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 5th day of February, 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.

Chairman Christopher S. Maness opened the meeting.

Supervisor Stefanie C. Addington gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 Stefanie C. Addington, duly seconded by L. Michele Glover, this Board hereby approves the January 2, 2025 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 Christopher S. Maness opened Citizen Expression Period to receive public comments.

Bobbie Powers quoted the Code of Virginia section 2.2-3700. Ms. Powers stated that she starts her day like everyone else in Scott County. She puts kindling on the fire, feeds her animals, and goes to her second job. Ms. Powers stated that the meeting times are difficult for citizens because they cannot miss work. Ms. Powers went on to say that she was invited by Ms. Starnes to her office to discuss Scott County matters, and she hopes that Ms. Starnes will extend that to a monthly meeting. If the County Administrator can recognize that most people cannot make these meeting times, surely the meeting time can be revisited. Ms. Powers pointed out that most of the people attending the meeting today have business on the agenda and noted that few speak during Citizen Expression Period. In addition, Ms. Powers mentioned an email that Ms. Starnes sent her stating that no job titles were changed to get a higher salary. Ms. Powers questioned the salary of Bill Dingus that went from $68,000 to $80,000 as a maintenance man. She requested that someone explain how he went from a maintenance man to an Assistant County Administrator that makes over $100,000 per year. Ms. Powers inquired as to who created the Assistant County Administrator position. Ms. Powers stated that she thinks it is wonderful that Ms. Starnes wants to find the Commonwealth's Attorney office space; however, it is unfortunate that she did not have the foresight to include the employees in that office. Ms. Powers stated that the County Administrator vehicle and $300 per night hotel stays are frivolous to tax payers. Ms. Powers stated that she is aware that county employees are not state employees. Based on her research, Ms. Powers stated that Wise and Russell counties choose to pay their employees twice per month. Bobbie Powers stated that the pay study increases, county vehicle purchase, and newly created Assistant County Administrator position displays a willingness to usher Scott County into the future without benefiting Scott County citizens. Likewise, the Board vote on meeting times and pay schedules displays an unwillingness to work with the public. She went on to say that she spoke with Treasurer Kevin Helms by email about the bank accounts. Ms. Powers requested ARPA Funds and CARES Act Funds received each time and whether any funds were redeposited into the account and when they were redeposited. That should not be a long paper trail and reduce her $2,090 FOIA cost. Ms. Powers stated that she would be emailing the County Administrator soon to schedule a time to sit down and discuss the willingness to cut costs.

Chairman Chris Maness pointed out that the County Administrator is directed by the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors trust her to do the right thing, and she has done that. The county is not in the red like it used to be or had to take out loans as in the past. Financial consultants say that Scott County is doing the best it can for the size of the county. He pointed out, if Ms. Powers has a problem, it is not because of Ms. Starnes. It is the people on this Board and not her.

Ms. Powers inquired who hired Bill Dingus as Assistant County Administrator.

Supervisor Darrel Jeter replied that was done before Freda Starnes became the County Administrator. He pointed out that Bill Dingus became the Assistant County Administrator when a previous County Administrator retired.

Ms. Powers stated that it was not done on paper because he has been receiving maintenance pay, and he just recently received Assistant County Administrator pay.

Supervisor Darrel Jeter replied no. You are wrong.

County Administrator Freda Starnes explained that he was made Assistant County Administrator in 2016.

Ms. Powers asked why he is under maintenance.

County Administrator Freda Starnes pointed out that Bill Dingus is also the Public Works Director.

Ms. Powers stated that the County Administrator reported that no employee does more than one job.

County Administrator Freda Starnes replied that she stated no one is paid multiple salaries. In addition, Ms. Starnes pointed out that the Assistant County Administrator received $5,000 from the County Administrator salary to be the Assistant County Administrator.

Bobbie Powers noted that Bill Dingus went from $68,000 to over $100,000 in five years.

County Administrator Freda Starnes pointed out that everyone at the courthouse was involved with the Courthouse study. A feasibility study was done. Every department at the courthouse was involved with that and gave their projections for their needs. That project came in at 38 to 40 million dollars. The Board of Supervisors did not want to do that project. Since then, it has been scaled down to an appetite the Board can afford based on our immediate need.

Bobbie Powers replied that she spoke with the Commonwealth's Attorney last week, and he told her that no one asked their opinion. When the prisoners are transferred, they are interacting with the public. If they have a rape case, the victim does not want to intermingle with the prisoners.

Ms. Starnes replied that she understands that, but it all comes at a cost.

Ms. Powers stated that it was not discussed with the office of the Commonwealth's Attorney and no one got their opinion on the flow.

Ms. Starnes replied that courthouse security is the duty of the Sheriff's Office not the Commonwealth's Attorney.

Ms. Powers asked if Ms. Starnes approved a plan that should have been done by the Sheriff's Office.

Chairman Maness stated that the Board of Supervisors approved a plan.

Ms. Starnes added that the architect designed the plan. It is based on cost, and Supervisor Eddie Skeen has requested to meet on that later.

Chairman Maness pointed out that the county cannot afford 50 million dollars for the project.

Ms. Powers replied that she understands. The authenticity of the courthouse does not matter now because someone came in and cobbled it up. She stated that nothing in that building looks historical. Ms. Powers went on to say that her concern is to cut frivolous spending such as the county car, hotel bills, and higher taxes. If Bill Dingus was Assistant County Administrator in 2016, Ms. Powers questioned why he is under maintenance in the budget. She went on to say that this is the only year that he is listed as a supervisor and that is misrepresentation.

Chairman Maness replied that he does not agree with that and noted that Bill Dingus has had those duties for a long time.

Ms. Starnes pointed out that Bill Dingus is listed in the maintenance budget because that is where his salary line item is located.

Ms. Powers replied that he is under County Administrator.

Ms. Starnes replied not in the line item budget. Furthermore, Ms. Starnes explained that the vehicle is part of her employment contract. A previous Board gave that as a benefit. She noted that it is not free, and she pays taxes on that vehicle. It is not something out of the ordinary. Ms. Starnes pointed out that vehicle was paid for with a grant and some county funds. Ms. Starnes went on to say that she is on six committees and travels here and there for meetings; therefore, she has a take-home vehicle.

Ms. Powers told Ms. Starnes that it is not our fault that you are on six committees.

Chairman Maness stated that it is the Board's fault because we put her on those committees. In addition, he reported that Scott County has decreased debt and increased our credit rating because of Freda's work.

Ms. Powers stated that she understood that is because of Treasurer Kevin Helms holding it in the accounts and had nothing to do with Freda.

Supervisor Addington pointed out that Kevin has only been in office for one year.

Chairman Maness noted that credit rating is more than what you have in your account. It is cash flow, assets, and liability.

Ms. Powers stated that she understands that.

The County Administrator noted that another person would be needed to pay employees twice per month.

Ms. Powers suggested that the Assistant County Administrator do it.

Ms. Starnes replied that he cannot do payroll.

Ms. Powers stated that he does everything else.

Chairman Maness noted that is an accounting job.

County Administrator Freda Starnes stated that other counties do not have the school system as an integrated purchasing and accounting department, but we do the bills and payroll for the school system. The other counties are not doing that. Ms. Starnes pointed out that includes 700 to 800 employees, and we are not able to do that with the size staff here. It has always been done monthly.

Ms. Powers stated that you are all about ushering in new ideas but want to leave the meeting time at 9:00 a.m. She noted that the room is barely filled.

Chairman Maness noted that the meeting time was a decision of the Board and a vote of 6/1.

Ms. Powers added that all of you are willing to increase pay and revenue, but you don't want to increase the public at the meetings. She stated that you don't even put your meetings in the paper, but you can give the maintenance man a big raise. You put the meetings on YouTube, but you know they are not going to look on YouTube.

Chairman Maness pointed out that the meetings are on cable and broadcast several times.

Supervisor Glover pointed out that this meeting is live right now.

Ms. Powers stated that she does not care how many can go to YouTube, and she asked how many are in this meeting. She went on to say that people are not here because they are at their jobs. Ms. Powers noted that a 6:00 p.m. meeting would be better.

The Board replied that they tried that.

Supervisor Jeter explained that the Board tried evening meetings three different times, and it did not work. No one came to the meetings.

Ms. Powers noted that there are a lot of things on the agenda today that people would like to be a part of. Because people are not here, does not mean that you cannot give them the option to be here. Ms. Powers pointed out that you are our representatives. If you cannot be here or stay up late at night, you need to retire. She added that we need to be at these meetings without it being leaked like the taxes were by Eddie Skeen, and you talked to him like a dog for that.

Chairman Maness stated that he was the one who did that.

Supervisor Michele Glover stated that she has an open-door meeting policy, and her district knows that. In addition, Supervisor Glover stated that she has meetings in her district so that she can discuss things with them. Everyone on this Board has an open-door policy, and we are the voice for the citizens. If the citizens cannot attend the meetings, they can call us, message us, or talk to us.

Ms. Powers inquired as to why the Board voted for a 9:00 a.m. meeting time if the Board is our voice.

Supervisor Glover stated that the Board tried 6:00 p.m. meetings.

Ms. Powers stated you tried and no one showed up, but you cannot deny them the privilege of being here.

Supervisor Stefanie Addington stated that the Board is not denying anyone a privilege.

Supervisor Glover stated that she took vacation from her job to be at the meeting today.

Ms. Powers replied that this is your job.

Supervisor Glover pointed out that she has a job and does this job on the side.

Ms. Powers stated that Supervisor Glover does not need to be doing this if it is a side job. It should be her first job.

Supervisor Darrel Jeter pointed out that you would starve to death if it was your first job.

Supervisor Glover pointed out that she is in contact with people on her off days. Last night, she referenced two people that she talked with over an hour each about Virginia Department of Transportation. Ms. Glover stated that she enjoys what she does because she wants to help this county.

Ms. Powers noted that other counties have their meetings at 6:00 p.m., and it does not matter if the room is filled or not. The Planning Commission meetings are at 6:00 p.m. She stated that the Board wants to talk about other counties so come up to par.

Supervisor Stefanie Addington noted that she has taken multiple phone calls during the week, and this is not her primary job.

Ms. Powers replied that this should be your primary focus.

Supervisor Addington informed Ms. Powers that she is not telling her what to do.

Ms. Powers replied that, if this was Supervisor Addington’s primary focus, she would not have voted for a 9:00 a.m. meeting.

Supervisor Addington stated that she works at Eastman, and that is her primary job and means of income. Supervisor Addington asked how she is supposed to pay her bills otherwise.

Ms. Powers told Supervisor Addington that it is an act of service, and she should not care what she gets paid.

Supervisor Addington replied that she does not care what she gets paid for being on the Board of Supervisors, and she enjoys serving on the Board.

Ms. Powers told the Board of Supervisors that they made the meeting time more convenient for themselves.

Chairman Chris Maness suggested that the discussion end.

Peggy Tyus spoke about Snowflake Road. She went on to say that all dirt roads in Scott County are a mess. Ms. Tyus stated that vehicles and buses are not cheap, and she hopes that the trip to Richmond was a success and Delegate Kilgore listens. Ms. Tyus requested that Snowflake Road remain on the Six Year Plan.

Gary Baker congratulated Chris Maness on being appointed as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. He went on to say that the Board is blessed with their staff. He talked about two items that Farm Bureau is working on through the General Assembly. Mr. Baker went on to say that we are trying to establish an incentive program to address the shortage of large animal veterinarians in the State of Virginia. Also, we are working to obtain a greater flexibility and reallocation of 50 percent of the unobligated cost share dollars by the Soil and Water Conservation Board. He went on to say that they opposed two bills creating a state mandate for a one size fits all criteria for all localities pertaining to setbacks, fencing, solar panel height, and visual impacts and a decommissioning plan for utility scale solar facilities on agricultural, commercial, and industrial zoned property. The other one is opposing removal of exemptions for minimum wage requirements for farm employees on certain temporary workers. As far as the Virginia Department of Transportation, Mr. Baker addressed keeping the ditches cleaned out and working with the Environmental Protection Agency. He recommended going back to the way things operated with the Virginia Department of Transportation before Kaine done away with funding for the localities. There was supervision, manpower, and maintenance vehicles, and Mr. Baker stated that he hopes we can go back to that. He added that Scott County had good roads then. Mr. Baker pointed out that ditch work was done in the Boozy Creek area, but should have continued to get all the ditches cleaned out to prevent the road from washing away.

Larry Vicars addressed the Board about Keith Memorial Park. In addition, he spoke about litter along roadways and the appearance to others visiting this area. He added that some type of program needs to be implemented to solve the problem of garbage being thrown out the windows.

Bill Dingus replied that he contacted the Wytheville State Police about a year ago and inquired about the number of tickets that had been written in the southwest region, and the answer was zero.

Mr. Vicars recommended making an example of one or two people. That would stop people from throwing it out because the word would get around.

Mr. Vicars reported that the state of Keith Memorial Park is good. Last year, Mr. Vicars pointed out there were 106 paid rentals along with several other community meetings that took place. He went on to say that there was $12,028 in revenue last year. Mr. Vicars pointed out that $1,750 of that was funding the county provided to stain the main building. In 2020, revenue was $2,900 and $9,000 in 2019. In January, there was a vote to increase fees. The cost to rent the building for eight hours on the weekend is $125 and $100 weekdays. Also, a $50 cleaning fee was implemented. There will be a $20 fee per hour for anything over eight hours. Audio and video is $25. Mr. Vicars added that the audit revealed no findings of any problems. He reported that there was $1,398 spent on maintenance and $1,500 on supplies. The cost to stain the building was $3,700. Concession lighting was changed to LED that helps with the electric bill. Mr. Vicars pointed out that Scott County maintenance and S.C.O.T.T. Service workers have been helpful throughout the past year. He added that there are not as many volunteers now. The county maintenance employees have helped to fix vandalism that occurred at the park along with some minor hurricane clean-up. Mr. Vicars noted all the events that occur at the park each year. The playground and walking trail are being used as well. He added that Keith Memorial Park is one of the most used facilities in the county. Mr. Vicars estimated that over 10,000 people use the park each year. Some of the challenges this year were from the hurricane. He mentioned the age and maintenance done on the mower and playground equipment. He addressed vandalism that occurred this past year at the park and noted that security cameras caught two of them. Mr. Vicars discussed a Succession Committee that is being developed. The Seniors are aging and cannot do as much as they once did. The plan is to attract new people to volunteer without asking the county for more help. If the park goes back to the county, it will take a minimum of two employees to operate it. In conclusion, Mr. Vicars indicated that the parking lot needs to be striped and possibly sealed. Currently, there is no place big enough to store equipment. He suggested enclosing one of the shelters that is not being used and installing a roll up garage door. Mr. Vicars estimated that would cost approximately $5,000. He pointed out that operational funds could be used for the project along with some capital funds. Mr. Vicars noted that the capital funds are from a grant.

Animal Control Officer Jake Dougherty announced that Marsh Blood Bank will hold a Pints for Paws blood drive on February 24-28, 2025 at the Bristol, Kingsport, and Johnson City donation centers. Mr. Dougherty pointed out that Marsh will donate $10 to the Animal Shelter of your choice for participating in the blood drive. Mr. Dougherty reported that he wanted to get this promoted by letting everyone know about the blood drive.

Tina Nash with the Scott County Humane Society spoke about the spay and neuter program. She went on to say that a local veterinarian is working with the Humane Society at a discount price. Ms. Nash requested funding from the Board so that the Humane Society can help more people. She pointed out that the Board gave funding to the Humane Society in the past, but she did not know why that funding stopped.

County Administrator Freda Starnes replied that the Humane Society should be receiving funds from the DMV License Plates Program. The Board of Supervisors directed those funds to the Humane Society.

Ms. Nash reported on the cat problem in Scott County due to people not having their cats spayed and neutered along with dumping cats. She recommended a cat colony for cats that have been spayed and neutered since it is difficult to get anyone to foster cats. Ms. Nash commented that too may animals are being dumped. Ms. Nash went on to say that she has talked with the Animal Control Officer Jake Dougherty. Ms. Nash noted that there needs to be better laws in Scott County pertaining to animals along with fines. In addition, there needs to be more rabies clinics. She went on to say that the county veterinarian needs to step up and help the community a little more. Ms. Nash stated that the Humane Society is comprised of volunteers. Funding comes from volunteers along with some grant funding. Ms. Nash stated that she has spoke with Food Lion, and they have agreed to help the Humane Society with donations. Ms. Nash pointed out that Jack Dougherty does a good job. Ms. Nash pointed out that she fosters animals, and she requested that the Board help as well. In addition, Ms. Nash requested that the Board approve a colony for cats.

John Berry spoke about no bus route on Bunker Road. He went on to say that five children live on that road. In addition, he pointed out that there is no fire hydrant near Berrytown Road. A portion of Berrytown Road is paved, but the end of that road is washed out. He questioned what the tax money is being used for.

The County Administrator replied that she would speak with the school system about a school bus route on Bunker Road. She pointed out that the water line is too small for a fire hydrant in that area.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen stated that he will be attending a Public Service Authority meeting and will ask about the fire hydrant situation.

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

There was discussion as to the Humane Society request.

Bill Dingus mentioned a link that he would send Ms. Nash that assists non-profits.

Mountain Empire Community College President Dr. Kristen Westover and Dr. Amy Grear gave an update (Said update being attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 35 Attachment No: 13).

Virginia Department of Transportation Residency Administrator Allan Sumpter gave an update (Said update being attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 35 Attachment No: 14).

Chris Maness suggested sidewalks from Thomas Village to HMG in Duffield. He noted that a natural path has formed already.

Mr. Sumpter replied that would have to be done through some type of grant.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen inquired about the federal paving project from the Devils Bath Tub to High Knob.

Mr. Sumpter replied that Virginia Department of Transportation is trying to get clearance from the Department of Forestry to cut trees. Mr. Sumpter stated that he would be in contact with Supervisor Skeen by email when he finds out more about that.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen reminded the Board that Webb Road was requested to be abandoned at the last meeting. He went on to say that it was determined that there was an emergency vehicle usage on that road, and maintenance was needed. Supervisor Skeen pointed out that has been corrected, and gravel was added to that road.

Supervisor Glover stated that she received a call last night about New Hurland Church Lane and asked if it is possible for that entire road to be graveled.

Mr. Sumpter replied that is something we will look at, but he could not guarantee it. Right now, we are addressing trouble spots, we prioritize on traffic volumes, and balance out our resources.

Chairman Maness pointed out that Peggy Tyus has a question for Mr. Sumpter.

Ms. Tyus inquired about getting gravel on Snowflake Road in the tracks only.

Mr. Sumpter replied no, we cannot do that. He did say that Virginia Department of Transportation will try to take care of that road until it is paved.

Supervisor Glover stated that she was told that New Hurland Church Lane was placed on the Six Year Plan 51 years ago and nothing was done about it. Supervisor Glover inquired about it being taken off the plan.

Mr. Sumpter replied that many years ago, if you wanted a road on the plan, it was placed on the plan even though there was no funding. In 2000, the leadership in Richmond decided to have a plan that was realistic and could be funded. Many roads had to be taken off. There was a priority list at the county level that was used to place roads on the plan.

John Berry inquired about paving Berrytown Road.

Mr. Sumpter replied that he thinks the Board understands the process for that.

Danny Casteel inquired about Antlers Spring Road.

Mr. Sumpter noted that they did some work on that road last week. Further work will be done later.

Danny Casteel inquired about a driveway on Route 65 at Mill Creek Road that is not graveled. He explained that water runs across the road. There is no tile from the driveway for water to run in the ditches. Supervisor Casteel pointed out that is a road hazard.

Mr. Sumpter replied that will be looked at; however, driveway tiles are the responsibility of the property owner.

Danny Casteel pointed out that Virginia Department of Transportation is a doing a good job with what they have.

Supervisor Skeen explained that Mr. Saventeno provides a place on his property for the bus to turn around, and he talked about replacing a drain tile in that area.

Mr. Sumpter replied that some things like that will be addressed in drier weather.

Danny Casteel pointed out that Cox Chapel Road has a soft spot in the road, and he noted the projected rain for next week.

Mr. Sumpter noted that he would be back in May or June. He went on to say that the Six Year Plan needs to be updated as well.

County Administrator Freda Starnes stated that she would start that process in March.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen inquired about the Clinchport intersection at U.S. Highway 23 and Highway 72 to Flatwoods being potential Smart Scale Projects.

Mr. Sumpter replied that the Clinchport intersection would be a good project, but it depends on how projects score. Flatwoods would be difficult to score well because of the economic impact.

County Administrator Freda Starnes reported on the SMART Scale Projects (Said report attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 35 Attachment No: 15).

BREAK: 11:20 a.m.

RECONVENE: 11:35 a.m.

On a motion by Darrel W. Jeter, duly seconded by Michael K. Brickey, this Board hereby ratifies the AEP Letter of Support (Said letter attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 35 Attachment No: 12).

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 adopts the following:

RESOLUTION NO: 2025-02

Resolution of Governing Body
(10,000,000 Small Issuer)

Lessee: Scott County Board of Supervisors

Equipment Lease/Purchase Agreement dated February 5, 2025.

As a duly called meeting of the governing body of Lessee held in accordance with all applicable legal requirements, including open meeting laws, on the 5th day of February 2025 the following resolution was introduced and adopted.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A EQUIPMENT LEASE/PURCHASE AGREEMENT, AND RELATED INSTRUMENTS, AND DETERMINING OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Scott County *Board of Supervisors ("Lessee") has determined that a true and very real need exists for the equipment (the "Equipment") described in the Equipment Lease/Purchase Agreement (the "Agreement") presented to this meeting; and*

WHEREAS, Lessee has taken necessary steps, including those relating to any applicable legal bidding requirements, to arrange for the acquisition of the Equipment, and

WHEREAS, Lessee proposes to enter into the Agreement substantially in the form presented in this meeting; and

WHEREAS, Lessee reasonably anticipates that it and its subordinate entities will not issue tax-exempt Obligations in the face amount of more than $10,000,000 during the current calendar year as noted on the Rider 1 portion is non-applicable.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF LESSEE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1 It is hereby found and determined that the terms of the Agreement in the form presented to this meeting and incorporated in this resolution are *in the best interests of Lessee for the acquisition of the Equipment.*

Section 2 The Agreement is hereby approved. The County Administrator of Lessee and other officer of Lessee who shall have power to execute contracts on behalf of Lessee be, and each of the hereby is, authorized to execute, *acknowledge and deliver the Agreement with any changes, insertions and omissions therein as may be approved by the officers who execute the Agreement, such approval to be conclusively evidences by such execution and delivery of the Agreement. The Assistant County Administrator of the Lessee and any other officer of Lessee who shall have power to do so be, and each of them hereby is, authorized to affix the official seal of Lessee to the Agreement and attest the same.*

Section 3 The proper officers of Lessee be, and each of them hereby is, authorized and directed to execute and delivery any and all papers, instruments, opinions, certificates, affidavits and other documents and to do or cause to be done any and all other acts *and things necessary or proper for carrying out this resolution and the Agreement.*

Section 4 Lessee hereby designates the Agreement as a "qualified tax-exempt obligation" within the meaning of Section 265(b) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as Amended.

The undersigned further certifies that the above resolution has not been repealed or amended and remains in full force and effect and further certifies that the within Equipment Lease/Purchase Agreement is the same as presented as said meeting of the governing body of Lessee.

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 FY 2026 Budget Calendar (Said calendar attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 35 Attachment No: 11).

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 appointed himself and Stefanie C. Addington to the Budget Committee.

County Administrator Freda Starnes recognized former Building Code/Zoning Administrator David Gilmer for 16 years of service upon his recent retirement, and announced that Tim Williams, who has been working with Mr. Gilmer, was selected to fill that role.

Chairman Christopher S. Maness gave an update on the 2025 legislative trip (Said presentation attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 35 Attachment No: 16).

It was the consensus of the Board that County Attorney Sally Kegley review the Zoning Ordinance for data centers.

In addition, Chairman Maness indicated that there would be a housing and data center resolution for consideration at the March meeting.

Amy Vicars presented bookkeeping items.

On a motion by Darrel W. Jeter, duly seconded by Danny M. Casteel, this Board hereby appropriates the following:

Circuit Court Clerk

$43,026.50 to 1405-21930-408203 Circuit Court Clerk's IT Technology Fund – Office Equipment Additions.

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 appropriates the following:

Board of Supervisors

$350.00 to 1000-11100-405540 Board - 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 Danny M. Casteel, this Board hereby appropriates following:

Circuit Court Clerk

$1,565.64 to 1000-21700-405540 Clerk of Circuit Court – 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 Dann M. Casteel, this Board hereby appropriates the following:

Sheriff

$1,625.00 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.

On a motion by Darrel W. Jeter, duly seconded by Danny M. Casteel, this Board hereby appropriates the following:

Commonwealth's Attorney

$1,358.69 to 1000-22100-405540 Commonwealth's Attorney's – 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 Michael K. Brickey, duly seconded by Danny M. Casteel, this Board hereby accepts Sheriff's Office DCJS Operation Ceasefire Continuation 2025-OCGF-Grant award totaling $108,303.00 to established budget code 1000-31290.

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 Michael K. Brickey, duly seconded by Danny M. Casteel, this Board hereby accepts Sheriff's Office DMV Selective Enforcement – Alcohol Project Number ENF-AL-2025-55096 Grant award totaling $20,800.00.

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

Voting nay: None.

On a motion by Michael K. Brickey, duly seconded by Danny M. Casteel, this Board hereby accepts Sheriff's Office DMV Selective Enforcement – Police Traffic Services Project Number BPT – 2025-55154-25154 Grant award totaling $14,880.00 to established budget code 1000-31268.

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 Michael K. Brickey, duly seconded by Danny M. Casteel, this Board hereby accepts Litter Control's VA DEQ Litter Prevention and Recycling Program and the EPS Campaign FY25 Grant award totaling $28,077.16 and establish expense code for Litter Control – Miscellaneous Grant Expenses 1000-35800-405863-000-0000-0000-0000-01400 and appropriate $9,455.16.

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 Michael K. Brickey, duly seconded by Danny M. Casteel, this Board hereby accepts Litter Control's VA DEQ FY2025 Competitive Litter Prevention and Recycling Grant award totaling $1,000 and appropriates $1,000 to established budget expense code for Litter Control – Grant Supplies 1000-35800-406010.

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.

Ms. Seay noted that there were no applications for the Housing Authority or Community Policy Management Team (CPMT). It was a consensus that they be readvertised for the March meeting.

Courthouse Facilities Committee

Darrel W. Jeter nominated Lisa McCarty

On a motion by Stefanie C. Addington, duly seconded by Michael K. Brickey, this Board hereby ceases nominations and, by acclamation, appoints Lisa McCarty to serve a one-year term on the Courthouse Facilities Committee.

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

Voting nay: None.

Crooked Road Board

Stefanie C. Addington nominated John Kilgore

On a motion by Michael K. Brickey, duly seconded by L. Michele Glover, this Board hereby ceases nominations and, by acclamation, appoints John Kilgore to serve a one-year term on the Crooked Road Board.

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.

Planning Commission Appointment

Michael K. Brickey nominated Shannon Stewart
Eddie N. Skeen nominated Steven Pike

Darrel W. Jeter voted for Steven Pike
L. Michele Glover voted for Steven Pike
Eddie N. Skeen voted for Steven Pike
Michael K. Brickey voted for Shannon Stewart
Danny M. Casteel voted for Steven Pike
Christopher S. Maness voted for Shannon Stewart
Stefanie C. Addington voted for Shannon Stewart

Steven Pike was appointed to serve a four-year term on the Planning Commission.

Chief Local Elected Official Board

Stefanie C. Addington nominated Christopher S. Maness

On a motion by Darrel W. Jeter, duly seconded by Michael K. Brickey, this Board hereby ceases nominations and, by acclamation, appoints Christopher S. Maness to serve on the Chief Local Elected Official Board.

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 presented the claims and related reports (Said reports being attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 35 Attachment No: 17).

Supervisor Eddie Skeen inquired about $170,000 the school system is paying for accounting services and trash.

Ms. Starnes replied that they are billed every six months.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen inquired about the school system doing maintenance on county vehicles.

Ms. Starnes replied that they are doing the maintenance.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen inquired about the current fund balance for S.C.O.T.T. Service.

Ms. Starnes replied $381,000.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen addressed the amount of interest gained.

Ms. Starnes replied that amount is $800,000. She went on to say that tax collections along with the interest will help the budget without all funds being taken from reserves to balance the budget. She reported that the inmate count is up, and jail costs will be up next year.

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 $309,876.42 for voucher numbers 50020850-50020944, 50021124-50021133, 50021158-50021165, 50021237-50021239, 50021284-50021293, 50021371-50021380 and Wire 389, 400, 401, 402 and Payroll/DD Fund $119,427.12.

(b) General Fund be allowed the sum of $1,325,715.67 for voucher numbers 50020945-50020955, 50020957-50020961, 50021017-50021077, 50021080-50021111, 50021113, 50021115-50021119, 50021121-50021123, 50021166-50021168, 50021170-50021209, 50021211-50021236, 50021240-50021253, 50021255-50021258, 50021294-50021308,500212329-50021329, 50021331-50021366, and wire 396, 397, 398 and Payroll Fund/DD Fund $595,894.84.

(c) Health Insurance Reimb. Fund be allowed the sum of $223,653.00 for wire 385, 382, 383, 384, 386, 387, and 388.

(d) Courthouse Security be allowed the sum of $164.87 for payroll fund 1210.

(e) Law Library Fund be allowed the sum of $419.12 for voucher number 50020956 and 50021209.

(f) Wireless Grant – 911 be allowed the sum of $5,542.12 for voucher numbers 50021078 and 50021210 Wire 398 and 399.and payroll/DD Fund 1505.

(g) CPMT be allowed the sum of $75,121.97 for voucher number 50021381-50021398.

(h) CWAO Collection Fund be allowed the sum of $1,484.12 for voucher numbers 50021295 and 50021307 and wire 396, 397, 398, and 399 and Payroll/DD Fund 1310 $2,051.78.

(i) IT Technology Fund (Clerk) be allowed the sum of $38,878.50 for voucher number 50020962 and 50021112.

(j) American Rescue Plan Act be allowed the sum of $9,421.04 for voucher number 50021254.

(k) Delinquent Tax Litigation Fund be allowed the sum of $38.50 for voucher number 50021114.

(l) Motor Vehicle Violation Fines Fund be allowed the sum of $39.95 for voucher number 50021169.

(m) Coal Road Tax Fund be allowed the sum of $48.93 for voucher number 50021120.

(n) Regional Improvements Fund be allowed the sum of $20,866.89 for voucher number 50021330.

(o) Courthouse Maintenance Construction be allowed the sum of $312.22 for voucher number 500204.74 and 500205.77.

(p) CWAO Forfeit Asset Fund be allowed the sum of $1,361.39 for Voucher Number 50020648.

(q) Local Assit. & Tribal Consisten. be allowed the sum of $2,426.00 for Voucher Number 50021079.

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 Darrel Jeter thanked the staff for all they do.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen stated that he attended the Pivot Energy community meeting, and he noted that there will be another meeting in February at Keith Memorial Park. In addition, he attended a LENOWISCO meeting, and there was discussion about sidewalks and mobile generators. Supervisor Skeen noted a meeting with Dr. Grear with Mountain Empire Community College. He went on to say that he and Larry Vicars will be working with advisors on getting more parent student involvement. He noted that he would be attending a meeting with the Scott County Fire Departments and Public Service Authority on improving communication regarding fire hydrants. Supervisor Skeen announced that the Central Scott County Water Project was approved. Yuma and Hiltons projects have already been announced. He pointed out that the Virginia Housing Mortgage Mobile Office will be set up at the old Food City parking lot on February 19, 2025. He addressed the LENOWISCO meeting regarding an ARC Project and Fairview Water Project. Supervisor Skeen also addressed energy and data centers. Cell service equipment upgrades were addressed along with Dungannon and Upper Cliff Mountain Water Projects. He pointed out that Appalachian Community Action and Development Agency will be doing tax returns for those with incomes under $64,000.

Supervisor Stefanie Addington inquired about the status of the Upper Cliff Mountain Water Project.

Ms. Starnes replied that project was held up because of the hurricane taking AEP off that project.

Supervisor Stefanie Addington announced that the Ballad Mobile Mammogram Unit will be on-site at Clinch River Health Services on February 10, 2025. She went back to last year when the misinformation was put in the newspaper during the budget process. Supervisor Addington requested that the Board work together as a group and not put out any false information for the public. She went on to say that last year could have been completely avoided.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen replied that all adjustments made in the tax rate refer to real estate tax. All communication he received was for real estate taxes.

Supervisor Addington referred to the ad Supervisor Skeen put in the newspaper.

Supervisor Skeen stated that was exactly what we discussed in our budget committee.

Supervisor Addington replied no. Furthermore, everyone here would agree that was misinformation, and it was conveyed to the public to create the atmosphere that it created. Ms. Addington stated that she hopes Supervisor Skeen will have more respect and integrity for this Board than to put us in that shape.

Supervisor Skeen stated that there was a good response from the public, and he thinks it is our responsibility to inform the public.

Supervisor Addington replied that there was a response from the public.

Supervisor Skeen asked if Supervisor Addington prefer that no one show up.

Supervisor Addington replied that she prefers that no one show up on the accord that they have been lied to.

Supervisor Skeen asked the County Administrator if communication with the tax increase and effect on the budget references what was discussed and referred to real estate tax.

County Administrator Freda Starnes explained the process. She went on to say that the Budget Committee gets the budget, and that is the worst-case scenario. If you were going to fund everything asked for, that would be the case. However, you need to work together to take things off the budget that you cannot fund. Ms. Starnes agreed that should have never been advertised at a 23 percent increase because it was not realistic. The full Board had not taken a look at the budget and made their changes, and we are still dealing with those repercussions.

Supervisor Stefanie Addington made a formal censure of that.

Supervisor Danny Casteel stated the actual proposal was 23 percent.

Supervisor Stefanie Addington replied that there was no proposal so she would like to make a motion that the Board censure Supervisor Skeen for his actions for communication of false information.

Supervisor Skeen asked if we started with 23 percent.

Chairman Maness replied that is what you put in the paper.

Supervisor Skeen added that it would have been much greater than that. As we worked through the process, we were ending up with 23 percent.

Supervisor Addington replied no.

Ms. Starnes noted that the full Board has a month that they go through the budget to bring the amount down in open session.

Chairman Maness told Supervisor Skeen that is why he put himself on the Budget Committee because last year he went through the budget and met multiple times with the County Administrator and thinks he did Supervisors Skeen's job for him.

Supervisor Skeen stated that Chairman Maness should have been on the Budget Committee if he was spending that much time on it.

County Administrator Freda Starnes replied that was after the Budget Committee met.

Chairman Maness stated that is why he put himself on it this year.

Supervisor Skeen asked Supervisor Stefanie Addington to explain censure.

Supervisor Addington gave a definition of censure.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen asked the County Attorney if there is anything that needs to be added.

County Attorney Sally Kegley replied that she does not have an opinion, and this is new information to her that she wasn't prepared to address.

Supervisor Michele Glover asked if the Board can just work together, and she questioned if we have to do this right now.

Supervisor Stefanie Addington replied that we do not have to do it. She wants everyone to work together too.

Supervisor Michele Glover stated that this meeting has been unreal. She went on to say that the accusations that come forward bother her. The meeting time frame is an issue for people who work; however, we all have to work and pay our bills. The Board tried having the meetings at 6:00 p.m., and no one showed up. Supervisor Glover went on to say that it was hard for people who did show up because they were exhausted from waiting their turn to speak. Supervisor Glover stated that she has a copy of the 2022 salaries, and it states that Bill Dingus was the Assistant County Administrator. She went on to say that the County Administrator works hard, and it bothers her that people are on her. The County Administrator and Assistant County Administrator work great together. She went on to say that she has an open-door policy. Supervisor Glover encouraged the citizens to contact the members of the Board of Supervisors, and she noted that they want to help, and that is why they ran for this office.

Chairman Maness agreed. He went on to say that there will be no formal censure. He encouraged the Board to work together.

Supervisor Michele Glover stated that she went to an Economic Development Authority meeting this past month. She encouraged anyone with issues about Riverside to attend the Economic Development Authority meeting, and she pointed out that they do have a Citizen Expression Period. Supervisor Glover stated that she understands the 9:00 a.m. meeting is not convenient for everyone, but she encouraged the citizens to contact the Board if they are unable to attend.

Supervisor Darrel Jeter stated that he has been on the Board for a long time. At first, he wanted to please everyone, but decided that was not going to work. Then, he decided to do what he thought was the right thing.

Supervisor Michael Brickey stated that he mentioned censure along with non-disclosure agreements when he was chairman. He pointed out that the Economic Development Authority signs non-disclosure agreements. Supervisor Brickey stated that the Board of Supervisors had information that came out of our closed session, and we needed non-disclosure agreements. Censure was not included in the handbook because we thought it would upset everyone. The handbook has been approved, and it is still not included. Supervisor Brickey suggested discussion to add censure and non-disclosure agreements later.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen stated that he thinks things coming out of closed session is referring to him. He went on to say that he was contacted following a Republican meeting by some of the attendees asking him about the Riverside property. They were giving him information about the Riverside property, and it was discussed at the republican meeting in open session. He went on to say that Supervisor Addington was there, and her response is that she does not remember if she discussed it or not.

Chairman Maness noted that the Board of Supervisors were sworn to secrecy and how they got that information was not. Chairman Maness told Supervisor Skeen that the problem is that he mentioned that in an open meeting and caused some confusion. He went on to say the things that the Board of Supervisors say in closed session are not for open session.

Supervisor Skeen stated that he was told that Supervisor Addington was discussing that at the Republican meeting.

Supervisor Addington replied that is a new one on her.

Chairman Maness stated that the difference is that Supervisor Skeen mentioned it in open session, and that is recorded.

Supervisor Danny Casteel stated that he was one who voted to change the meeting time from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m. because no one showed up. Supervisor Casteel pointed out that he hears about the meeting time change regularly and is willing to change it to 4:30 p.m. or leave it at 9:00 a.m.

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.1 Personnel being County Administrator.

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 Michael K. Brickey, 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 Darrel W. Jeter, duly seconded by Michael K. Brickey, 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.

County Administrator Freda Starnes announced that she has resigned from her position as County Administrator, has given a thirty-day notice, and has accepted another position locally. She wished the staff and citizens of Scott County all the best.

Chairman Chris Maness thanked Ms. Starnes for her service and what she has done for Scott County. He went on to say that the Board appreciates everything that Ms. Starnes has done, and we do not know what we are going to do without her.

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

CHAIRMAN

CLERK