

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors, Alleghany County, Virginia held on Tuesday, February 3, 2026 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
S. Miller Brantley
Shannon P. Cox
Courtney F. Howard

and Ken McFadyen, County Administrator
Suzanne Adcock-Nicely, Director of Finance
Jonathan Fitch, Director of Public Safety
Jim Guynn, County Attorney
Melissa A. Munsey, Deputy Clerk to the Board

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 January 6, 2026.

PUBLIC COMMENT (5 MINUTE TIME LIMIT):

Mr. Eston Burge, 1400 Russell Drive, mentioned that he was going to speak regarding HB1314, but the bill was withdrawn and continued to the next session. He mentioned that he was on the Board of Equalization. He thanked Mrs. Munsey and Ms. McKenna Burns for their assistance during the process and the Board for choosing an excellent group to serve as this was a difficult reassessment.

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

- Removed debris on Rts. 60, 666, 782, 159, 311, 661, 18, 220 and 269.
- Patched potholes on Rts. 42 and 220 south.
- Removed trash with inmates on Rts. 220 and 696. Two tandem loads were picked up.
- Removed approximately 20 deer County-wide.
- Made 40,000 gallons of salt brine in preparation of January 25th storm.
- Unique winter storm due to high amount of sleet on top of snow followed by extended period of extremely low temperatures. Had several snow slides. Brought in several additional pieces of emergency equipment. Alleghany County had deepest snow in the district with over 10".
- Rt. 606 will be reopened as temperatures rise.
- As weather permits, will be removing slate and debris on Rts. 220, 687 and 661.
- Railing on Rt. 18 should be completed by end of February, weather permitting.

Mr. Garten commented that Rt. 687 has an area near Indian Draft Road where the road narrows due to snow/ice slides.

Mrs. Cox commented that a guardrail was put up on the Rt. 18 bridge before the Walton farm and asked if this is a temporary fix. Ms. Hammond replied that it is temporary and if we had not had the inclement weather it would have been fixed. She anticipates completion by the next Board meeting.

SHERIFF KYLE MOORE - QUARTERLY AND 2025 ANNUAL UPDATE:

Sheriff Kyle Moore handed out and reviewed a quarterly update (October-December 2025) and an annual report for 2025 on miscellaneous activities. The information is a part of the records of this meeting. Items reviewed included number of complaints answered by dispatchers, civil process papers served, criminal arrests, incident based reports, traffic summons issued, jail transports, inmate information (population/number processed), Crisis Intervention Team transports, fire/EMS calls dispatched, animal control information, and workload summary/personnel justification. Information not on the update that he mentioned included working with VDOT during the recent winter storms, the VDOT inmate crew to be trained and can get certified in order to utilize in the future, Celebrate Recovery Class helping to keep peace in the jail and is also cutting into

recidivism, to pay attention to General Assembly bills and how they will affect you, the Virginia Sheriff's Association scholarship program for juniors and seniors that want to go into a criminal justice field, etc.

ADOPTION OF THE "HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN 2025 UPDATE":

Mr. Fitch stated that the Hazard Mitigation Plan is required by FEMA and the localities worked with the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission (RV-ARC) and VDEM to make updates to the plan which is required every five years. He commented that the plan identifies hazards and plans to mitigate. He stated that having an adopted Hazard Mitigation Plan allows local governments to apply for disaster mitigation funds which become available following a natural disaster. He mentioned that he and Mrs. Munsey were part of the plan development process with RV-ARC.

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

**A RESOLUTION OF ALLEGHANY COUNTY ADOPTING THE
HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN: 2025 UPDATE**

WHEREAS, Alleghany County recognizes the threat that natural hazards pose to people and property within the County; and

WHEREAS, the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission has prepared a multi-hazard mitigation plan, hereby known as the *Hazard Mitigation Plan: 2025 Update* in accordance with federal laws, including the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended; the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended; and the National Dam Safety Program Act, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the *Hazard Mitigation Plan: 2025 Update* identifies mitigation goals and actions to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property in the region from the impacts of future hazards and disasters; and

WHEREAS, adoption by the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors demonstrates its commitment to hazard mitigation and achieving the goals outlined in the *Hazard Mitigation Plan: 2025 Update*;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors adopts the *Hazard Mitigation Plan: 2025 Update*.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be enclosed in the planning document and submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Stephen A. Bennett	Yes
S. Miller Brantley	Yes
Shannon P. Cox	Yes
Courtney F. Howard	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Absent
James M. Griffith	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

APPROVE RESOLUTION OF RESPECT FOR MR. FRANK PERSINGER, SR.:

Mr. Garten read the draft Resolution of Respect for Mr. Frank Persinger, Sr.

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Frank E. Persinger, Sr., member of the Board of Supervisors for the former Clifton District from June 28, 1983 to December 31, 1991, passed away on January 14, 2026; and

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

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

member of the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors, the Alleghany County Electoral Board, the LOA Advisory Board, the Social Services Board, and the Alleghany Highlands Kiwanis Club, as well as having served on and volunteered for many other organizations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors, in honor and respect, does hereby recognize the life of Mr. Frank E. Persinger, Sr. for his loyalty, dedication, and service to his community, the County of Alleghany, and the Alleghany Highlands;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board extends its sincere condolences and sympathy to the family of Mr. Persinger.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Stephen A. Bennett	Yes
S. Miller Brantley	Yes
Shannon P. Cox	Yes
Courtney F. Howard	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Absent
James M. Griffith	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

REAPPOINTMENT OF MR. KEVIN TERRELL AND MR. DAVID OELTJEN TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION:

Mr. Garten stated that the terms of Mr. Kevin Terrell (Jackson River District) and Mr. David Oeltjen (Clifton Forge East District) on the Planning Commission expire March 1, 2026. Terms are for 4 years and both are eligible for reappointment.

Mr. Bennett and Mr. Brantley indicated that Mr. Terrell and Mr. Oeltjen wish to be reappointed.

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors that Mr. David Kevin Terrell (Jackson River District), 7414 Roaring Run Road, Covington, VA 24426 be reappointed to the Planning Commission for a term of four years beginning March 2, 2026 and ending March 1, 2030.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board that Mr. David W. Oeltjen (Clifton Forge East District), 808 Acacia Avenue, Clifton Forge, VA 24422 be reappointed to the Planning Commission for a term of four years beginning March 2, 2026 and ending March 1, 2030.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Stephen A. Bennett	Yes
S. Miller Brantley	Yes
Shannon P. Cox	Yes
Courtney F. Howard	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Absent
James M. Griffith	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

REAPPOINTMENT OF MR. DONALD LUGAR AND MR. TERRY PAXTON TO THE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION:

Mr. Garten stated that the terms of Mr. Donald Lugar (Jackson River District) and Mr. Terry Paxton (Clifton Forge East District) on the Water and Sewer Commission expire March 1, 2026. Terms are for 4 years and both are eligible for reappointment.

Mr. Bennett and Mr. Brantley indicated that Mr. Lugar and Mr. Paxton wish to be reappointed.

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors that Mr. Donald Lugar (Jackson River District), 1000 Piney Ridge Road, Covington, VA 24426 be reappointed to the Water and Sewer Commission for a term of four years

beginning March 2, 2026 and ending March 1, 2030.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board that Mr. Terry Paxton (Clifton Forge East District), P.O. Box 307, 1010 Kensington Avenue, Clifton Forge, VA 24422 be reappointed to the Water and Sewer Commission for a term of four years beginning March 2, 2026 and ending March 1, 2030.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Stephen A. Bennett	Yes
S. Miller Brantley	Yes
Shannon P. Cox	Yes
Courtney F. Howard	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Absent
James M. Griffith	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. McFadyen handed out and gave a report on the following items which are a part of the records of this meeting, as well as the attachments mentioned:

- A. *Community Events - The Inaugural Taste of the Alleghany Highlands Restaurant Week is coming up, scheduled for February 20 to March 1, 2026. Alleghany County provided sponsorship for this event.*
- B. *Goals and Priorities - Attached is the draft of the Board of Supervisors' goals and priorities from the session with Charles Hartgrove in December. My recommendation to the Board members is to take the month of February to review and provide comments. To give the goals and priorities a level of importance, the Board may want to consider approving them during the March regular meeting.*
- C. *General Services - The Wells Fargo building interior demolition work is substantially complete and awaiting final inspection from our engineers.*
- D. *Public Works - The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has approved the renewals of the operating permits for both wastewater treatment plants at Low Moor and Lower Jackson. Much appreciation to the Public Works staff for this accomplishment.*
- E. *Public Works - Also with the Virginia DEQ, the Island Ford Transfer Station passed a recent inspection, which now includes transferring waste from Covington and Bath County. There should be permit modifications to be handled soon.*
- F. *Public Works - The Public Works Director position has been advertised and applications closed February 2nd. Applications are being reviewed and we should expect to know about interviews during the month of February.*
- G. *Regional Planning - There has been recent discussion among the Alleghany Highlands' localities about addressing public transportation and more specifically micro transit services. Attached is a letter of support for a grant application to fund the preparation of a feasibility study. I am learning details and will keep the Board informed.*
- H. *Tourism and Chamber of Commerce - The tourism services agreement with the Alleghany Highlands Chamber of Commerce is set to expire June 30th and the agreement cannot be extended. The agreement allows the Chamber to utilize a portion of the County's lodging taxes to promote tourism for the Alleghany Highlands. Alleghany County has used a Request for Proposals (RFP) several times during the past sixteen years to negotiate this agreement and we are prepared to release the next RFP this week to provide enough time to negotiate the next agreement before June 2026.*
- I. *Broadband - We are awaiting an update and cost estimate from the Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative concerning a needed broadband expansion project for Crows/Hematite residents. Approximately 114 addresses are slated to receive Starlink satellite internet service and residents want to have fiber connectivity. We would pursue grant funding to deliver broadband connectivity to these residents.*
- J. *Housing - We should have a scope for planning assistance prepared during February 2025. Virginia Housing has offered to provide this assistance to the County as a further action from our housing study last year.*
- K. *Annual Budget - The County's annual budgeting process is set to begin in February. A budget committee of the Board of Supervisors Chair and Vice-Chair and County staff should meet frequently during the process.*

Please let us know of any questions or comments. Thank you for your time and support.

Mr. Griffith asked if there is an update on water loss. Mr. McFadyen replied that VPWA is assisting with a paper audit to clarify the water loss being experienced, mainly in the Clifftondale area. He commented that they are having conversations with engineering firms to look for and fix issues.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (INQUIRIES/REPORTS):

Miscellaneous

Mr. Brantley thanked everyone that had to work in the elements (i.e., VDOT, fire/rescue, law enforcement, refuse collection, etc.). He mentioned that school will be starting back soon and to watch out for the kids.

Mr. Bennett mentioned that the area got through the inclement weather pretty good.

Mrs. Howard stated that she is happy that the Board recognized Mr. Persinger. She commented that she met him during elections and he was always a bright spot. She thanked all for their work during the snow and cold weather.

Mrs. Cox stated that she loves when Mr. Burge comes to a meeting and wishes she was here when he was the County Administrator. She thanked law enforcement, fire/rescue and all others that worked in the weather conditions. She mentioned that she has wonderful neighbors that help each other and is very blessed to live here.

Mr. Griffith stated that he mentioned early learning at the last Board meeting and found out that Alleghany County and Covington have a gap with 130 needed slots for early learning and childcare. He commented that Mr. McFadyen is working with the school system, the Alleghany Foundation and the YMCA on this endeavor. He mentioned that VDOT did an excellent job with what they had to work with as the snow and ice were very heavy. He asked everyone to be safe and to have a Happy Valentine's Day.

Mr. Garten commented that a couple individuals tonight expressed appreciation for Mrs. Munsey and he also wants to thank her. He told everyone to be on the lookout for more inclement weather, to be careful, and to watch for buses.

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion of Mr. Griffith, seconded by Mrs. Cox, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:35 p.m. Motion carried.

G. Matt Garten
Chairman