

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 Thursday the 2nd day of January, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

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

ABSENT: None.

County Administrator Freda Starnes called the meeting to order.

Supervisor Christopher S. Maness 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 sets a one-year term of office for Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

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 nominated Christopher S. Maness to serve as Chairman

On a motion by Stefanie C. Addington, duly seconded by Darrel W. Jeter, this Board hereby ceases nominations and, by acclamation, appoints Christopher S. Maness to serve as Chairman.

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 Christopher S. Maness presided over the remainder of the meeting and expressed appreciation for being appointed Chairman.

Vice-Chairman

Eddie N. Skeen nominated L. Michele Glover and Danny M. Casteel second the nomination

On a motion by Stefanie C. Addington, duly seconded by Michael K. Brickey, this Board hereby ceases nominations and, by acclamation, appoints L. Michele Glover as Vice-Chairman.

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 sets the meeting day and time on the first Wednesday of each month at 9:00 a.m.

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 adopts the Rules of Procedure (Said Rules of Procedure attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 35 Attachment No: 5).

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 agenda.

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 December 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 Chris Maness opened Citizen Expression Period to receive public comments.

Peggy Tyus from Snowflake Road addressed the Board about dirt roads. She stated that the Virginia Department of Transportation gets just enough funding for a band-aide fix. Ms. Tyus expressed appreciation for the gravel placed on Snowflake Road. She went on to say that she hopes the Board of Supervisors and Terry Kilgore will request more road funds for dirt roads in Scott County when they go to Richmond. Ms. Tyus pointed out that it is either mud or dust with dirt roads. She added that cell service is needed in the rural areas of Scott County. During Hurricane Helene, there were trees down, and there was no cell service. Ms. Tyus recognized that there will be a church at the Riverside Property along with childcare. She concluded that might help with taxes. Ms. Tyus pointed out that the population in Scott County is dropping. Since 1980, the population has dropped 14.8 percent, and that affects revenue. Ms. Tyus requested that Snowflake Road remain on the Six Year Plan. She wished everyone a happy new year and prays that more funding will be allotted to Scott County for roads.

Katherine Stallard from Big Moccasin spoke about a little dog that is chained 365 days a year in the heat, during the summer, and in cold weather. In addition, she spoke about a beagle. She went on to say that the beagle, her mother, and her sibling were living in the house with the owner. When her mother died, the little dog and sibling were put in a lot outside. Ms. Stallard presented some photos of the lot to the Board that the Animal Control Officer deems okay. She noted that the water bowl and the food bowl are nothing but mud. Ms. Stallard went on to say that the sibling died. Finally, the third little dog was saved. There are thousands of dogs in Scott County that are not cared for. It is the law in Virginia that a dog can not be chained 24/7 outside, a dog cannot be left outside in certain temperatures, and they are to be in an elevated dog house. She referenced pictures that she presented to the Board with the dog house in mud. Ms. Stallard specified that something has to be done because the law is not being enforced in Scott County. Ms. Stallard stated, if no one can do it, they need to be replaced. She referenced the 9:00 a.m. Board of Supervisors meeting time not being sufficient for those who are employed. Ms. Stallard pointed out last month that she spoke for a teacher at Shoemaker Elementary who could not attend unless she took a day off from work. Ms. Stallard noted that she is here today because it is a holiday and will be speaking for herself.

Bobbie Powers from Dungannon spoke about some misunderstandings from the last meeting regarding the Commonwealth's Attorney budget and requested a rescission on the courthouse addition vote to allow further research. Ms. Powers stated that she is still waiting for an explanation on \$500 per night hotel stays. Ms. Powers told Supervisor Brickey that she knew of his likely resignation as Chairman but that would not appease her or stop her from proceeding with his recall petition relentlessly. She gave Supervisor Brickey the option of resigning as Supervisor before she proceeds with the recall vote. Ms. Powers noted that the findings of the investigation and recall vote would be posted publicly. Secondly, Ms. Powers stated that she was prepared to apologize after condemning the Commonwealth's Attorney's office budget. However, she would like to apologize for the misrepresentation that Michael Brickey and Freda Starnes refused to acknowledge and the lack of communication about funding and budget for the Commonwealth's Attorney. She went on to say that a simple email would have

cleared up everything. However, Ms. Powers stated that she had to reach out to the Commonwealth's Attorney to set up a meeting with him and Dan Fellhauer. S.C.O.T.T. Service and another program operates under the Commonwealth's Attorney budget which was not explained by Freda Starnes or Michael Brickey and accounts for a portion of their budget. She went on to say that she would like to think that this was not intentional or designed to make the Commonwealth's Attorney look frivolous in their spending. Next, Ms. Powers addressed the courthouse renovation. The current design does not ensure that the inmates will be kept away from the public. Ms. Powers recommended that the previous vote be rescinded to allow the Board time to tour the courthouse and see for themselves how this would not be beneficial for the courthouse employees, inmates, or public. She stated that there will be three million dollars spent for an addition that is impractical. She went on to say that she understands historical restorations and additions can be costly. For three million dollars, Ms. Powers asked if an addition can be constructed that will serve the community and keep the employees and public safe. She requested that the Board look into the matter and rescind the vote to allow further research before wasting funds. In addition, Ms. Powers requested a copy of the proposal and all expenses. Ms. Powers stated that three million dollars for a 3500 feet addition is exorbitant. Lastly, she addressed exorbitant job titles and how helper and group leader is added to job titles to boost and inflate their salaries. She wanted clarification that employees are receiving pay for eight hours per day and not additional for being a helper or group leader. She ended by thanking the Board for their time and looks forward to hearing from her requests especially the \$500 per night hotel stays.

County Administrator Freda Starnes requested that Ms. Powers provide documentation on the \$500 per night hotels.

Shoemaker Elementary Teacher Blakelee Taylor addressed the Board. Ms. Taylor stated that she is from Bristol and has taught in Scott County for 23 years. She went on to say that she is a volunteer for the Sullivan County Animal Shelter. Ms. Taylor stated that she does not have children, but tells people that she has 600 because she has been teaching a long time. Ms. Taylor stated that she feels the Scott County Animal Shelter workers are not honoring the oath they took to protect the animals in Scott County. She went on to say that she has seen animals euthanized, and she has taken animals to rescue. So, she knows how it should be and what she expects in Scott County is not unrealistic. Ms. Taylor showed a photo of the little dog that has been tied up for years. She went on to say that she calls daily. She passes the dog daily. She has offered to pay the owner for the dog and take it to rescue. In addition, she has called Animal Control daily. Ms. Taylor stated that she calls Bill Dingus who said that little tiny dog is for outdoor weather. It is a little Jack Russell dog and no animal should be out in extreme arctic temperatures daily, 24 hours per day, every day. She added that she messaged Ms. Starnes, Kilgore's Office, Richmond, and PETA. Ms. Taylor stated that she is trying her best to get someone to investigate the Scott County Animal Shelter. They are putting animals down that are healthy. Ms. Taylor pointed out that a dog broke a leg, and it was put down. Ms. Taylor stated that she would like to fund raise for the shelter, and she likes to advocate for

those who can't. Ms. Taylor stated that she feels like God put her here on this earth to do that. She went on to say that she feels like these animals are being let down by Mr. Dingus and the Animal Control Officer. Ms. Taylor stated that she is willing to help, and the community is willing to help. She went on to say that they do not want us in the shelter because the animals lie on the floor. They do not get treats and blankets. She added that they will not let her give them toys. She is begging someone to step up for these animals because she does not know what else to do. They are dying. She stated that her cats were in front of a fire place this morning, and that may not be what everyone does. Ms. Taylor went on to say that she had a dog for fifteen years, and the dog was her life because she was not married at the time and did not have children. Ms. Taylor went on to say that she cannot imagine them driving out to the house, seeing the dog outside, and saying that is fine. In addition, Ms. Taylor stated that she is sure the dog is not vaccinated. It is not allowed to be tied up even if the Animal Control Officer says that it is okay. The law decides that. She went on to say that she is not asking for unrealistic expectations. There are animals here in Scott County being left outside and dying. She stated that she would help the animal shelter, but they do not let people in the shelter. Ms. Taylor pointed out that her friend was not allowed in to adopt a dog. Ms. Taylor questioned what they are doing in the shelter that they do not want people to see. Ms. Taylor stated that she took an oath, and she will fight for kids. She will go to bat for them because that is her job. She loves and believes in those kids. If there comes a day that she does not like her kids, Ms. Taylor stated that she needs to quit. Her oath is to protect those kids and to do everything that she can for them, and she tries every day. She wishes that they would do the same for those animals. The Animal Control Officer in Sullivan County would have taken that dog years ago. There have been people in Richmond who have reached out to the Animal Control Officer, but they just want to make excuses. Ms. Taylor stated that she would have taken the dog, offered to pay for the dog, and had a family member who would have taken the dog. The owner is doing it for spite now, and that is going to kill this dog. Ms. Taylor stated that she drives by the dog every day and prays to God that it is alive. She went on to say that some people think that they are just animals, but her animals are her kids. Ms. Taylor pointed out that her animals were there to help her when her mother and grandmother passed away. Ms. Taylor stated that the owner needs to give that dog up, and Animal Control needs to step up and do their job. She offered to help and begged the Board to look into it because these people do not need the jobs they have because they do not care about the animals. She noted that the law is the law. Ms. Taylor apologized for not being able to attend the meeting before now because she is a teacher. She noted that the Board could reach out to her, and she is willing to help.

Bobbie Powers presented the County Administrator with the hotel documentation that she referred to as \$500 per night hotel stays.

Ms. Starnes stated that she would look at it and revealed that the cost was not for one night but was for multiple nights.

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

Supervisor Eddie Skeen stated that there would be discussion as far as responding to citizens. He asked at what time the county follows state guidelines. In addition, he inquired about requirements the county has.

Bill Dingus stated that the Animal Control Officer enforces the Comprehensive State Animal Laws. Every situation is different, there are a variety of breeds and different situations. The dog in question has been looked at several times. Mr. Dingus pointed out that the Supervising Veterinarian went out to the site and verified that the dog is in fine shape. The owner mentioned that the dog does not like being inside. It barks constantly until it is put back outside. It has a heat lamp in its dog house. Animal Control goes by because they expect a call on their way into work especially when it is cold. Animal Control has seized over 70 dogs in the last year because of inhumane conditions. There is one Animal Control Officer and a Litter Control Officer who backs him up. Our shelter has the lowest euthanasia rate maybe in the State and he knows in the region. It is well below nine percent and has been at three percent. Mr. Dingus reported that we do not euthanize unless we have to. Some dogs are not adoptable or healthy. There is no such thing as a no kill shelter. In fact, a no kill shelter is one under ten percent euthanasia rate. Scott County is under that. Scott County fits the guidelines for a no kill shelter. Scott County is not going to adopt out an aggressive dog or a dog that is suffering. Mr. Dingus pointed out that dogs are taken to our Supervising Veterinarian for euthanasia. During COVID, everyone wanted a puppy until that puppy got grown. They surrendered them to the shelter, and there is only a certain capacity. Scott County does not have the resources that Sullivan County has. When Scott County built a 100 x 30 shelter, Mr. Dingus stated that he designed it, and it was built for about \$150,000. He suggested looking at what others around Scott County have paid to build their shelters. Bristol reached out and wanted our plans, and he explained that the plans were on a piece of grid paper. Animal Control investigates every call they get. Sometimes, they work with the owner to try to change the situation for the animal. The law is open to the interpretation of the Animal Control Officer by design. Mr. Dingus noted that he is getting tired of the Animal Control Officer getting bashed when he knows that the Animal Control Officer is out there doing the best job that he can do with the resources he has. Mr. Dingus pointed out that he is all for more resources.

Chairman Maness asked if Ms. Taylor could plan some fund raisers to get more resources.

Mr. Dingus replied that he is willing for volunteers to be at the shelter all the time. However, he is not willing to make partnerships with those that bash on social media. Partners are wanted not investigators. Mr. Dingus added that he does not know what Ms. Taylor is talking about as far as not being able to go into the shelter during open hours. The Animal Control Officer and Litter Control Officer cannot be there all the time. However, Mr. Dingus noted that there are shelter workers that are there.

Chairman Maness inquired about the process to become a volunteer.

Mr. Dingus replied that there is a form for volunteers to complete.

Ms. Taylor asked to speak again.

Chairman Maness replied that Citizen Expression Period is closed, but anyone wishing to speak with Mr. Dingus can do that during the break.

Chairman Chris Maness opened a public hearing on a special use permit for Parcel 50-A-12. New Leaf Energy for William Johnson III.

Building/Zoning Official David Gilmer presented the special use permit application by New Leaf Energy on the William Johnson property. New Leaf Energy presented compliance with the ordinance, and they submitted application for a special use permit. He noted that the adjoining property owners were notified by letter. (Said presentation being attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 35 Attachment No: 8).

The Board inquired about any opposition.

Mr. Gilmer replied that he had received phone calls for and against the project. In addition, Mr. Gilmer introduced Tim Williams who will be taking his place as Zoning Administrator.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen thanked Mr. Gilmer for his many years of service.

New Leaf Energy Project Developer Jessie Robinson and Project Engineer Quentin Wood addressed the Board representing William Johnson. Ms. Robinson and Mr. Wood gave a presentation about the solar project (Said presentation being attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 35 Attachment No: 9).

Adjoining Land Owner Terry Fields addressed the Board about the proposed site that is near a spring where people in the community get water. Mr. Fields stated that is his major concern along with a noise concern. He referenced some things that should be considered before approval or denial. They include requiring that no toxic material will be utilized during the construction, operation, or decommission of the facility. Strengthen the opportunity for those near the property to have their concerns heard before the application is approved. He addressed caves and sinkholes near the site along with streams. Mr. Fields noted that Rye Cove has many sink holes. He noted that testing water was mentioned during the presentation. He would rather have his health than all the gold or silver. Mr. Fields echoed that he does not want this located in Rye Cove. He went on to say that these panels are coming from Southeast Asia. They use slave labor, claim that these panels are safe, but it is misleading. It is not uncommon for the panels to become cracked or broken from natural events such as storms. When rain falls on them, it carries lead and other materials into the soil below. Over time, polluted soil is washed into nearby streams. That can contaminate our water and crops. He went on to say that this is not the place for it, and he presented signatures and addresses for those against the project.

Supervisor Glover inquired about the timeframe to fix a broken panel.

Mr. Wood replied that someone would check on the panels if a storm event occurred within 24 to 72 hours depending on the ability to get to the site.

Chairman Maness inquired about the panels made outside the United States still having to meet the Environmental Protection Agency requirements.

Mr. Wood confirmed that they do have to meet those requirements.

Ms. Robinson mentioned Inflation Reduction Act tax credits.

Mr. Fields addressed the savings on electric bills. He went on to say that he gets his electric bill from Appalachian Power. He has not heard anything from Appalachian Power about a reduction.

Eddie Skeen asked if it is possible to do more frequent samples? He suggested every six months.

Ms. Robinson replied yes. They are open to that.

Mr. Wood noted that it is based on the Department of Health. They do one test per year. If that is good, they recommend every five years. You could do it biannually. That is up to the Board.

Ms. Stallard questioned what happens if the water test is bad.

Chairman Maness replied that their bond includes any kind of cleanup needed.

Dr. Donald Thurston addressed the habitat changes that would occur. He questioned the thermal index on these panels and how far they are raised from the ground and the thermal impact. He mentioned the habit changes for wildlife. He pointed out that this could provide a habitat to enable ticks and mites to survive the adverse temperatures. He recommended using permethrin products. He noted that any time you change a habitat you change everything.

Chairman Maness asked if it would be any different than planting trees.

Mr. Thurston replied that any time you cut something you have land use changes. A lot of time we don't look at the big picture. He went on to say that his expertise is diseases. Not being negative, he would prefer seeing a nuclear facility that would have a greater impact and less problems. Regarding revenue for this county, we need to stop losing our youth and give them something to come here to make money.

County Administrator Freda Starnes noted letters of support that came in after the Planning Commission meeting.

Supervisor Skeen recommended water testing every six months for two years.

Chairman Maness noted that they will test it before, after, and one year later.

Chairman Maness noted that four megawatts will be added to the grid so that is expanding on our energy capability and is needed if we are going to grow this county.

Supervisor Stefanie Addington stated that she visited the site with Mr. Johnson. Ms. Addington went on to say that it is in a good location and the property is not prime farmland. She went on to say that you could not put any kind of crop on it due to the way it rolls along with the bed rock. She added that they were on the road one mile off the main road before arriving at the site.

Chairman Maness asked which members of the Board have not been there.

Supervisor Michele Glover stated that she has not been there. Supervisor Jeter stated that he has been to the farm, but not that location.

Chairman Maness pointed out that this location is far from the main road, and it is very difficult to see down into the area that these panels will be located.

Supervisor Addington stated that she talked to several people about this, but the landowner should have a little more say in what he does with his property. If it is something that has nothing negative, she has a hard time telling him what to do with his property.

Supervisor Darrel Jeter stated that he is not for solar projects that are around others' property. However, this project is so far back that he does not see anything wrong with it.

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

RESOLUTION No: 2025 -1

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors finds that the proposed solar project meets the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance for the issuance of a Special Use Permit, including the requirement in Zoning Ordinance Section 500-124.1, that the proposal "shall generally conform to the latest comprehensive plan of Scott County" and therefore, pursuant to Virginia Code Section 15.2-2232(H), the Board of Supervisors waives the requirement for a substantial accord review by the planning commission, and further finds pursuant to Zoning Ordinance Section 500-124.2, that the proposal "shall have a minimum adverse impact on the surrounding neighborhood or community," the proposal having been evaluated with consideration given to the proposed conditions to mitigate any such adverse impacts,

NOW THEREFORE, I MOVE THAT the Board of Supervisors approve the issuance of a Special Use Permit for Parcel 50-A-12, as requested by Applicant Rye Cove Solar 1, LLC c/o New Leaf Energy, Inc. for William Johnson III, subject to the three conditions proposed by Applicant.

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.

Chairman Christopher S. Maness opened a public hearing to dispose of real property held by Scott County under an Order of Forfeiture, with said property ordered to be disposed of by a judicial sale executed by a Special Commissioner, and said property being 4533 Bristol Highway, Gate City, VA, Tax Map Number 149 A 22.

The County Administrator stated that the property is located at 4533 Bristol Highway. It came to the county through forfeiture from the office of the Commonwealth's Attorney. The property was the former Kilgore Store. A public hearing is required to dispose of this property. There was a Special Commissioner appointed to handle that property. They came to the County Attorney with a cash offer, and that would be accepted upon approval from the Board to dispose of this property. The proceeds would be split between the office of the Commonwealth's Attorney and Sheriff's Office once expenses have been removed.

On a motion by Darrel W. Jeter, duly seconded by Michael K. Brickey, this Board hereby approves disposing of real property held by Scott County under an Order of Forfeiture, with said property ordered to be disposed of by a judicial sale executed by a Special Commissioner, and said property being 4533 Bristol Highway, Gate City, VA, Tax Map Number 149 A 22.

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.

BREAK: 10:35 a.m.

RECONVENE: 10:52 a.m.

Commonwealth's Attorney Kyle Kilgore gave a presentation on his budget. He clarified that the number of attorneys in his office is determined by the Compensation Board and case load. It is set by the State. The county is only responsible for the fringe benefits. It is the same with all Constitutional Officers. Mr. Kilgore pointed out that there have been questions as to why there are so many attorneys in his office. He clarified that the Comp Board sets the number of attorneys based on caseload. The only thing based off of population is his salary which is one of the lowest in this area. The proximity to the Tri-Cities affects case load. Interstate 26 and U.S. Highway 23 coming together at the end of the state line affects caseload. Mr. Kilgore went on to address the S.C.O.T.T. Service Program which is another part of his budget. His predecessors worked out a deal to get the program started. It has saved the county 5.8 million dollars in jail costs. The program costs the county about \$300,000 per year, and a net savings of about \$700,000. The Victim Witness Grant is a part of his budget. That includes \$100,000 for a coordinator and a part-time assistant through a federally funded grant. It is based on case load. The Domestic Violence Grant is for a part-time attorney. Mr. Kilgore noted that his office tries to come in under budget and saves where they can. Asset Forfeiture is used for office supplies and training. He pointed out that his office does collections of fines and restitution instead of paying another company to do that for them. Out of the 28th, 29th, and 30th districts, Scott

County is the busiest county. He added that a vast amount of cases are probation violations. He mentioned that there are four career prosecutors in his office through a Compensation Board grant that helps to stay competitive on the pay scale. In the past, experienced prosecutors were lost to other localities so that grant helps to stay competitive. He added that is where an increase in our Compensation Board budget comes from.

The Board acknowledged the close proximity to the Tri-Cities and heavily traveled U.S. Highway 23. In addition, they thanked Mr. Kilgore for his presentation.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen inquired about any suggestions Mr. Kilgore has regarding the proposed sally port.

Mr. Kilgore responded that he is not an architect, and that is not his expertise. He suggested that the Board come see the flow of inmates.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen asked that Mr. Kilgore speak with the Solid Waste Committee. He noted problems with getting violators outside the county prosecuted.

Mr. Kilgore suggested video cameras. He went on to say that it seems to be more of an issue for sites close to the state line. As far as prosecuting, evidence is needed.

Mr. Skeen pointed out that there are residents living in Virginia with Tennessee plates. They are not paying any personal property tax, but they are living in Virginia.

Mr. Kilgore stated that he will be meeting the Commissioner of the Revenue and Sheriff about that issue.

The Board thanked Mr. Kilgore for his presentation

On a motion by Stefanie C. Addington, duly seconded by L. Michele Glover, this Board hereby adopts the VCIN Multi-Factor Authentication Policy (Said Policy attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 35 Attachment No: 6).

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.

After much discussion, there was no action taken on the request made by the Housing Authority for an increase from \$50 to \$100 for serving on the Housing Authority.

A request from a property owner to abandon Route 662 (Webb Road) was addressed by the Board.

County Administrator Freda Starnes referred to minutes from 1983 when there was a request to abandon Route 662. The Board denied the request because the school bus used the route. She presented some photos of a fire truck trying to make the turn from Hill Station Alley Road to Starnes Bluff Lane. Ms. Starnes noted that they would not be able to use this road if it is abandoned. She added that it is a shortcut in that area. She also referenced a letter from a resident who owns both sides of the road. Ms. Starnes noted that a public hearing would be required if the Board chooses to proceed with the abandonment. She talked with Mr. Harmon from the school bus garage, and there are concerns if the road is abandoned. In addition, Ms. Starnes stated that she contacted the Virginia Department of Transportation in case they have concerns.

Supervisor Darrel Jeter stated that he had some calls from people who use that road. Farmers and school buses use that road, and they do not want it closed.

Supervisor Michael Brickey stated that he called Dexter Harmon with the School Bus Garage. In addition, Mr. Brickey stated that he is familiar with the road since he farmed in that area. There is no way to make the turn as you go down to Webb store to Hill Station. Supervisor Brickey pointed out that road is over 100 years old, and the Virginia Department of Transportation needs to gravel it. In addition, he drove a bus in that area, and there is no place to turn a bus if this road is abandoned.

Danny Calhoun noted difficulty making a turn with farm equipment in that area if the road is closed. He stated that safety is the main point of keeping the road open. Issues the bus would have was also noted.

Dr. Donald Thurston requested that the road not be abandoned.

The Board agreed that maintenance is needed on the road. Supervisor Eddie Skeen stated that he would put in a work order.

There was no action taken by the Board to proceed with the abandonment.

Amy Vicars presented bookkeeping.

On a motion by Darrel W. Jeter, duly seconded by Michael K. Brickey this Board hereby appropriates the following:

Park/Golf Course

\$890.19 to 1000-71110-406099 Park/Golf Course – Merchandise for Resale

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 Michael K. Brickey this Board hereby appropriates the following:

Sheriff

\$577.14 to 1000-31200-405540 Sheriff – Conferences & Training

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 Michael K. Brickey this Board hereby appropriates the following:

Sheriff

\$350.00 to 1000-31200-406009 Sheriff-Repair/Maintenance of Vehicles

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 Christopher Maness noted that the solar project resolution should read Rye Cove Solar 1, LLC instead of the LLC he read earlier.

Tina Seay presented applications for appointment.

Appointment – Housing Authority

Darrel W. Jeter nominated Jack Compton

On a motion by Michael K. Brickey, duly seconded by Stefanie C. Addington, this Board hereby ceases nominations and, by acclamation, appoints Jack Compton to serve a four-year term on the Housing 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.

Since there were no other applicants, it was the consensus of the Board to postpone and advertise the second opening on the Housing Authority to be considered at the February meeting.

County Attorney Sally Kegley cleared up something with the personal property tax exemption ordinance. There was confusion about the logging equipment wording. Ms. Kegley stated that she sought more clarification. The intent of the legislature when the Code was amended to add the logging equipment exemption was to allow a local option to exempt logging business equipment like farming businesses. Ms. Kegley clarified that logging businesses are exempt.

Supervisor Casteel inquired about utility trailers being exempt.

Ms. Kegley replied no, but a farm trailer would be exempt.

County Administrator Freda Starnes presented the claims and related reports (Said reports being attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 35 Attachment No: 10).

On a motion by Stefanie C. Addington, duly seconded by L. Michele Glover, this Board hereby orders that:

- (a) Social Services Fund be allowed the sum of \$387,826.35 for voucher numbers 50020258-50020267, 50020269-50020351, 50020508-50020512, 50020514-50020519, 50020618-50020627, 50020713-50020719, and void 50020268, 50020720-50020763 and wire 347, 348, 349, 350, and 351 and Payroll/DD Fund 5000 \$119,427.12.
- (b) General Fund be allowed the sum of \$776,187.87 for voucher numbers 50020246-50020253, 50020255-50020257, 50020352-50020406, 50020472, 50020474-50020499, 50020501-50020502, 50020504-50020507, 50020553-50020591, 50020593-50020598, 50020642-50020643, 50020645-50020682, 50020684-50020694, 50020628-50020641, 50020790-50020814, 50020817-50020824, 50020826-50020830 with check number 50020513 and wire 352, 353, 354, 355, and 356 payroll/DD Fund \$605,279.22.
- (c) Health Insurance Reimb. Fund be allowed the sum of \$223,461.00 for voucher number 346.
- (d) Courthouse Security be allowed the sum of \$646.33 for voucher numbers 50019992 and Wire 327 and 122324.
- (e) Law Library Fund be allowed the sum of \$627.92 for voucher number 50020254 and 50020500.
- (f) Wireless Grant – 911 be allowed the sum of \$5,664.78 for voucher numbers 50020473 and 50020503 and Wire 355 and 356 and payroll/DD Fund 1505 \$1,687.07.
- (g) CPMT be allowed the sum of \$73,151.50 for voucher numbers 50020831-50020849.
- (h) CWAOC Collection Fund be allowed the sum of \$1,484.12 for voucher numbers 50020629 and 5002641 and Wire 352, 353, 355, and 356 and payroll/DD Fund 1310 \$2,051.78.
- (i) IT Technology Fund (Clerk) be allowed the sum of \$46.58 for voucher number 50020825.
- (j) American Rescue Plan Act be allowed the sum of \$3,513.52 for voucher number 50020815 and 50020825.
- (k) Delinquent Tax Litigation Fund be allowed the sum of \$355.69 for voucher numbers 50020683 and 50020401 and Wire 354, 355, 356 and payroll/DD Fund 1210 \$164.87.

- (l) Motor Vehicle Violation Fines Fund be allowed the sum of \$39.95 for voucher number 50020644.
- (m) Coal Road Tax Fund be allowed the sum of \$16.63 for voucher number 50020592.
- (n) Regional Improvements Fund be allowed the sum of \$784.00 for check number 50020816.
- (o) Courthouse Maintenance Construction be allowed the sum of \$312.22 for voucher number 500204.74 and 500205.77.
- (p) CWAOW Forfeit Asset Fund be allowed the sum of \$1,361.39 for Voucher Number 50020648.

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 reviewed a list of questions from Supervisor Skeen. She gave an update on a meeting with Delegate Kilgore and Senator Pillion regarding goals. On December 13, 2024, County Administrators as well as the City of Norton and Chairs with Lee, Scott, Dickenson, Wise, and the City of Norton had a zoom call with Delegate Kilgore and Senator Pillion. Each county and city took turns talking about the goals for the upcoming legislative session. Each locality faces similar concerns. Our top concerns were unfunded mandates and items that require a local match, funding for School Resource Officers, funding for Fire and EMS, help with cost of early voting, cell towers, legislature to have a one percent sales tax referendum in support of workforce housing. Scott County Board of Supervisors authorized a letter to Governor Youngkin in September. That letter was sent to Delegate Kilgore and Senator Pillion, and that listed what the Board of Supervisors decided were priorities. The draft budget is now being released by the Governor. We are currently scheduling meetings in January with State agencies that are partners with Scott County with the focus being Virginia Department of Transportation and housing for Scott County. Ms. Starnes reported that the Solid Waste Committee has not met since the last date, but new cameras have been ordered for five sites to upgrade with a tag reader component that will be installed at those sites as well. Ms. Starnes reported that Mountain Empire Community College will be here in February to give an update. She reported that the Weber City Tire fire was under Department of Environmental Quality. At the time of the fire, they were under a plan to get rid of tires. Ms. Starnes stated that during budget she has a plan that will help with oversight that will be discussed during the budget process. Ms. Starnes addressed questions and requests made by citizens during Board of Supervisors' meetings. In the past, if someone came to the podium during Citizen Expression with a question, the question was usually addressed once Citizen Expression closed. It is up to the Board if you respond or not. It should not be used for specific board action at the meeting. The Board does not have to take action at that time. It can be postponed and put on the agenda. If someone is making a FOIA request, they need to go through the FOIA Officer. A lot is going on at the meetings, and we do not want to miss a request for something. This arose because a citizen asked for expenses for the Tele-Tech building. She noted that this Board does not have that information. It should be requested of the Economic Development Authority. If a citizen has a request, it needs to come through our FOIA Officer. That way we have their contact

information. The FOIA guidelines are on our website. Ms. Starnes stated that she did have a meeting with LENOWISCO staff and discussed SMART Scale applications for the U.S. 23 and Natural Tunnel Parkway intersection. Our partnership with Virginia Tech on the Comprehensive Plan update was discussed. Also, potential funding through the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Department of Housing Community Development block grants was discussed.

Ms. Starnes pointed out that the Department of Environmental Quality is requesting a primary contact and an alternate to serve on the DEQ Regional Planning Committee.

On a motion by Michael K. Brickey, duly seconded by Eddie N. Skeen this Board hereby approves that Mike Dishman serve as the primary contact on the DEQ Regional Planning Committee and Jon Broskey serve an alternate.

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 Michael Brickey stated that he asked about disaster mitigation for the future during the zoom meeting with Delegate Kilgore and Senator Pillion. Supervisor Brickey stated that he was told that the Governor had gone beyond what was allowed by the Federal Government.

County Administrator Freda Starnes stated that reimbursement for generators is one thing being discussed that she can request along with disaster funds for what we have already incurred.

Mr. Brickey requested that someone find out about the Natural Tunnel Pool funding while in Richmond.

County Administrator Freda Starnes replied that a design plan has begun for that project.

Supervisor Brickey pointed out that Mike Dishman has requested that the property at Moccasin Gap go to the Public Service Authority. That might be another thing to ask Virginia Department of Transportation while in Richmond.

Ms. Starnes replied that she did not know that Mr. Dishman had made a formal request. She noted that the county has made a formal request for the property where the waste site was located.

Chairman Maness thanked Ms. Starnes for organizing the zoom meeting, and he noted that benefits all of Southwest Virginia.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen asked if the first column of the budget report comes from the Commissioner of the Revenue.

Ms. Starnes replied that comes through her office. The estimates come from the Commissioner of the Revenue because we don't collect 100 percent so we don't budget 100 percent. The personal property is showing over 100 percent.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen pointed out that tells him the Commissioner of the Revenue is doing some things positive.

It was noted that is from the Commissioner of the Revenue sending out the 762 forms.

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.5 Prospective Industry being Weber 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 Stefanie C. Addington, duly seconded by L. Michele Glover, 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 Stefanie C. Addington, duly seconded by L. Michele Glover, 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.

Economic Development Director John Kilgore gave an update (Said update being attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 35 Attachment No: 7).

Supervisor Michael Brickey noted that construction of the maintenance building is looking great.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen reported that he received seven calls for road maintenance. There were no orange bag calls. Virginia Department of Transportation has all low water bridges cleared up. Supervisor Skeen reported that he contacted the Virginia Department of Transportation about guardrail on Highway 72 being addressed, but he has not heard back from them. In addition, Supervisor Skeen stated that he would be placing a work order for maintenance on Webb Road. Supervisor Skeen announced that the Virginia Housing Mortgage Mobile Office will be set up at the old Food City parking lot on January 9th and January 28th from 11 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Chairman Christopher S. Maness adjourned the meeting until February 5, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

CLERK