

SCOTT
VIRGINIA

At a meeting of the Scott County Board of Supervisors begun and held in the Community Room located on the first floor of the Community Services Building in Gate City, Virginia on Tuesday the 5th day of March, 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 (Via Zoom)
Stefanie C. Addington
- ABSENT:

None.

Chairman Michael K. Brickey called the meeting to order.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Darrel W. Jeter, duly seconded by Stefanie C. Addington, this Board hereby agrees that the Chair’s decision to approve Supervisor Maness’ request to participate from a remote location due to a personal matter was in conformity with the Board’s policy governing remote participation in board meetings. This is Supervisor Maness’ first remote meeting and he joins us from a hotel in Wilmington, NC, where his work commitments required him to be tonight.

- 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 Darrel W. Jeter, this Board hereby amends the agenda by adding 12b - joint session with the School Board for additional discussion on the future of Scott County schools.

- 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 Eddie N. Skeen, duly seconded by L. Michele Glover, this Board hereby amends the agenda by adding new business 7i – Litter Control.

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 seconded by L. Michele Glover, this Board hereby amends the agenda by adding items 12b – Joint session regarding the future of Scott County schools and 7i - Litter Control.

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 February 6, 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 rural roads, dirt roads, and Snowflake Road. She went on to say that some areas of Snowflake Road are good, and some are not good. She inquired about the Virginia Department of Transportation having a training program for their employees. Ms. Tyus added that more funding is needed, and she addressed moving funding for Primary Roads to Secondary Roads. She addressed matching funds as a means to pave more roads, and she requested that Snowflake Road remain on the Six Year Plan.

Mr. Gary Baker thanked Governor Youngkin for answering his letter and sending Virginia Department of Transportation representatives to Boozy Creek. In addition, he thanked Supervisor Michele Glover for visiting Boozy Creek. Mr. Baker went on to say that Tennessee and West Virginia operate under different EPA laws than Virginia. He expressed appreciation to the Board for helping Scott County. Mr. Baker pointed out that he wants the dumpsters open 24/7.

Hearing no further comments, Chairman Brickey closed Citizen Expression Period.

Planning District One Sandy O'Dell gave a presentation on a new program that would provide three recovery housing facilities. The first facility would be located in Scott County due to the job market for clean and sober males. She requested approval to apply for funding for Phase I recovery housing, and Scott County funding \$19,655 from the State opioid distribution over five years. (Said presentation being attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 34 Attachment No: 47).

On a motion by Stefanie C. Addington, duly seconded by Christopher S. Maness, this Board hereby approves the request from Planning District One Behavioral Health to apply for funding for Phase I recovery housing to be located in Scott County and Scott County funding \$19,655 over five years from the State opioid distribution.

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

Department of Social Services Director Lana Mullins requested support for a \$10,000 opioid grant for the Scott County Department of Social Services.

On a motion by Michael K. Brickey, duly seconded Christopher S. Maness this Board hereby supports the request for a \$10,000 opioid grant for the Scott County Department of Social Services.

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.

David Gilliam with Scott County Life Saving Crew stated that he is representing the office manager who does payroll. He presented the Scott County Life Saving Crew revenue recovery from billing and payroll account. Mr. Gilliam pointed out that payroll is approximately \$10,000 every two weeks. It has been difficult to find people to work; therefore, overtime is paid to cover the workload (Said account information being attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 34 Attachment No: 48).

County Administrator Freda Starnes reported that she met with Mr. Gilliam and the Office Manger Janet Blankenbecler. The spreadsheet they submitted was correct with the exception of adding in what the billing agency was charging. Ms. Starnes stated that Mr. Gilliam explained that they could not make it without the payroll funds.

Mr. Gilliam requested \$50,000 from the Board which was given to Duffield and Nickelsville.

Supervisor Glover pointed out that it was \$45,000 not \$50,000.

On a motion by Stefanie C. Addington, duly seconded by Darrel W. Jeter, this Board hereby appropriates and transfers the following:

Scott County Life Saving Crew

\$45,000.00 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.

On a motion by L. Michele Glover, duly seconded by Eddie N. Skeen, this Board hereby approves board room speaker upgrades and funds \$1,617.16 from Board Contingency for those upgrades.

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.

Renda Keith and Becky Devine with the Nickelsville Planning Commission requested funding to assist with events for the Nickelsville area.

On a motion by Eddie N. Skeen, duly seconded by Danny M. Casteel, this Board hereby funds the Nickelsville Planning Commission \$1,000 from Board Contingency for events.

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 reported that a public hearing to add roads to the Six Year Plan is held in May if funding is available. In the past, each member of the Board of Supervisors submitted a road for consideration and those were ranked by each board member in order one to seven. Those scores were put into a spreadsheet and averaged for final ranking. All roads that were selected during that process have been added. There is one road from district two with the lowest score during ranking that has not been put on the plan. Ms. Starnes noted roads that people have reached out to her about that include Gillenwater Chapel Road in District Three, New Hurland Church Lane in District Two, Cox Chapel Road in District Five, and Ford Branch Road in District Six. Ms. Starnes noted that she has not received a draft of the Six Year Plan from the Virginia Department of Transportation. Virginia Department of Transportation will take a look at the roads the Board of Supervisors are interested in and give an estimate.

Supervisor Danny Casteel stated that he would like to add Cox Chapel Road.

Ms. Starnes replied that she would submit that road to the Virginia Department of Transportation to calculate.

Supervisor Casteel stated he has another road with twelve homes that needs to be taken into the system.

Ms. Starnes replied that is considered rural rustic. There is certain criteria and funding for a road to be taken into the state system. She requested that each member of the Board of Supervisors let her know by April the road they want considered for the Six Year Plan. She pointed out that Bright Hollow Lane in District Two scored the lowest last time, and she requested that Supervisor Michele Glover check on that road.

Supervisor Casteel stated that taxes should be dropped for those living on roads that are not in the system since they do not receive the full benefit of their tax dollars. He went on to say that it is not fair, and he would vote to lower their taxes.

Supervisor Addington replied that it is not her decision to make.

County Administrator Freda Starnes pointed out that their property assessment value should reflect that.

On a motion by Eddie N. Skeen, duly seconded by Christopher S. Maness, this Board hereby approves a Memorandum of Agreement with the Southwest Regional Recreation Authority and authorizes the County Administrator to sign the agreement (Said MOA attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 34 Attachment No: 46).

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 ratifies a letter of support for WiseLink Coalfield Transformation Project (Said letter of support being attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 34 Attachment No: 45).

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 requested clarification on reporting the need for roadside litter pick-up.

Public Works Director Bill Dingus explained the process for roadside litter pick-up. The Litter Control Office has two avenues. With the Assign-a-Highway Program, those placed on probation are assigned a road near their home, they report back to the Litter Control Officer verifying the number of bags, and the Litter Control Officer reports that to the Virginia Department of Transportation for pick-up. S.C.O.T.T. Service is another avenue. They report back to the Litter Control Officer, and the Litter Control Officer contacts the Virginia Department of Transportation to pick those bags up. Any other litter pick-up is not handled through the county. It is through the jail or prisons. Mr. Dingus reported that he does not know how they report to the Virginia Department of Transportation. Bill Dingus deferred questions regarding the S.C.O.T.T. Service Program to the Commonwealth's Attorney since they are not under the County Administrator's control or oversight. Litter pick-up is one service they provide along with mowing, maintenance, and custodial work just to name a few.

Supervisor Skeen stated that he has concern for the safety of those picking up trash. The VA Star has offered to place their schedule in the paper to make people aware. He inquired why a schedule cannot be provided.

Mr. Dingus deferred that question to S.C.O.T.T. Service.

Supervisor Skeen questioned how often Mr. Dingus goes out to see what needs to be done outside the fence at the convenience sites.

Mr. Dingus replied that there is someone at each site daily, and he goes out once per month. Trash outside the sites is due to trash being brought to the centers that is not in bags. The majority of the sites are open 24/7 Monday through Saturday. Twenty-four hours per week is budgeted for an attendant. There will be gaps.

Supervisor Skeen stated that he saw eight to ten tires outside the fence at Nickelsville.

Mr. Dingus replied that he was not aware of that.

Supervisor Skeen inquired about the Virginia Department of Transportation paying deputies on their off-days to take prisoners out to pick up trash.

Supervisor Michele Glover added that there is a contract for the Virginia Department of Transportation to pay overtime to a deputy to take prisoners out to pick up trash.

County Administrator Freda Starnes replied that there was one deputy who did that before S.C.O.T.T. Service was developed, but the deputy no longer wanted to do that. That is something we can find out about.

Mr. Dingus mentioned a Beautify Virginia Program whereby a business can go through the Virginia Department of Transportation to hire a contractor to pick up litter.

Supervisor Skeen pointed out a German Shepherd dog at the Antioch site.

Mr. Dingus replied that he is aware of that. The Animal Control Officer is going to pick up the dog if found on the property; however, the county does not have a run-at-large ordinance preventing a citation.

Mr. Skeen inquired about the road surveys.

Mr. Dingus presented the surveys returned to Mr. Skeen.

Mr. Skeen stated that he has talked with several school bus drivers who feel there are unsafe roads in Scott County.

Supervisor Michele Glover requested that the Litter Control Officer check Fleming Road in Carters Valley.

There was discussion about the cameras being beneficial.

County Administrator Freda Starnes presented bookkeeping.

On a motion by Darrel W. Jeter, duly seconded by Stefanie C. Addington, this Board hereby appropriates the following:

\$55,377.75 to 1000-94000-408104-000-0000-0000-08026 – Capital Projects – Communications Equipment Replacement

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 seconded by Stefanie C. Addington, this Board hereby appropriates:

\$1,178.40 to 1000-43200-403302 General Properties – Repair/Maintenance General Property.

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 applications for appointment.

Appointment – Community Policy Management Team

Stefanie C. Addington nominated Jessica Keith
L. Michele Glover – Seconded

On a motion by Stefanie C. Addington, duly seconded by Christopher S. Maness, this Board hereby ceases nominations and, by acclamation, appoints Jessica Keith to serve a four-year term on the Community Policy Management Team.

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.

Appointment – Planning Commission

Stefanie C. Addington nominated Jeff Seay

On a motion by Darrel W. Jeter, duly seconded by Stefanie C. Addington, this Board hereby ceases nominations and, by acclamation, appoints Jeff Seay to serve a four-year term on the Planning Commission.

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.

Appointment – Planning Commission

Michael K. Brickey nominated Scott Tipton
Danny M. Casteel seconded

On a motion by Darrel W. Jeter, duly seconded by Stefanie C. Addington, this Board hereby ceases nominations and, by acclamation, appoints Scott Tipton to serve a four-year term on the Planning Commission.

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.

Appointment – Public Service Authority

Michael K. Brickey nominated Edgar Hood
Christopher S. Maness seconded

On a motion by Christopher S. Maness, duly seconded by Eddie N. Skeen, this Board hereby ceases nominations and, by acclamation, appoints Edgar Hood to serve a three-year term on the Public Service 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.

Appointment – Public Service Authority

Eddie N. Skeen nominated Marshall Tipton
Stefanie C. Addington Seconded

On a motion by Stefanie C. Addington, duly seconded by L. Michele Glover, this Board hereby ceases nominations and, by acclamation, appoints Marshall Tipton to serve a three-year term on the Public Service 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.

Eddie Skeen inquired about unsolicited proposals.

County Attorney Sally Kegley replied that the county does not entertain unsolicited proposals. The county procures for services and goods that are needed. That decision is based on the budget and county needs. Request for proposals are sent out or quotes are obtained if it is not a big ticket item.

Supervisor Skeen questioned if that is why a recent proposal was not accepted.

The County Attorney replied yes.

County Administrator Freda Starnes gave an update on the legislative meetings in Richmond.

The County Administrator presented the claims and related reports (Said reports being attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 34 Attachment No: 49).

CLAIMS Jeter/Addington

County Administrator Starnes gave an update on some work that is being done through the Lonesome Pine Regional Industrial Facilities Board that involves Lee, Scott, Wise, and Dickenson Counties and the City of Norton. The first is Project Thoroughbred. An announcement was made in September that will reclaim a coal loading facility and turn it into a grain processing, storage, and distribution terminal. The grains will be used in the craft beverage market, and this project is located in Norton. In addition, she reported on Project Intersection that is a 200 acre site located at the intersection of U.S. Highway 23 and 58. The EarthLink building will be complete in April and will employ 285 people.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen pointed out a meeting in Richmond with Davenport and Company. Davenport and Company initiated discussion about the Scott County school system and costs to maintain the schools. He went on to say that the Board needs to get the school system involved to discuss a plan for the next five to ten years regarding our schools and the declining student count. He pointed out that the cost per student in Scott County is \$18,000 as compared to \$10,000 per student across the State. Scott County has twice the cost per student, and that is probably due to maintenance.

Supervisor Chris Maness stated that he would like to invite the Scott County School Board to a joint meeting.

Chairman Brickey pointed out that he brought this up four years ago. He attended School Board meetings and met with the Superintendent of Schools. Chairman Brickey noted that Federal money only pays seven to eight percent. Scott County taxpayers pay more than that. Most of the funds come from the State.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen suggested that there needs to be discussion and a plan as to maintenance and the student count for the next five to ten years.

Supervisor Darrel Jeter pointed out the Performance Contract that was done about ten years ago and saved a lot of money with school maintenance.

Supervisor Danny Casteel stated that he met with the Superintendent of Schools, and he supplied the student count from Tennessee. Supervisor Casteel stated that there are 3,273 students in Scott County schools and 403 are from Tennessee. Weber City has 106 from Tennessee and a total of 339 students. Gate City has 118 from Tennessee and a total of 588 students. Yuma has 61 from Tennessee and a total of 176 students.

Supervisor Brickey noted that there are over 50 budgets that are the responsibility of the Board of Supervisors, and twenty-five percent goes to the school system. He went on to say that he would like for the school system to show why it is good to let kids come from Tennessee tuition free.

Supervisor Chris Maness pointed out that it would be advantageous for the School Board and Board of Supervisors to meeting and start a relationship. He went on to say that we cannot move forward if the School Board and Board of Supervisors do not get along.

On a motion by Christopher S. Maness, duly seconded by L. Michele Glover, this Board hereby directs that a formal request be sent to the School Board for a joint meeting to discuss the future of Scott County Schools.

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 spoke about an April work session with the Virginia Department of Transportation and State representatives. He went on to say that he received 19 phone calls about water, roads, and roadside litter. Supervisor Skeen pointed out that residents who have not been contacted by the Virginia Department of Transportation within two weeks of submitting a work order may contact him. He pointed out that the delay could be a result of materials that are needed or acquiring the necessary permits. Supervisor Skeen noted that he met with LENOWISCO Director Duane Miller to discuss rural roads and strategies to increase funding along with cell phone dead zones. He discussed a recent Nickelsville water meeting he attended along with the County Administrator and noted a water meeting to be held at the Midway Methodist Church in March. He announced that the Appalachian Community Action and Development Agency is providing free tax prep to Scott County residents with an income less than \$64,000. Supervisor Skeen reported that he attended a Gate City Frontier meeting. Tourism and economic projects were discussed. An annual Jeep Rally is being planned for Memorial Day weekend. Supervisor Skeen mentioned a meeting that he attended for Agri-Tourism and Farm show at Meadowview to be held March 16th and 17th. An Agri-Tourism map is being developed. Also, he mentioned a visit to Appalachian Harvest in Duffield. They buy from local farmers, sell to supermarkets, and supply regional food banks. Supervisor Skeen stated that he would be participating in the Horizons Leadership Program sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. He noted that a Gold Star mother Jeanette Poston is interested in naming a bridge in Snowflake after her son.

Chairman Michael K. Brickey adjourned the meeting until April 2, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

CLERK