION:

Mr. Garten stated that the term of Mr. James Griffith (Elected Representative) on the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission expires June 30, 2025. Terms are for three years and Mr. Griffith is eligible for reappointment.

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors that Mr. James Griffith (Elected Representative) be reappointed to the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission for a term of three years beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2028.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

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

REAPPOINTMENT OF MR. MATT GARTEN (BOARD MEMBER) ON THE SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD:

Mr. Garten stated that his term on the Social Services Board expires June 30, 2025. Terms are for four years and he is eligible for reappointment.

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. G. Matt Garten (Board Representative), 215 Wade Drive, Covington, VA 24426 be reappointed to the Social Services Board for a term of four years beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2029.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

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

APPROVE RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR MR. REID WALTERS AND PRESENTATION OF FRAMED PICTURE:

Mr. Garten read the draft resolution of appreciation for Mr. Reid Walters, County Administrator, and the Board presented Mr. Walters with a framed picture.

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

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION**

WHEREAS, on May 16, 2022, Mr. Reid Walters began his service to Alleghany County as County Administrator; and

WHEREAS, the County deeply appreciates the important contributions Mr. Walters has made to our County government and to the progress of our community; and

WHEREAS, the County has been fortunate to have had Mr. Walters share his capabilities and dedication;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors recognize Mr. Reid Walters for his invaluable contribution to the citizens of Alleghany County;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board extends its sincere appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Walters for his service to the County and hope that all of Mr. Walters' future interests and pursuits be filled with deserving health, happiness, and success.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

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

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Walters asked Mr. Guynn to give an update on school claims received.

School Claims Update

Mr. Guynn stated that he and the County have received a number of claims from various attorney's on behalf of parents in relation to the CMS carbon monoxide incident. He commented that he has responded to some of the attorney's that the County has no liability in relation to the School Board. He mentioned that there may be lawsuits filed, but the County would be dismissed.

Mr. Walters handed out and gave a report on the following item which is a part of the records of this meeting:

To the Elected Members of the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors

*The ancient Greek culture had a variety of words representing love. Agape is one of those words. There is no specific English translation for the meaning of the Greek word agape. The word appears in the New Testament representing God's love for humankind but this word was used differently by the ancient Greek. In traditional Greek, the word is translated as a love that is selfless, sacrificial, and unconditional.*

*Many of us serving in elected or appointed capacities are doing so because of agape and I can attest that the members of the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors are serving the residents of Alleghany County out of pure agape. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve with you.*

*Thank you and agape,  
Reid*

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (INQUIRIES/REPORTS):

Miscellaneous

Mr. Dodd thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He thanked the individuals for their comments on the tax assessment. He mentioned that this is his first time on the Board during a reassessment and he has learned a lot. He thanked Mr. Walters and mentioned that he knew where he worked previously in North Carolina. He commented that he appreciates all that Mr. Walters has started here and done and thanked him for his friendship.

Mr. Nicely commented that there was a nice reception for Mr. Walters today and he has been an asset to the County. He stated that he hates to see him leave and thanked his family for allowing him to serve.

Mr. Bennett stated that Mr. Walters has been one of the easiest County Administrator's to work with.

Dr. Goings thanked Mr. Walters for the time he has served. He commented that he came on board around the same time as when he was hired and he has been the only County Administrator he has worked with. He asked Mr. Fitch to help Iron Gate resolve its situation.

Mr. Griffith thanked Mr. Walters for his dedication to the community and commented that it has been a pleasure to work with him. He commented that having a \$0.49 tax rate will bring in a boom of buyers to the area. He asked Mr. Fitch about the Iron Gate air pack situation. Mr. Fitch replied that Iron Gate had purchased their air packs before the County began the grant project.

Mr. Griffith asked that any information submitted to Mr. Anderson also be shared with the Board and suggested that the Alleghany Foundation be asked if they can cover their cost.

Mr. Garten thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He commented regarding the tax reassessment that there has not been this much of an increase in previous reassessments and a lot of that is due to inflation, comparisons, etc. He stated that the \$0.49 tax rate will be a big shot in the arm to the area along with the low cost of living in the area. He asked all to be safe as summer is here and kids are out of school.

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion of Mr. Bennett, seconded by Dr. Goings, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:40 p.m. to Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Alleghany County Governmental Complex. Motion carried.

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G. Matt Garten  
Chairman