

SCOTT

VIRGINIA

At a meeting of the Scott County Board of Supervisors begun and held in the Supervisors’ meeting room located at the Community Services Building in Gate City, Virginia on Tuesday the 6th day of February, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

- PRESENT:

Darrel W. Jeter
L. Michele Glover
Eddie N. Skeen
Michael K. Brickey - Chairman
Danny M. Casteel
Christopher S. Maness – Vice-Chairman
Stefanie C. Addington
- ABSENT:

None.

Chairman Michael K. Brickey called the meeting to order.

Supervisor L. Michele Glover gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Darrel W. Jeter, duly seconded by L. Michele Glover, this Board hereby amends the agenda by removing item 7b – MECC Promise Program Update.

- Voting aye:

Darrel W. Jeter, L. Michele Glover, Eddie N. Skeen, Michael K. Brickey
Danny M. Casteel, Christopher S. Maness, and Stefanie C. Addington.
- Voting nay:

None.

On a motion by L. Michele Glover, duly seconded by Stefanie C. Addington, this Board hereby approves the January 3, 2024 minutes.

- Voting aye:

Darrel W. Jeter, L. Michele Glover, Eddie N. Skeen, Michael K. Brickey
Danny M. Casteel, Christopher S. Maness, and Stefanie C. Addington.
- Voting nay:

None.

Chairman Michael K. Brickey opened Citizen Expression Period to receive public comments.

Peggy Tyus spoke about Snowflake Road. She requested that those in attendance for Snowflake Road to stand and those in attendance for all dirt roads to stand. She went on to thank the Virginia Department of Transportation for the gravel, and she mentioned that a Virginia Department of Transportation representative did return her call. Ms. Tyus added that more money should be allocated to Scott County due to the terrain. She noted that the school bus, U.S. Postal Service, FedEx, UPS, and Prime know how bad the roads are; therefore, she requested that the roads be paved. She added that the Six Year Plan does not work to get roads paved, and there needs to be something different. There needs to be more money from primary roads to secondary roads. Ms. Tyus requested more funding for dirt roads.

Laura Bledsoe, a resident on Snowflake Road, noted that Virginia Department of Transportation representatives came out and looked at the issue at her driveway. She went on to say that situation will not be fixed until the road is paved. Ms. Bledsoe urged the Board to ask for more road funding and be our voice for Scott County. She pointed out that there is a zoo on Snowflake Road.

Regina Kinsler, a resident of Gate Road, presented a photo from her phone of the road breaking off that could be a bad situation. In addition, she mentioned that a truck took out the side of her vehicle. Ms. Kinsler added that this is a safety issue that needs serious attention.

Sheriff Jeff Edds presented an update (Said update being attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 34 Attachment No: 39).

Harold Lane, a resident of High Knob Road, spoke about the road being washed out. Mr. Lane noted that he has been trying to get something done since August.

Gary Baker, a resident of Boozy Creek, spoke about the need for ditches and culverts to be cleaned out, and he mentioned trees down following the snow. Mr. Baker commented that the Virginia Department of Transportation pushes trees out of the road. He noted one place that water goes under the road. He expressed appreciation for the Board getting the Virginia Department of Transportation to attend the meeting today, and he urged the Board to write a letter weekly to the Commissioner of Transportation. Mr. Baker pointed out that Tennessee cleans their ditches. The Environmental Protection Agency has nothing to do with it. He went on to say that the dumpsters need to remain open 24/7 and expressed appreciation to the Board for stepping up regarding the Virginia Department of Transportation.

Hearing no further comments, Chairman Michael K. Brickey closed Citizen Expression period.

Auditor Ron Bostic presented the audit report.

Treasurer Kevin Helms addressed the Board about a funding request in the amount of \$5,000. He explained that the county funding added to the funding provided by the Comp Board would increase two Deputy I positions in his office starting salary to \$31,732.00.

On a motion by Eddie N. Skeen, duly seconded by Christopher S. Maness, this Board hereby funds \$5,000 for two Deputy I positions in the Treasurer’s Office, bringing the starting salary to \$31,732.00.

Voting aye: Darrel W. Jeter, L. Michele Glover, Eddie N. Skeen, Michael K. Brickey
Danny M. Casteel, Christopher S. Maness, and Stefanie C. Addington.

Voting nay: None.

Virginia Department of Transportation Residency Administrator Allan Sumpter gave an update (Said report being attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute book 34 Attachment No: 40).

There was some discussion as to the percentage of unpaved roads in Scott County as compared to other areas in the State of Virginia.

Mr. Sumpter noted that Scott County is third in the State for the most unpaved roads.

Supervisor Skeen replied that Scott County is second.

Mr. Sumpter stated that he does not have the total percentage, but he could probably get that information.

Supervisor Maness questioned how many miles that includes.

Mr. Sumpter replied 255. He pointed out that revenue sharing is an option to receive matching funds.

Supervisor Skeen asked if there is only one year at a time that funding is allotted for the Six Year Plan.

Mr. Sumpter replied only one year. The other years are only projections. They will change some.

Supervisor Skeen inquired about the funding being guaranteed the next five years.

Mr. Sumpter explained that there were funding shortages in the late 2000's. No roads were added to the plan. Those were extremely difficult economic times.

Supervisor Skeen asked if those roads listed on the Six Year Plan were funded and completed over that time period.

Mr. Sumpter replied that those roads were frozen and completed five to six years later due to no funds as projected. They were put in as a projection but economic times hit hard so the allocation was zero. No projects were added and no projects moved forward. Around 2010, funding started to come in again. Funding is based on fuel taxes and title fees. The Code of Virginia states that maintenance is funded first. There was only enough taxes and fees at that time to take care of maintenance.

Supervisor Darrel Jeter asked where the funding will come from with electric cars.

Mr. Sumpter replied a user fee.

Supervisor Skeen inquired about getting traffic counts and households on roads.

Mr. Sumpter replied that Virginia Department of Transportation will go out and look at roads the Board is interested in to see if they qualify and estimate the cost to construct the road. At that time, the Board can prioritize those.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen told Mr. Sumpter that he is interested to work on communication if Mr. Sumpter is willing to do that. That would solve problems. Residents submit work orders and do not hear anything back.

Mr. Sumpter replied that is being looked into. It may be that a work order involves environmental issues that requires a permit and that takes longer.

Supervisor Skeen mentioned that he talked about some areas of concern in his district with the Virginia Department of Transportation, and he requested that Mr. Sumpter address those.

Mr. Sumpter explained that there was safety money available to work on the curve on Dean Hollow Road, however, rights-of-way from the landowners could not be obtained. The Gate Road situation will be looked into. Little Duck Road would be a safety issue. There might be some regular maintenance, as well, on that road. Reed Hollow Road was closed due to safety. At that time, it was estimated to be 7.5 million dollars to fix that situation. Funds were not available so the road was closed; however, there were some spot safety improvements done on the alternate route.

Supervisor Michele Glover asked about the roads that are under environmental review.

Mr. Sumpter stated that they are in the planning stage or preliminary engineering stage.

Supervisor Glover inquired about the number of employees the Virginia Department of Transportation has in Scott County.

Mr. Sumpter replied there are 27, and they are in the process of hiring more.

Supervisor Glover asked if there is anything the Board of Supervisors can do to help with the hiring process such as placing that on the county website. She went on to say that our county is shy with Virginia Department of Transportation workers.

Mr. Sumpter replied that employment levels are set through the General Assembly based on funding. There have been some decent applicants come in. The Human Resources Department is doing more social media. In addition, our workforce is supplemented with contractors. Mr. Sumpter added that snow removal was difficult due to temperatures. He noted that the trucks are equipped with a GPS system that enables us to see what roads have been plowed. Mr. Sumpter pointed out that conditions are continually changing on dirt roads. Stone is being put on the worst part of roads, and there has been some tree trimming. When the Board of Supervisors contacts us, we try to include that on our work orders report. He went on to say that they will investigate the items heard at this meeting.

Supervisor Danny Casteel inquired about getting gravel.

Mr. Sumpter advised that he can contact the Wise office. The County Administrator has our contact information, or that can be passed along to her, and she can email us.

Mr. Casteel addressed issues on Routes 652, 650, 647, and 648.

Mr. Sumpter noted those would be looked at.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen inquired about the process for getting a bridge named.

Mr. Sumpter replied that a resolution would need to be passed. The County pays for the sign, and the family may be asked to reimburse the county. Mr. Sumpter requested that the Board be thinking about roads that it would like added to the plan.

The majority of the Board was in favor of holding a workshop with the Virginia Department of Transportation on April 9, 2024.

Commonwealth's Attorney Kyle Kilgore along with Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Dan Fellhauer, S.C.O.T.T. Service Program Director Jessica Keith, Program Coordinators Justin Venable and Shannon McMurray provided an update on the S.C.O.T.T. Service Program.

Commonwealth's Attorney Kyle Kilgore reported that S.C.O.T.T. Service has been in development for approximately ten years. He went on to say that his predecessor Andy Johnson brought it about. The S.C.O.T.T. Service Program is an alternative sentencing program that bridges the gap between incarceration and probation. As a prosecuting attorney, Mr. Kilgore noted that it is refreshing to have another option. The participants in this program are not violent offenders or a threat to the community. These people made some bad decisions and ended up at the Duffield Regional Jail that costs the county \$45 per day. Our coordinators help the participants get a job,

learn skills, obtain a GED and diplomas to become more independent and get them out of the cycle they are in. Mr. Kilgore pointed out that this program saves the county close to one million dollars per year in jail costs.

Program Coordinator Shannon McMurray introduced Whitney Hawkins who has graduated from the program. She will be telling her story and where she is today. She also introduced Leslie Stidham who will be graduating from the program soon.

Whitney Hawkins reported that she is a graduate of the S.C.O.T.T. Service Program. Ms. Hawkins went on to say that she went into the program in 2019 when sentenced to one year and seven months. She had one year remaining at the Duffield Regional Jail when she started the program. Ms. Hawkins reported that she was able to be with her kids one year earlier because of this program. She went on to say that she has been clean for five years and working in the recovery field. Ms. Hawkins noted that she was introduced to the Virginia Career Works and obtained a license in the State of Virginia. Ms. Hawkins stated that she has taught classes in the jail. She stated that it is an honor to be on the other side helping people find their way out. She now works in Pennington Gap, Virginia helping people find their way out. Ms. Hawkins went on to say that she would not be here today without this program and support received in this program.

Leslie Stidham reported that she will be graduating in February from the program. She went on to say that the S.C.O.T.T. Service Program has helped her to hold herself accountable for the poor decisions that she was making. Ms. Stidham stated that she has been able to hold a job and stay clean and sober. Ms. Stidham stated that she has her children and is able to hold a job. She went on to say that she owes it all to the S.C.O.T.T. Service Program and God.

Program Director Jessica Keith stated that she is so extremely proud of them. Those are the lives that are changing. They are productive, taxpaying citizens.

Capital improvement projects that the S.C.O.T.T. Service workers participated in throughout the county were presented. It was noted that the S.C.O.T.T. Service Program participants are closely monitored.

Justin Venable reviewed the stats for the S.C.O.T.T. Service program (Said stats attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 34 Attachment No: 41).

Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Dan Fellhauer pointed out that the county saves money even when participants in program fail because there is a shorter incarceration period. They may have an additional charge for probation when removed from the program. Their children are not taken away, and they become taxpayers.

County Administrator Freda Starnes announced that the S.C.O.T.T. Service Program received a National Association of Counties award.

Supervisor Darrel Jeter thanked the group for the dump cleanup at Winegar's Mill. Hopefully an address or name can be found. It has been cleaned up two or three times already.

Chairman Michael Brickey noted that these figures really speak for themselves. This is a great program, and he inquired about surrounding counties with programs like this.

The group replied that Russell, Wise, and Lee have a similar program.

Mr. Kilgore added that he has a meeting with Smyth County about implementing this program.

Mr. Venable noted that Sullivan County, Tennessee has inquired about the program as well.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen questioned how the group coordinates with Litter Control on a daily basis.

Mr. Venable stated that he inquires about roads that need litter picked up, reports back with the number of bags that have been picked up, and the Litter Control Officer sends that information to the Virginia Department of Transportation.

Supervisor Michele Glover inquired about using the S.C.O.T.T. Service workers at the waste sites.

Mr. Venable replied that they have painted the dumpsters and cleaned up around the sites.

Supervisor Glover inquired about them working at the Solid Waste Centers.

Mr. Venable replied that is something we can discuss.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen asked about the conviction rate vs. penalty relating to trash and litter.

Mr. Kilgore replied that he does not receive a lot of the illegal dumping cases. Those are prosecuted, but there is not a big fine or lengthy jail sentence with those cases. He went on to say that anything the Litter Control Officer brings us is prosecuted. When judges deal with meth, distribution, rapes, and robbery, they are not as bothered by trash. The sentence is light.

The Board inquired about the maximum number of participants the program can have at one time.

Mr. Fellhauer replied 30 to 40 of each gender.

Jessica Keith added that they are willing to discuss expansion.

Mr. Fellhauer pointed out that they squeeze in anyone who is eligible.

Mr. Kilgore stated that he never suggested anyone being turned away because of a number issue.

Supervisor Stefanie Addington expressed appreciation for the two participants who spoke.

Supervisor Glover stated that this is a really good program.

Mr. Venable replied this is a great program, and we will assist any way we can.

BREAK: 8:20 p.m.

RECONVENE: 8:31 p.m.

Jeff Arrington congratulated the new Board of Supervisors members. He gave an update on the VA250 Committee and financial request. He went on to say that the VA250 Program started as a federal program to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026. It was pushed down to the state level and ultimately the county level. The county has a group that is 100 percent volunteers, and our task is to build excitement. Mr. Arrington noted that a funding request to apply for a grant was made to the former Board of Supervisors. He went on to say that the group did not apply for the grant based upon the recommendation of the former Board of Supervisors, and we agreed with that recommendation. The funding that we requested was not fulfilled; however, private donations were received for some of the events held last year. Mr. Arrington noted how valuable the volunteers are working on a limited budget to highlight the natural resources and history in Scott County. Our ultimate goal is to bring awareness to our district and natural resources that is a part of our history and build up more economic numbers spent in the county. There are people who visit Scott County for those historical aspects. He went on to say that the group is working with the Daniel Boone Wilderness Trail Association. Previously, \$10,000 was requested to match a \$10,000 grant which would have made us short of our \$24,000 budget. Mr. Arrington requested the same amount, and noted that Legacy projects would go beyond 2026. There are some projects that we cannot look at seriously until we know that we have money to spend.

Tourism Director Pam Cox added that the group is working with the Daniel Boone Wilderness Trail Association. They are funding \$4,000 and is a non-profit that is able to raise funds. Delegate Kilgore made a donation, and we are working on getting funding from Eastman Credit Union. There is a series of things that we want to accomplish. There is one grant for \$5,000 that does not require a match. Another grant for \$10,000 does require a match, and we have to show that we have \$10,000. These grants open soon, but there is no need to apply if we do not have the match. Ms. Cox talked about a reenactment before the American Revolution took place that will be a two day event.

Chairman Michael Brickey pointed out that the Board needs some time to review this request.

County Administrator Freda Starnes asked if this would be for next budget year.

Pam Cox replied that it could probably go into the next budget year.

Mr. Arrington offered to provide an itemized list.

Chairman Brickey expressed appreciation for the VA250 Committee and pointed out that he saw an ad in a magazine in Richmond, Virginia that highlighted the Crooked River Lodge in Scott County.

Weber City Fire Department Chief Bruce Cross spoke about the progress at the Weber City Fire Station that includes the Firehouse Diner, Axe House, and venue that is almost complete. He went on to say that General Shale donated some block to build a fire barrier wall. There is some equipment sitting outside that needs to be inside. Three doors are needed for a drive-through bay. Mr. Cross requested help to get those purchased. The quote on the doors is \$31,993. This is something that we desperately need. Mr. Cross reported that the venue area has a stage. A green room is being built behind that with a bathroom and shower. Mr. Cross pointed out that he has experienced a lot of house fires, and Red Cross is slow to come out sometimes. Mr. Cross stated that he had to drive away watching people look at nothing left, and there are a lot of people who have no family here so the green room could be a temporary place for people who have nowhere to stay in those situations.

The Board debated funding for the Weber City Fire Department

Chairman Michael Brickey suggested hearing from the rescue squads before making any decision on Weber City Fire Department.

Chairman Michael Brickey reported that the amount set aside for EMS payroll is almost gone.

County Administrator Freda Starnes reported on a meeting with EMS, Board of Supervisors Chairman and Vice-Chairman along with the Purchasing Director Amy Vicars. The rescue squads supplied their rescue recovery amounts they received for 2022 and 2023. They also supplied payroll amounts for 2022 and 2023 that was incorporated into a spreadsheet along with the funds received from the county for payroll support. She went on to say that \$200,000 for this budget year is almost gone. There is \$4,000 remaining.

Duffield Fire & Rescue Chief Roger Carter, Nickelsville Rescue Wendel Burke, and Scott County Rescue David Gilliam addressed the Board about payroll funding.

Roger Carter stated that all three stations are manned 24/7. Last year, there were 4,429 EMS calls in Scott County. He went on to say that keeps three agencies very busy answering that many calls. The County has helped with the American Rescue Plan Act Funds since Covid due to the lack of reimbursement from insurance companies. Most is self-paid and Medicaid. The billing collection rate is about 35%. Just because there is a call does not mean there will be payment. It is denied if not deemed medically necessary. To make payroll, a certain amount of calls need to be run. Mr. Carter noted that everything was volunteer years ago. He went on to say that he reported in 1999 that Scott County would have a paid EMS and Fire Department. It will come due to the lack of volunteers. EMS, Fire Department, and Law Enforcement must be provided. People do not make a ton of money responding to EMS calls. It costs for someone to be at the station.

Supervisor Darrel Jeter inquired about the number kept at each station.

Mr. Carter replied two 24/7 365 days a year.

Wendel Burke added that Nickelsville Rescue billed \$374,000 and received \$207,000 back along with \$90,000 from the County. He went on to say that we pay our employees little to do a rough job.

County Administrator Freda Starnes gave Roger Carter, Wendel Burke, and David Gilliam a copy of a spreadsheet for them to review.

Wendel Burke stated that Nickelsville has only used the funding from the County for payroll. If we do not get that funding from the county or from insurance, we have to send our employees home. Furthermore, we do not know how much reimbursement we are getting because it varies from month to month. Mr. Burke noted that he requests funding from the county when he sees how much it is going to take to make payroll.

Chairman Michael Brickey confirmed that the funding from the county has gone for payroll only.

Mr. Carter, Mr. Burke, and Mr. Gilliam replied that is correct.

Roger Carter reported that his payroll is approximately \$11,000 per month, and he showed the Board of Supervisors the amount currently in the account for payroll.

Wendel Burke reported that he has \$1,300 for payroll, and his payroll is \$10,000. He went on to say that they do not send self-pay to collections.

David Gilliam stated that he takes care of the money received from the county, and it goes into a county account. It is used for insurance, ambulance payment, equipment and supplies. He went on to say that Bingo was a money maker before Covid, but it is less than half what is use to be. Mr. Gilliam reported that there have been some mechanical problems the past two months that was taken care of with the Bingo funds. In the past, we have paid the payroll with federal money. We never recovered from Covid. That is what put us all three where we are now.

County Administrator Freda Starnes pointed out that the funds were set aside for payroll only and not for ambulance repairs, not for bills, and not for insurance.

Mr. Gilliam clarified that it was the other funding we had and not what was received from the county.

County Administrator Starnes requested that Scott County Lifesaving Crew review the spreadsheet to see if there is anything incorrect because it shows that Scott County Lifesaving Crew received \$139,000 above payroll expenses.

Mr. Gilliam replied that Janet takes care of that.

Ms. Starnes requested that Janet review everything and let her know if she made a mistake. She requested the same from Duffield and Nickelsville.

Wendel Burke replied that there is no mistake with regard to Nickelsville.

Supervisor Darrel Jeter asked about a tax for EMS.

Roger Carter replied that a fire tax can be set.

County Attorney Sally Kegley advised that a tax can be set for both Fire and EMS.

Supervisor Darrel Jeter suggested that be considered during budget sessions because the American Rescue Plan Act funding is gone.

Wendel Burke stated that the Fire Association is going to ask for a 3.5 cent tax that should loosen up funds for EMS.

Roger Carter added that Medicare is not the top payer. He went on to say that EMS cannot make it without assistance from the county.

Supervisor Darrel Jeter asked Roger Carter if he still has trouble hauling all the jail inmates.

Mr. Carter replied no.

Chairman Brickey asked if \$125 is charged for denials.

Wendel Burke replied that Nickelsville charges \$75. The billing agency can bill if vitals are taken.

Roger Carter reported that Duffield charges \$125 to put someone back in the bed. He went on to say that Duffield has been out 600 times per year to put someone back in the bed; however, we are not a home health service.

Wendel Burke noted that Nickelsville Rescue will get a response about that because we are here asking for money from the County.

Supervisor Brickey inquired how the employees are paid that stay at the station.

Mr. Burke replied that six people made up of three groups stay with no overtime paid. He noted that Scott County Lifesaving Crew does pay overtime.

Chairman Brickey asked if there is any way all three rescue squads could figure the overtime and denials to their benefit.

Wendel Burke replied that there is not a lot of difference. Nickelsville has been short a crew because it is difficult to get people to work for what we pay.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen requested clarification that Duffield and Nickelsville complied with the guidelines set forth.

Ms. Starnes replied that they told her that is what they used the funding for.

Supervisor Skeen asked if there is still a question about Scott County.

Ms. Starnes replied yes, they seem to have extra.

Supervisor Skeen asked when funding is needed.

Mr. Burke replied today.

Supervisor Skeen suggested doing something for Duffield and Nickelsville today and wait on Scott County to get back to us.

There was discussion as to the amount needed for payroll

Danny Casteel inquired about the amount not collected.

Mr. Burke replied that \$173,000 was not collected in 2023 for Nickelsville Rescue.

Michele Glover suggested that the surplus Machinery and Tools funding being used for this.

County Administrator Freda Starnes confirmed that there is a surplus in Machinery and Tools if the Board wishes to use that.

Supervisor Chris Maness inquired about the amount in the fund.

Ms. Starnes replied \$153,000

On a motion by L. Michele Glover, duly seconded by Christopher S. Maness, this Board hereby funds \$90,000 for payroll as needed by Duffield Rescue Squad and Nickelsville Rescue Squad.

Voting aye: Darrel W. Jeter, L. Michele Glover, Eddie N. Skeen, Michael K. Brickey
Danny M. Casteel, Christopher S. Maness, and Stefanie C. Addington.

Voting nay: None.

On a motion by Stefanie C. Addington, duly seconded by L. Michele Glover, this Board hereby appropriates and transfers the following:

\$90,000 from Machinery and Tools 1000-01104-311041 to Contribution to Rescue Squads 1000-32300-405616

Voting aye: Darrel W. Jeter, L. Michele Glover, Eddie N. Skeen, Michael K. Brickey
Danny M. Casteel, Christopher S. Maness, and Stefanie C. Addington.

Voting nay: None.

There was discussion about providing funds to the Weber City Fire Department.

Supervisor Michele Glover pointed out, if one fire department is funded, the others need to be funded.

Supervisor Darrel Jeter stated that the Board has given to one and not the others in the past.

On a motion by Darrel W. Jeter, duly seconded by Eddie N. Skeen, this Board hereby funds Weber City Fire Department \$5,000 from Board Contingency to assist with the purchase of front doors at the new fire station.

Voting aye: Darrel W. Jeter, L. Michele Glover, Eddie N. Skeen, Michael K. Brickey
Danny M. Casteel, Christopher S. Maness, and Stefanie C. Addington.

Voting nay: None.

On a motion by Christopher S. Maness, duly seconded by L. Michele Glover, this Board hereby approves the budget calendar for FY 2024-25 (Said calendar attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 34 Attachment No: 38).

Voting aye: Darrel W. Jeter, L. Michele Glover, Eddie N. Skeen, Michael K. Brickey
Danny M. Casteel, Christopher S. Maness, and Stefanie C. Addington.

Voting nay: None.

Chairman Michael K. Brickey appointed Supervisors Stefanie C. Addington and Eddie N. Skeen to the Budget Committee.

On a motion by L. Michele Glover, duly seconded by Darrel W. Jeter, this Board hereby approves the E. Luke Greene Co. bid in the amount of \$117,777.00 for the Scott County Annex & Jail Building Demolition Project with ARPA funding.

Voting aye: Darrel W. Jeter, L. Michele Glover, Eddie N. Skeen, Michael K. Brickey
Danny M. Casteel, Christopher S. Maness, and Stefanie C. Addington.

Voting nay: None.

Commissioner of the Revenue Tammy Tiller requested funding in the amount of \$5,100 for valuation services.

On a motion by Darrel W. Jeter, duly seconded by Christopher S. Maness, this Board hereby funds \$5,100 from Board Contingency for Keystone contract valuation services during the 2024 calendar year for the office of the Commissioner of the Revenue.

Voting aye: Darrel W. Jeter, L. Michele Glover, Eddie N. Skeen, Michael K. Brickey
Danny M. Casteel, Christopher S. Maness, and Stefanie C. Addington.

Voting nay: None.

Chairman Michael K. Brickey appointed L. Michele Glover and Danny M. Casteel to the Solid Waste Committee.

On a motion by L. Michele Glover, duly seconded by Darrel W. Jeter, this Board hereby approves the following:

RESOLUTION NO: 2024 – 01

**RESOLUTION OF THE SCOTT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OPPOSING A REQUESTED RATE INCREASE BY APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY (AEP)**

WHEREAS, Appalachian Power Company, a subsidiary of American Electric Power, hereinafter referred to as “AEP,” has filed a request with the State Corporation Commission seeking an increase in its rates that would have significant financial impacts on the citizens in Scott County; and

WHEREAS, this substantial increase is being requested during difficult economic times with our local economy, for our county, our citizens, and surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Scott County as ratepayers should not be adversely impacted because of the utility’s desire to increase profits or recover additional revenues; and

WHEREAS, this substantial increase will have a serious financial impact on Scott County citizens and cause additional financial strain when times are difficult with inflation and cost of living increases; and

WHEREAS, the proposed rate increase will be detrimental to our citizens who are already struggling to pay bills, pay for groceries, gas, and necessities, and will truly cause lasting dire and negative consequences to our Scott County citizens and families; and

WHEREAS, the proposed rate increase is simply not the right action to take when there is no option on which power company to use for electricity and our citizens have already struggled and sacrificed immensely while the utility wishes to increase revenue.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Scott County Board of Supervisors opposes the large rate increase requested by AEP, and files this Resolution with the State Corporation Commission to demonstrate its opposition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be submitted to the County’s legislative delegation.

ADOPTED this the 6th day of February 2024.

Voting aye: Darrel W. Jeter, L. Michele Glover, Eddie N. Skeen, Michael K. Brickey
Danny M. Casteel, Christopher S. Maness, and Stefanie C. Addington.

Voting nay: None.

Amy Vicars presented bookkeeping.

On a motion by Stefanie C. Addington, duly seconded by Christopher S. Maness, this Board hereby appropriates the following:

\$1,500.00 to 1000-11100-405810 Supervisors Dues and Subscriptions

Voting aye: Darrel W. Jeter, L. Michele Glover, Eddie N. Skeen, Michael K. Brickey
Danny M. Casteel, Christopher S. Maness, and Stefanie C. Addington.

Voting nay: None.

On a motion by Stefanie C. Addington, duly seconded by Christopher S. Maness, this Board hereby appropriates the following:

\$650.00 to 1000-13100-403148 Electoral Board – Election Officials and \$1,302.14 to 1000-13100-403510

Printing of Ballots.

Voting aye: Darrel W. Jeter, L. Michele Glover, Eddie N. Skeen, Michael K. Brickey
Danny M. Casteel, Christopher S. Maness, and Stefanie C. Addington.

Voting nay: None.

Tina Seay presented the applications for appointment.

Mountain Empire Community College Advisory Board

Stefanie Addington nominated Rodney Baker
Christopher S. Maness second the nomination

On a motion by Darrel W. Jeter, duly seconded by Stefanie C. Addington, this Board hereby ceases nominations and, by acclamation, appoints Rodney Baker to serve a four-year term on the Mountain Empire Community College Advisory Board to expire June 30, 2027.

Voting aye: Darrel W. Jeter, L. Michele Glover, Eddie N. Skeen, Michael K. Brickey
Danny M. Casteel, Christopher S. Maness, and Stefanie C. Addington.

Voting nay: None.

Courthouse Facilities Committee

Stefanie C. Addington nominated Lisa McCarty

On a motion by Darrel W. Jeter, duly seconded by Christopher S. Maness, this Board hereby ceases nominations and, by acclamation, appoints Lisa McCarty to serve a one year term on the Courthouse Facilities Committee to expire March 1, 2025.

Voting aye: Darrel W. Jeter, L. Michele Glover, Eddie N. Skeen, Michael K. Brickey
Danny M. Casteel, Christopher S. Maness, and Stefanie C. Addington.

Voting nay: None.

Crooked Road Board

Darrel W. Jeter nominated John Kilgore
Stefanie C. Addington seconded the nomination

On a motion by Stefanie C. Addington, duly seconded by Darrel W. Jeter, this Board hereby ceases nominations and, by acclamation, appoints John Kilgore to serve a one year term on the Crooked Road Board to expire March 1, 2025.

Voting aye: Darrel W. Jeter, L. Michele Glover, Eddie N. Skeen, Michael K. Brickey
Danny M. Casteel, Christopher S. Maness, and Stefanie C. Addington.

Voting nay: None.

Recreation Advisory Board (District Two)

L. Michele Glover nominated Ray Leonard

On a motion by Christopher S. Maness, duly seconded by Darrel W. Jeter, this Board hereby ceases nominations and, by acclamation, appoints Ray Leonard to serve a three-year term on the Recreation Advisory Board for district two.

Voting aye: Darrel W. Jeter, L. Michele Glover, Eddie N. Skeen, Michael K. Brickey
Danny M. Casteel, Christopher S. Maness, and Stefanie C. Addington.

Voting nay: None.

Recreation Advisory Board (District Four)

Stefanie C. Addington nominated Barry Wolfe

On a motion by L. Michele Glover, duly seconded by Christopher S. Maness, this Board hereby ceases nominations and, by acclamation, appoints Barry Wolfe to serve a three-year term on the Recreation Advisory Board for district four.

Voting aye: Darrel W. Jeter, L. Michele Glover, Eddie N. Skeen, Michael K. Brickey
Danny M. Casteel, Christopher S. Maness, and Stefanie C. Addington.

Voting nay: None.

Recreation Advisory Board (At-Large)

Darrel W. Jeter nominated Dexter Harmon

On a motion by Stefanie C. Addington, duly seconded by Danny M. Casteel, this Board hereby ceases nominations and, by acclamation, appoints Dexter Harmon to the Recreation Advisory Board at-large position.

Voting aye: Darrel W. Jeter, L. Michele Glover, Eddie N. Skeen, Michael K. Brickey
Danny M. Casteel, Christopher S. Maness, and Stefanie C. Addington.

Voting nay: None.

Southwest Health Authority

L. Michele Glover nominated Marsha Helton

On a motion by Darrel W. Jeter, duly seconded by Christopher S. Maness, this Board hereby ceases nominations and, by acclamation, appoints Marsha Helton to serve a four-year term on the Southwest Health Authority.

Voting aye: Darrel W. Jeter, L. Michele Glover, Eddie N. Skeen, Michael K. Brickey
Danny M. Casteel, Christopher S. Maness, and Stefanie C. Addington.

Voting nay: None.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen inquired about more than two members of the Board of Supervisors attending town hall meetings.

County Attorney Sally Kegley advised not more than two and preferably not more than one.

County Administrator Freda Starnes presented the claims and related reports (Said reports being attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 34 Attachment No: 42).

On a motion by Stefanie C. Addington, duly seconded by Christopher S. Maness, this Board hereby orders that:

(a) Social Services Fund be allowed the sum of \$414,272.34 for voucher numbers 50013710-50013795, 50013947-50013951, 50014046-50014055, 50014096-50014100, 50014140-50014150, 50014161-50014167, Wire 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 114, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113.

(b) General Fund be allowed the sum of \$1,317,967.74 for voucher numbers 50013797-50013798, 50013800-5001802, 50013804-50013833, 50013835-50013842, 50013844-5001384-50013860, 50013862-50013869, 50013952-50013960, 50013962-50014019, 50014021-50014031, 50014056-50014095, 50014110-50014111, 50014113-50014122, 50014124-50014139, 50014151, 50014187-50014204 and wire 121, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127.

(c) Health Insurance Reimbursement Fund be allowed the sum of \$232,466.00 for voucher number 50014112.

(d) Courthouse Security be allowed the sum of \$4,317.72 for voucher numbers 50013803 and 50013860 and wire 121 and 123.

- (e) Motor Vehicle Violation Fines be allowed the sum of \$39.95 for voucher number 50013799.
- (f) Law Library Fund be allowed the sum of \$398.62 for voucher number 50013843 and 50013848.
- (g) Wireless Grant – 911 be allowed the sum of \$2,234.94 for voucher number 50014020 and wire 121 and 123.
- (h) Regional Improvements Fund be allowed the sum of \$23,111.53 for voucher number 50014205.
- (i) Weapons Permit Fund be allowed the sum of \$1,069.13 for wire 121, 123, and 127.
- (j) CWAO Forfeiture Asset Fund be allowed the sum of \$93.81 for voucher numbers 50014190.
- (k) CPMT be allowed the sum of \$86,507.35 for voucher numbers 50014168-50014186.
- (l) Coal Road Tax Fund be allowed the sum of \$30.36 for voucher number 50013961.
- (m) American Rescue Plan Act Fund be allowed the sum of \$32,334.35 for voucher numbers 50013834 and 50013861.
- (n) Local Assit Tribal Consisten. fund be allowed the sum of \$38,434.85 for voucher number 50014123.
- (o) CWOA Collection Fund be allowed the sum of \$600.00 for voucher number 50013821.

Voting aye: Darrel W. Jeter, L. Michele Glover, Eddie N. Skeen, Michael K. Brickey, Danny M. Casteel, Christopher S. Maness, and Stefanie C. Addington.

Voting nay: None.

On a motion by Darrel W. Jeter, duly by L. Michele Glover, this Board hereby transfers the following:

Victim/Witness Grant #22157

\$1,025.56 from 22205-406001 - Office Supplies to 22205-401100 Salaries

\$597.07 from 22205-405540 - Training/Conference to 22205-401100 Salaries

The transfer in the amount of \$1,622.63 will be an increase to the Assistant Director’s salary moving forward until the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2024.

Voting aye: Darrel W. Jeter, L. Michele Glover, Eddie N. Skeen, Michael K. Brickey, Danny M. Casteel, Christopher S. Maness, and Stefanie C. Addington.

Voting nay: None.

County Administrator Freda Starnes read a summary from the Legislative trip to Richmond (Said summary attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 34 Attachment No: 44).

Recreation Director Derrick France gave an update (Said update being attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 34 Attachment No: 43).

It was the consensus of the Board to hold a Tourism Workshop on August 13, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at Natural Tunnel State Park.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen inquired about the Road Safety Survey and the two week litter control plan.

Ms. Starnes replied that Bill Dingus is working on the Road Safety Survey. He is waiting to hear back from the postmaster. She went on to say that she would see what she can do with the litter control plan.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen stated that it seems to be a communication issue with the Virginia Department of Transportation work orders. He went on to say that he would like to keep a tracking system.

Supervisor Stefanie Addington asked who Supervisor Skeen proposes to do this.

Supervisor Skeen replied whoever the Board chooses to do it. He went on to say that Russell County has an on-line system to submit work orders.

Supervisor Maness pointed out that is additional tracking to what the Virginia Department of Transportation is doing.

Supervisor Skeen replied it is open for discussion. There is a breakdown in communication.

Supervisor Casteel stated that it sounds like a winner to him, and he does not have a problem with it.

Supervisor Addington requested clarification. She asked if this tracking system is something the county will have to purchase.

Supervisor Skeen replied no. It could be a spreadsheet.

Supervisor Addington asked who is going to pull that report.

Supervisor Skeen replied whoever is assigned to take the calls.

Supervisor Addington pointed out that is over and beyond someone's responsibility.

Supervisor Danny Casteel suggested that the receptionist do that.

Supervisor Chris Maness stated that he could put something together for Supervisor Eddie Skeen to be the point of contact.

Supervisor Stefanie Addington stated that she did not want to put that off on county staff because that is micromanaging; furthermore, she asked if Supervisor Skeen was going to call the Virginia Department of Transportation and complain.

Supervisor Maness was not in favor of calling Virginia Department of Transportation because there is not much the Board of Supervisors can do.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen was asked if he is willing to take this tracking system on and he replied yes.

Supervisor Addington noted that it is not someone's responsibility to track something the county has no control over.

Supervisor Danny Casteel questioned how to keep up with it if no one is tracking it.

Supervisors Stefanie Addington and Darrel Jeter replied the Virginia Department of Transportation does not work for us.

Supervisor Danny Casteel went on to say that the Virginia Department of Transportation doesn't work for the taxpaying citizens.

Supervisor Addington pointed out that the Board of Supervisors cannot change the Code of Virginia because that is how it is written, and the Virginia Department of Transportation has a job responsibility.

Supervisor Casteel questioned how to know that the Virginia Department of Transportation did their job or didn't do their job.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen stated that he received a call from a citizen who has an open work order since 2022.

Stefanie Addington replied that it could be an environmental issue.

Supervisor Skeen pointed out that the Virginia Department of Transportation should be able to communicate that back.

There was discussion about setting up a tracking system outside the county office.

Supervisor Darrel Jeter stated that there is no need to be calling the Virginia Department of Transportation all the time.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen suggested doing a batch at a time.

Supervisor Chris Maness stated that the Pattonville office has reached out to him, and they want to have a relationship so that we can go out and show them things.

Supervisor Michele Glover stated that the Ft. Blackmore shop is the same.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen mentioned that John Kilgore says the water pressure on the second floor of the Crooked Road Building is sufficient, but the Public Service Authority say that there is a variation.

Supervisor Darrel Jeter pointed out that Mike Dishman does not want to keep the water level up in the tank.

Supervisor Skeen added that they don't want mud in their system and that occurs when the creek level is down. Supervisor Skeen noted that it is a health issue plus a production issue according to Mike Dishman.

Supervisor Danny Casteel suggested getting the water level up to obtain pressure.

Supervisor Skeen stated that is something that needs to be done because we have an empty building.

Supervisor Maness noted that is the responsibility of the Public Service Authority.

County Attorney Sally Kegley pointed out that it is an Economic Development Authority building.

Supervisor Maness stated that the Economic Development Authority would have to bring up the complaint.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen addressed a matter that was brought up during his trip to Richmond. He went on to say that Scott County has some of the oldest school buildings in the State of Virginia. He suggested that the county develop a plan regarding student count and cost of maintenance.

Supervisor Darrel Jeter asked if Supervisor Skeen was referring to school consolidation.

Supervisor Skeen replied that it was mentioned in Richmond that we may not have a choice in ten years; therefore, we need to get ready now.

Supervisor Skeen requested that the matter be a topic for discussion at the March meeting.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen reported that he had eleven phone calls this past month. He went on to say Spearhead Trails will be attending the workshop. At the LENOWISCO meeting last night, it was mentioned that a grant in the amount of \$60,000 for Appalachian Community Action and Development Agency was received. Supervisor Skeen noted that the Dungannon Phase II Water Project was rejected because Phase I is not finished. Supervisor Skeen pointed out that he is on the VCC Committee and will be working on cell towers and broadband. He mentioned rural road long range planning as well. Supervisor Skeen noted that a community meeting will be held at Keith Memorial Park February 29th at 6:00 p.m. and at the Methodist Church in the Midway Community in March. An Agritourism meeting is scheduled on February 20, 2024 at 5:30.

County Administrator Freda Starnes pointed out that the county has the grant for Appalachian Community Action and Development Agency. LENOWISCO helps us with the grant oversight.

Supervisor Darrel Jeter mentioned that it does not appear that anyone oversees the subdivision ordinance. There has recently been a trailer park developed, and that would not have happened if the Building/Zoning Official was overseeing that.

County Attorney Sally Kegley pointed out that a trailer park would be a zoning issue not subdivision.

After discussion among the Board, County Administrator Freda Starnes stated that she would look into that.

County Administrator Freda Starnes reported that Supervisor Skeen has requested a website addition to include a two week work plan for litter that is being picked up. Ms. Starnes stated that is something that she can talk with the Litter Control Officer about, but she needs guidance from the full Board if she makes changes.

Supervisor Stefanie Addington stated this is micromanaging the county office once again. The task is more important than the notification. She went on to say that it is not important to notify the public where trash is being picked up in random places, she inquired about the expectations of the request.

Supervisors Skeen and Casteel replied that it is a safety issue.

Supervisor Stefanie Addington questioned how many people would check the website to see when trash is being picked up.

Supervisor Skeen asked if S.C.O.T.T. Service needs to be called.

County Administrator Freda Starnes stated that Litter Control needs to be called. The Litter Control Officer contacts S.C.O.T.T. Service. They are already working on the big dump at Winegar's Mill.

Supervisor Addington clarified that she is not suggesting that anyone call S.C.O.T.T. Service. The Litter Control Officer is great at what he does, and he works great with S.C.O.T.T. Service. She went on to say that her vote is no on the two week work plan for litter. She asked if anyone is really going to look at that.

Supervisor Casteel replied that he did not know but other people might.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen suggested that a scout should go out and see where trash needs to be picked up. He went on to say that the Board should not have to tell Litter Control to go out.

Supervisor Addington disagreed with it.

Supervisor Skeen mentioned that trash was one of Supervisor Addington’s biggest concerns.

Supervisor Addington replied that the situation and the problem dictates her response.

Supervisor Casteel stated that he does not know why the trash centers are not open on Sunday.

Supervisors Addington and Glover pointed out that trash cannot be taken to the Blountville Landfill because it is closed on Sunday.

After much discussion the two week work plan for litter on the website was deferred to the Solid Waste Committee.

Chairman Michael K. Brickey adjourned the meeting until March 5, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room located on the first floor of the Community Services Building.

CHAIRMAN

CLERK