

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 Wednesday, the 2nd day of October, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

- PRESENT:

Darrel W. Jeter
L. Michele Glover
Eddie N. Skeen
Michael K. Brickey – Chairman
Danny M. Casteel (Arrived at 9:03)
Christopher S. Maness – Vice-Chairman
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.

Supervisor Danny Casteel arrived.

On a motion by Christopher S. Maness, duly seconded by L. Michele Glover, this Board hereby amends the agenda by adding state of the county disaster situation item.

- 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 Darrel W. Jeter, this Board hereby approves the June 13, 2024 and September 4, 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.

Terry Cox signed up to speak but was not in attendance.

Shirley Taylor spoke on behalf of Peggy Tyus who was unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Taylor spoke about the messy condition of Snowflake Road. She requested that Snowflake Road remain on the Six Year Plan.

Mr. Gary Baker addressed the Board regarding a citizen who contacted him about Grover Cleveland Road being in terrible shape and needing pavement. He went on to say that the Virginia Department of Transportation receives funding through gas tax, the sales and use tax, and motor vehicle sales and use tax. Mr. Baker stated that he would like to see the Virginia Department of Transportation get all the gas tax if they are not already. Furthermore, he would like to see the Virginia Department of Transportation back the way it used to be. He added that Governor Lee changed things in Tennessee for road improvements. Mr. Baker reminded the Board that he would like to see land use for the farmers. He asked if the Board of Supervisors has a plan in place for illegals coming to Scott County. Mr. Baker pointed out that the nearest hotels for linemen who have come to Scott County to assist with power outages are in Knoxville.

Mr. William Roger Dockery of Dungannon stated that he was unable to meet with the Board of Equalization due to an illness that caused him to be in the hospital. He went on to say he could not get an appointment with the Equalization Board when he was released from the hospital because it was too late. Mr. Dockery stated that he discussed this issue with Danny Mann, and he agreed that taxes on mountain property should not be more than \$800 per acre. Mr. Dockery stated that his assessment was not fair, and he would have made an appointment with the Equalization Board, but he was unable due his illness. He stated that his property was the only one that increased in that area. Mr. Dockery pointed out that there is no way the assessors went to this property because the road ends, and they would have had to walk there.

Chairman Brickey inquired about Mr. Dockery speaking with the Commissioner of the Revenue about this.

Mr. Dockery replied that he did speak to someone in the office of the Commissioner of the Revenue and was told the only thing that he could do is file a petition and bring it before the Board. Mr. Dockery presented his assessment to the Board.

Chairman Brickey replied that the Equalization Board may have done something, but he understands why Mr. Dockery could not be there. He went on to say that the Board cannot do anything until they meet with the Commissioner of the Revenue.

County Attorney Sally Kegley volunteered to walk Mr. Dockery to the office of the Commissioner of the Revenue.

Mr. Dockery thanked the Board for their time. He went on to say that things could be worse from the hurricane.

Patty Prevatte spoke about her landline during power outages only having eight to ten hours charge. Ms. Prevatte went on to say that she lives alone and has no phone service through Scott County Telephone Coop once there is no charge during power outages.

Supervisor Michael Brickey stated that he would speak with Scott County Telephone Coop representatives.

An unidentified woman stated that there was no phone service or cell service, there are elderly people in the area, and we are lucky that there was no emergency. She went on to say that we are blessed and thankful for the crews. The battery for the phones last eight to ten hours, and we were without electricity for four days.

Supervisor Brickey stated that the matter would be checked out.

Scott Jerrell introduced the new VEC Family Consumer Needs Employee Brandy Petty.

Ms. Petty talked about her experience with other organizations and looking forward to being in this position.

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

Chairman Michael Brickey reported that there is a meeting next month with the Virginia Association of Counties, and the Board members that attend will have an opportunity to talk with the Virginia Department of Transportation. Also, board members will be attending legislative meetings in Richmond and will have an opportunity to speak about road matters and other priorities here in Scott County.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen inquired about an illegal immigrant plan that was mentioned by Gary Baker during Citizen Expression Period.

It was noted that the Board does not have an illegal immigrant plan.

County Administrator Freda Starnes referenced a legislative priorities letter that was sent to Governor Youngkin, Delegate Kilgore, and Senator Pillion.

Supervisor Skeen complimented Ms. Starnes on the letter that she sent. He requested that Delegate Kilgore and Senator Pillion be invited to attend a meeting to address these issues.

Ms. Starnes replied that she would ask.

County Administrator Freda Starnes conveyed that the Special Use Permit request for Parcel 170-A-13B located at 1281 Lucy Road for retail sales needs to be finished up. She went on to say that the Board needs to approve or deny it.

Chairman Brickey pointed out 200 signatures on a petition against it.

County Attorney Sally Kegley advised that the petition arose from a misunderstanding as to what the business was going to be. Also, she mentioned that there were some requirements not finished.

Supervisor Darrel Jeter pointed out that he received a call about nothing being done toward the requirements.

Supervisor Danny Casteel stated that he drove by the area and nothing had been done. In addition, he stated that he received calls from people who are not for it.

On a motion by L. Michele Glover, duly seconded by Stefanie C. Addington, this Board hereby denies a special use permit for Parcel 170-A-13B located at 1281 Lucy Road for retail sales.

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 update being attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 34 Attachment No: 87). In addition, he reported on storm damage from recent rains and Hurricane Helene. He went on to say that five to eight inches of rain fell but not a huge number of roads were flooded. Approximately 1,400 to 1,500 trees fell. All resources have been deployed along with additional tree contractors and a Hurricane Emergency Response Team from Richmond. He went on to say that 53 roads were closed due to tree debris. Currently, there are four roads closed. In the High Knob area, straight line winds or a tornado occurred. Route 619 should be open today. Route 614, River Road, is closed due to down utility lines. Route 706, Osborne Ridge, trees and utility lines are tangled.

Supervisor Maness inquired about the hold-up on Horton Summit Road.

Mr. Sumpter replied that the delay is due to resources. That project will begin after tree clean up is complete. Typically, these projects go two budget years. You can expect to see that project paved by this time next year. The money has been allocated, and it will be completed. Mr. Sumpter added that he does not want to start the project and have a mess throughout the winter.

Supervisor Michele Glover expressed appreciation to Mr. Sumpter for coming out to review road concerns in her district.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen asked if Mr. Sumpter foresees any delays with Obeys Creek, Turkey Lick and Slab Creek road projects.

Mr. Sumpter replied that the funding will come available for the 2025 projects on July 1, 2025. The goal is to get the road constructed with all the pipes and necessary grade work in the fall, let that settle during the winter, and pave in the spring. He noted that it would have to be something abnormal for there to be a delay in those projects.

Supervisor Darrel Jeter expressed appreciation to Mr. Sumpter for all he does.

Extension Agent Scott Jerrell presented an agriculture damage assessment following Hurricane Helene. He went on to say that he appreciates all Fire and Rescue who were on the front lines for 48 hours. The agricultural damage is significant, and he suspects it will increase. Currently, individuals are filling out surveys. There have been damages to hay and corn at approximately \$40,000, \$100,000 to fences, and \$156,000 to barns. He added that animals lost total \$6,600. There is an estimated 57 acres with downed trees at \$1,000 per acre. Mr. Jerrell explained that this is for the past two days and does not include everything. There are significant cleanup costs. He reported that a portable, four-bay shower facility is available at the Nickelsville Fire Station for those without power and will be moved around the county as needed (Said presentation attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 34 Attachment No: 88).

Supervisor Eddie Skeen inquired about shelters in the county.

Mr. Jerrell replied that is something that occurs through Emergency Services once an emergency has been declared. That is one of the functions of the Emergency Services Coordinator in coordination with the County and EOC. A shelter was opened here in this building. Shelters are designated throughout the county as needed.

Supervisor Skeen requested that the schools with gymnasiums be designated as shelters.

Mr. Jerrell replied that the schools are on the list; however, there was no power at Gate City High School. A shelter was opened here in this building instead.

Supervisor Skeen asked if portable generators are needed.

Mr. Jerrell replied that generators are needed to operate the fire stations and rescue squads and within the communities. The phone system substations are battery operated and have to be charged with a generator. That could be used in the communities. The communication tower sites have backup generators.

Chairman Michael Brickey noted that an emergency was declared on Friday. The Governor is aware of that and so is FEMA.

Mr. Jerrell pointed out that farmers are usually offered low interest loans with emergencies like this. Those are of little value. It should be communicated that is not needed. They need to be recuperated for significant loss.

On a motion by Christopher S. Maness, duly seconded by L. Michele Glover, this Board hereby ratifies a letter of support for LENOWISCO PDC's "SCTC/Verizon Wireless 5G Initiative" application (Said letter of support attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 34 Attachment No: 90).

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 Danny M. Casteel, this Board hereby confirms a Declaration of Emergency for Scott County due to effects of weather conditions related to Hurricane Helene.

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 the process for opening shelters

Ms. Starnes referenced the Emergency Operations Plan. She stated that a shelter is opened as needed.

Supervisor Skeen asked how the community is notified.

Ms. Starnes replied that a shelter in Nickelsville was not utilized.

Supervisor Skeen asked if that needs to be designated and inquired why the school in Nickelsville was not used and not being used now.

Supervisors Maness and Addington asked Supervisor Skeen if he communicated with the Superintendent of Schools that a shelter was needed.

Mr. Skeen stated that he did not know that the school could be used for that, and he inquired about the process to open the school as a shelter.

Ms. Starnes replied that the Emergency Services Coordinator should be contacted if you think there is a need for that.

Supervisor Skeen asked Scott Jerrell if he thinks there is a need for a shelter in Nickelsville.

Mr. Jerrell replied that there are areas throughout the county in need. Gate City High School is the designated shelter; however, they were without power, and this building was designated a shelter since it had power.

Ms. Starnes pointed out that staff is needed to operate a shelter when one is opened.

Supervisor Skeen stated that we need to be better prepared going forward. Shelters need to be opened where there is a need.

Supervisor Casteel noted that he drove all over the county and into Tennessee on his way to Winston Salem. There were areas with and without power in all those locations. Some areas were hit by the hurricane worse than others. Backup power is needed.

Supervisor Skeen asked if the shelters are listed on the county website.

Ms. Starnes replied that she would give the Board another copy of the Emergency Operations Plan. They are listed in that.

Supervisor Skeen stated that the public needs to be made aware of the shelters. He added that he was not aware that he needed to contact the Emergency Services Coordinator. There is still a need in Nickelsville, and that should have been addressed days ago.

Ms. Starnes pointed out that any of the fire departments or EMS agencies are going to know what is open.

Supervisor Michele Glover stated that Weber City Fire Department is working on a shelter.

Bill Dingus pointed out that the county has an Emergency Operations Plan. Most emergencies are evolving situations. The situation is assessed as you go and resources utilized as needed. If there is a need known in Nickelsville, that can be addressed with the Emergency Services Coordinator Jeff Brickey. Most of the roads are open so they could come to the centrally located shelter where resources are. If an emergency situation happened in just one location of the county, it would make sense to open a shelter in that area. Every available shelter cannot be opened up because it takes time and staff. Mr. Dingus noted that he could not get here for days.

County Attorney Sally Kegley advised that there would be two public hearings on ordinances in November for Procurement and the Personal Property Tax Exemption for disabled veterans.

County Administrator Freda Starnes presented the claims and related reports (Said report being attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 34 Attachment No: 89).

On a motion by Darrel W. Jeter, duly seconded by L. Michele Glover, this Board hereby orders that:

- (a) Social Services Fund be allowed the sum of \$179,831.59 for voucher numbers 50018732-50018746, 50018801-50018806, 50018855-50018864, 50018906-50018914 and wire 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, and 279 and payroll \$123,679.95.
- (b) General Fund be allowed the sum of \$945,237.75 for voucher numbers 5001850950018545, 50018547-50018561, 50018563-50018565, 50018567-50018568, 50018608-50018614, 50018616-50018619, 50018621, 50018623-50018641, 50018643-50018663, 50018666-50018673, 50018706-50018721, 50018723-50018731, 50018780, 50018783-50018800, 50018807-50018809, 50018811-50018827, 50018865-50018905, 50018915 and Wire 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, and 293 and payroll \$584.381.75.
- (c) Health Insurance Reimb. Fund be allowed the sum of \$248,170.00 for voucher number 50018781 & 50018810.
- (d) Courthouse Security be allowed the sum of \$805.99 for voucher number 50018869 and Wire 280, 283, 284, and 285 and payroll \$2,485.13.
- (e) Law Library Fund be allowed the sum of \$419.12 for voucher number 50018546 and 50018618.
- (f) Wireless Grant – 911 be allowed the sum of \$23,298.85 for voucher number 50018515, 50018722, and 50018782 and wire 280, 283, and 285 and payroll \$1,653.71.
- (g) CPMT be allowed the sum of \$96,402.58 for voucher numbers 50018940-50018960.
- (h) CWAOW Collection Fund be allowed the sum of \$11.97 for voucher numbers 50018866 & 50018879 and wire 280, 281, 282, 283, and 284 and Payroll \$2,044.96.
- (i) AppCAA Grants Fund be allowed the sum of \$8,500.00 for voucher number 50018562.
- (j) IT Technology Fund (Clerk) be allowed the sum of \$260.87 for voucher number 50018566 and 50018664.
- (k) American Rescue Plan Act be allowed the sum of \$26,731.63 for voucher numbers 50018566, 50018615, 50018664.
- (l) Delinquent Tax Litigation Fund be allowed the sum of \$1,752.25 for voucher numbers 50018620.
- (m) Motor Vehicle Violation Fines Fund be allowed the sum of \$39.95 for voucher number 50018622.
- (n) Courthouse Maintenance Construction Fund be allowed the sum of \$7,318.00 for voucher number 50018828.
- (o) CWAOW Forfeit Asset Fund be allowed the sum of \$148.16 for voucher numbers for voucher number 50018887.
- (p) Coal Road Tax Fund be allowed the sum of \$42.28 for voucher number 50018665.
- (q) Weapons Permit Fund be allowed the sum of \$1.25 for wire 285.
- (r) CWAOW Forfeiture Equipment Fund be allowed the sum of \$299.21 for voucher number 50018887.
- (s) Falin Hollow Water Project be allowed the sum of \$1,500 for voucher number 50018642.

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.

Ms. Starnes reminded the Board of training on October 9, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. with the Scott County and Lee County Economic Development Authorities and Board of Supervisors. She requested that the Board of Supervisors RSVP to Penny Horton. Ms. Starnes expressed appreciation to the fire departments and EMS. Public works employees Anthony Williams and Randall Davidson ensured that the communication towers were operational. The forestry department crews helped cut out the roads to the communication towers. She expressed appreciation to all those who worked behind the scenes. She urged people to reach out to Scott Jerrell for farm damage and David Gilmer for damage to homes because we are collecting all that information for the Virginia Department of Emergency Management in case there is funding for our communities.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen followed up on the horse park. He noted that a representative of the horse park did attend the Economic Development Authority meeting and gave a presentation. There is on-going discussion about additional camping space for the horse park, and that is looking good. There have been \$75,000 in upgrades made to the horse park. He reported that there were five work orders in September that were corrected by the Virginia Department of Transportation. Mr. Skeen stated that this is not going to be a priority for him in October due to the state of emergency. There were no orange bag reports. The Antioch Convenience Center signage will be installed in a few months. Supervisor Skeen added that he received a phone call about generators for the animal shelter.

Supervisor Chris Maness expressed appreciation to everyone who has been a good neighbor through this emergency. He went on to say that he has seen kids from Rye Cove High School delivering meals. There have been people opening their homes to others. It is appreciated. That is what we need. It is a strong sense of community. It is awesome to see it at work.

Supervisor Michael Brickey expressed appreciation to John Kilgore and Roger Fraysier. VFP is going to invest another five million dollars that will bring in 50 new jobs.

Supervisor Darrel Jeter mentioned a letter from the Virginia Loggers Association and wanted to make sure that all members of the Board received that letter.

Supervisor Michele Glover thanked the fire and rescue departments. She reported that her family in Yuma had trees to fall on their home with them inside. She thanked Jeff Thacker and the fire department for their assistance. She thanked fire and rescue for everything that they have done. She went on to say that it takes a village, and we have that in Scott County. Supervisor Glover thanked everyone who has provided food. She mentioned that Terry Kilgore will provide pizza today at 11:30 a.m. She went on to say that it has been rough for people in this community and outside this community. Everyone is in her prayers. She mentioned a fire fighter who took his own vehicle to cut out trees. At that time, a tree fell on his vehicle. She inquired about anything that can be done for him.

Supervisor Darrel Jeter noted that he was going to talk with the County Attorney about that.

Chairman Michael Brickey replied that Supervisor Darrel Jeter would speak with the County Attorney about that situation.

On a motion by Darrel W. Jeter, duly seconded by L. Michele Glover, this Board hereby enters into closed session pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 A.3 real estate being real estate in Gate City.

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 Stefanie C. Addington, this Board hereby returns to open session.

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 Stefanie C. Addington, this Board hereby gives the following:

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the Scott County Board of Supervisors has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provision of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Scott County Board of Supervisors that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia Law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Scott County Board of Supervisors hereby certifies that, to the best of each member’s knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered by the Scott County Board of Supervisors.

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

Voting nay: None.

On a motion by Christopher S. Maness, duly seconded by Stefanie C. Addington, this Board hereby authorizes the County Administrator to negotiate for property in Gate City on Jackson Street.

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 adjourned the meeting until November 6, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

CLERK