

SCOTT
VIRGINIA

At a meeting of the Scott County Board of Supervisors begun and held in the Supervisors’ meeting room located at the Community Services Building in Gate City, Virginia on Wednesday the 2nd day of April, 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 called the meeting to order.

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

On a motion by Darrel W. Jeter, duly seconded by Michael K. Brickey, this Board hereby amends the agenda by adding item 9b – School Board Item.

- Voting aye:

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

None.

On a motion by L. Michele Glover, duly seconded by Danny M. Casteel, this Board hereby approves the agenda as amended.

- 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 March 5, 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 Chris Maness opened Citizen Expression Period to receive public comments.

Peggy Tyus from Snowflake Road spoke about dirt roads always needing attention. She went on to say that Snowflake Road is in fair condition. Virginia Department of Transportation cleaned out the drain pipes which is a big help. She suggested that Terry Kilgore get more funding for dirt roads. Ms. Tyus thanked the Board for all they do and requested that Snowflake Road remain on the Six Year Plan.

Bobbie Couch Powers from 5248 Hanging Rock Parkway spoke about solar. Ms. Powers noted that she thinks the Board is moving in the right direction with solar. She referenced a petition with 250 signatures in support of the project and only a few opposed. Ms. Powers stated that she is not for or against solar. She went on to say that citizens should have the right to do what they want with their land. Ms. Powers stated that everyone needs to come together to better our community. She pointed out that people are tired of the Board's unwillingness to work with the public on matters like this. In addition, she pointed out that limiting what people can do with their own land will, most assuredly, not be tolerated. Furthermore, Ms. Powers stated that she hears people speak about funding for dirt roads in Scott County, and she hopes that is one of the Board's first priorities to take care of. Ms. Powers stated that she contacted Dobyns-Bennett High School as to what they would charge for her daughter, who is a dual enrolled student, to transfer to their school if she wanted to transfer from the University of Virginia at Wise to East Tennessee State University. Ms. Powers stated that she is waiting to hear back. She went on to say that she will let the Board know what Tennessee charges for something Scott County chooses to collect from citizens in taxes while we are riding around on roads that we cannot drive on. If people are tired of the unconcerned behavior the Board of Supervisors has toward the citizens with decisions and would like to see a change, Ms. Powers stated that she can be found on Facebook. The Planning Commission meetings are at 6:00 p.m., however, the Board of Supervisors cannot give us the same consideration. She stated that the citizens can get petitions to have board members recalled if they do not observe or try to dampen our liberties. Ms. Powers stated that she is here watching for efficiency. In addition, Ms. Powers stated that she has matters to pursue with the Economic Development Authority and many more. Ms. Powers stated that she would be here every month. If anyone would like help with recall efforts, Ms. Powers encouraged them to contact her.

Gary Baker from Boozy Creek addressed the Board. He went on to say that the Board of Supervisors cannot change much with the Virginia Department of Transportation; however, Farm Bureau may be able to. He spoke about putting in a resolution to reinstate Virginia Department of Transportation the way it was when they had the manpower and equipment to do their job. Mr. Baker noted that a previous Governor took all that away from us. Mr. Baker stated that Bill Dingus is doing an excellent job as Acting County Administrator. His parents would be very proud of him. Mr. Baker told Supervisor Eddie Skeen to not hesitate about putting information in the paper to inform the public. He encouraged more transparency.

Katherine Stallard stated that she is retired from grooming dogs; however, she boards dogs when people go on vacation. She spoke about a complaint that she made about animals behind Snowflake General Mercantile at the March meeting. Ms. Stallard stated that the owner of those animals and his girlfriend came to her home to harass and intimidate her because the Animal Control Officer gave him her name and address. Ms. Stallard stated that is definitely a way to lower animal complaint calls. She went on to say that people will be afraid to say anything because of this; however, it will not slow down her calls to Animal Control. Ms. Stallard pointed out that she called her Supervisor Eddie Skeen. Mr. Skeen spoke with Sally Kegley and Bill Dingus about this situation. In addition, Ms. Stallard stated that she will be talking to a lawyer and the Attorney General about this matter.

Susan Meade stated that she is from Lebanon Virginia but owns property in Scott County. Ms. Meade went on to say that she does not know why Scott County is so negative about everything. She stated that she pays taxes in Scott County and should be able to do whatever she wants with her property. Furthermore, everyone wants Scott and Russell Counties to prosper and make money. Ms. Meade stated that a person who owns property and pays taxes should be able to do what they want with their property that is within the law. She questioned why the Board would want to vote something down that would help the county and the citizens of the county.

Patricia Kilgore from Yuma presented a resolution requesting a comprehensive study to assess the impact of Medicaid cuts in Scott County for the Board to consider (Said resolution attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 35 Attachment No: 33).

Jared Ring spoke in favor of the proposed solar project in Nickelsville and property rights in general. Being from Russell County, he noted what a bad project looks like with the landfill in Russell County. Mr. Ring stated that he attended the Planning Commission meeting, and the developer has done their due diligence. There is nothing hazardous about the panels, and there is a financial incentive to refurbish the panels. Mr. Ring pointed out that power will be routed to the Nickelsville substation. The only argument he heard is how the panels might look, and he has a hard time understanding how you could see them for more than a few seconds from Route 71. At the end of the day, it is poles in a field. The project does not destroy or damage the land. Those poles could be removed like removing a fence post. The cost of power is going to go up and the demand is going up. The more efficient we can be, the better. He mentioned people on a fixed income and the increased cost of energy. He addressed not allowing people to do what they want with their property because a minority might not like the way it looks. He believes, if a person purchases property and pays taxes on the property, they should be able to do what they want on the property as long as they are not hurting anyone. He went on to say that his hope is that the Board of Supervisors will approve the project and make Scott County more energy efficient.

Peggy Matthews from Dungannon spoke in favor of the proposed solar projects in Nickelsville. She went on to say that it will provide power to households in Scott County and will help those on fixed incomes. Ms. Matthews spoke about rising power costs and a ten percent savings on electric bills as a result of the solar projects. In addition, this would help the farmers who are trying to find land to lease for sheep. Ms. Matthews stated that this is a win all around, and she pointed out that solar would be welcomed in Dungannon.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen followed up on discussion at the March meeting about fire hydrants near Berrytown Road, school bus route on Bunker Road, and Fraleytown Road abandonment. He went on to say that fire trucks have to fill up approximately one-half mile from Berrytown Road. Supervisor Skeen pointed out that is due to the size of the water line not being sufficient for fire hydrants near Berrytown Road. In addition, Supervisor Skeen stated that he found out Bunker Road is unsafe for school buses, and Virginia department of Transportation has closed a portion of that road. Also, Supervisor Skeen reported on the request for abandonment of Fraleytown Road due to drug related activities. Supervisor Skeen went on to say that E911 had no drug related calls; however, there was one incident of an intoxicated person. Supervisor Skeen suggested that the person who made the request for abandonment attend the May meeting for further discussion.

Acting County Administrator Bill Dingus responded to comments Ms. Stallard made during Citizen Expression about her address being given out. Mr. Dingus stated that he talked with the Animal Control Officer. It is not policy to convey who makes complaints to the Animal Control Officer. That is not something being done. Furthermore, Mr. Dingus pointed out that it came to his attention that the person already knew where Ms. Stallard lived.

Eddie Sluss of Gate City stated that he has contacted Animal Control in the past, and the matter was properly handled. The situation was taken care of, and he appreciates that. He went on to say that Mr. Dingus is doing a good job along with the Animal Control Officer. Mr. Sluss added that people should not be trying to control everything and everybody. He went on to say that people in this area have gotten in the habit of doing that. Mr. Sluss noted that everyone's opinion should be considered, but it should not give them the right to trash talk people. Mr. Sluss concluded that he is not going to sit back and not say something when he knows different, and he expressed appreciation for the job Mr. Dingus is doing.

Supervisor Michele Glover pointed out that the meeting is live and whatever is stated in the meeting goes out to the public.

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

Building/Zoning Official Tim Williams presented solar generation facility special use permit applications for Pivot Energy Tax Map 72-A-77 and 72-A-67C (Said presentation being attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 35 Attachment No: 27).

Pivot Energy Project Manager Georgia DeCruz gave a presentation on Copper Ridge I solar facility (Said presentation attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 35 Attachment No: 28).

Jeremy Harr thanked everyone for making this project come together. He pointed out that 15 to 20 letters have gone to the Board of Supervisors in support of this project. He went on to say there are citizens who choose to buy medicine or food in lieu of paying an electric bill. There are people who have an invested interest in the success of Nickelsville and, there has been a lot of support for this project. Mr. Harr addressed a petition with over 250 signatures to approve the project. Statistics show that 85 percent of the people who contact a governmental agency are negative on every project that comes before a commission for approval. However, there are 250 signatures in support of this project. When you add up the \$6,600,000 that the people in Nickelsville could save on their utility bills plus \$500,000 in taxes that is \$7,000,000. The county does not have to do anything for \$7,000,000. Pivot Energy and the landowner have paid every expense. There are 21,000 people in this county. This will help approximately 1,300 households with their electric bills. Therefore, there are approximately 4,000 people who will save ten percent on their power bill. In addition, he mentioned tax relief for the citizens. Mr. Harr stated that there will never be progress without change. He questioned whether or not we are providing enough for those who have little. This is giving the average household a \$200 plus discount per year. There is nothing that can be put on a small section of farm land that would give a benefit in the amount of 7.7 million dollars. There could be a cattle feeding facility on this property that creates dust, odor, flies, manure issues, and tractor trailer traffic. Anything that would go on this property would increase traffic. Solar is a silent neighbor that obstructs nothing. The most persistent and urgent question that we should be asking ourselves every day is what we do for others. Mr. Harr stated that he wants to leave today knowing that steps have been taken to help the citizens of this county. There are always sacrifices that we make. There is no member of the Board of Supervisors thinking they really want their pay check each month for doing that job because they do not make 50 cents per hour. Everyone makes sacrifices on a daily basis by giving back to the community. This is a way to give back to the community that requires nothing. He referenced a sign on the wall concerning the county being pro solar. This project is under the criteria of an ordinance. The ordinance was passed by this Board unanimously last year. We have not only met but exceeded every criteria of that ordinance. The Commonwealth of Virginia is based on limited government, and this Board exists for one reason, and that is to act for the common good of all. It is not to vote for something because ten of your friends want you to vote that way. This small project is the greatest example for Scott County to act for the common good of all to generate \$7,000,000. The project can be seen from a few homes. This occurs in cities and counties both rural and urban throughout this country. This is not a matter of first impression. There are 6,500 solar farms in this country with a little over 3,000 counties in this country. The average county has an average of two solar

farms. These have been examined under a microscope for many years. There is a solar farm near historic Jonesboro, Tennessee with no vegetation. In Hawkins County, an elementary school has solar panels. None of these projects hurt development. Utility cost is one of the first questions builders hear, and they look to put solar panels on their homes. A solar farm in Nickelsville shows progress, and the county is keeping up with modern times. The speed limit is 55 mph in front of this site in Nickelsville; therefore, the solar panels will only be seen for a second or two. On Twin Springs Road, the solar panels can be seen in a hayfield until the vegetation grows. Mr. Harr questioned why we should be embarrassed by solar panels. He went on to say that there are positives and negatives to consider. He asked that the Board consider the additional seven million dollars for the county, petition in support of the project, letters of support, and everyone in the county that will benefit from the additional revenue. Then, he asked the Board why they would not approve the project with only a handful of people being against it. Mr. Harr stated that change is scary. He noted a quote by Franklin Roosevelt, “the only thing we have to fear is fear itself”. He went on to say that this is a well-executed plan to help this county bring in the revenue to help the citizens. He urged the Board to listen to the citizens in favor of the project and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Chairman Chris Maness opened a Public Hearing on a Special Use Permit Application submitted by Pivot Energy for tax map # 72-A-77, on Twin Springs Road, Nickelsville, Virginia, to use the parcel as a Solar Generation Facility.

Eddie Sluss from Gate City spoke in support of solar panel farms. Mr. Sluss stated that AEP does not care if energy comes to this area or not. Mr. Sluss pointed out that he has driven a semi-truck in 44 states and explored along the way. He stated that he saw the first solar panel farm in Los Angeles, California. Mr. Sluss pointed out that solar farms are being built for hospitals. Scott County needs healthcare but is tied into Kingsport for healthcare. Furthermore, Scott County is one of two counties in the State of Virginia without an emergency room facility or some type of small hospital. Mr. Sluss pointed out that it can take an hour to get from Duffield or Blackwater to Holston Valley Hospital depending upon the traffic. He added that the Mayo Clinic is using solar as their energy source. Mr. Sluss stated that he has hauled solar equipment, and there are no hazard placards required. There is no danger in a solar farm. In addition, he mentioned the tax benefits and benefits to the citizens of Scott County. Some of them cannot afford to purchase food and gas. Mr. Sluss pointed out that nothing has been brought into Scott County for tax relief. He encouraged solar panel farms.

Brent Graham stated that he owns property in Scott County and is a home builder. He spoke in support of Solar farms to lower power bills.

Energy Right Director of Strategy Engagement Ben Wilson stated that he is here to advocate for property rights and responsible renewable energy. He highlighted a conversation with the Director of the Department of Energy Glenn Davis. Mr. Wilson pointed out that Glenn Davis brought up an interesting point. Energy is the most important thing that we do not think about, and he spoke about all the things we use each day that requires power. He talked about bringing energy to Virginia. It saves our citizens dollars, saves our grid, and allows us to be more independent. Virginia imports more energy than any other state to address energy needs. It is important to measure solar projects according to the way you have set up your county to ensure the project is good for your community. By supporting projects and taking advantage of what is already here, we are utilizing existing manufacturing and bringing more jobs here. He encouraged the Board to measure these solar projects with the ordinance that was well crafted to ensure that the projects are good projects.

Phil Broadwater from Twin Springs Road stated that he lives across from the proposed solar farm and is concerned about the location. He went on to say that his daughter and her husband live right in the middle where it is proposed. His concerns are property values, overall appearance of the solar farm, and how it will be maintained. He went on to say that many who live in that area are opposed to it. There is a list of those who signed a petition against it, but he does not know if that was provided to the Board of Supervisors.

Mayor of Nickelsville Danny Dixon stated that he is not opposed to solar. He went on to say that he is representing the views of the Town Council and a large number of people in Nickelsville who have concerns about this specific project. He added that he is very impressed with the manner Pivot Energy staff have conducted themselves and the benefits this project will bring to Scott County. The biggest concern is location. Solar panels do contain substances that are toxic that include lead and arsenic. He went on to say that we have been assured that these are encapsulated and the environment is completely protected from any harm. That may be true under normal circumstances. Mr. Dixon pointed out that extreme weather events happen. Sometimes these solar panels do not stand up to hail storms and leak rainwater into the ground, and we do not know how toxic that is and what type of impact that will have for decades. Then, it might be too late. If that were to happen on this particular site, we will have some big problems. Down the hill from this proposed site, there is a large wetland. This area has caves, sinkholes, and crevasses for toxins to seep through that could affect the town's water supply. Within a few yards, there are two wells for operating under Scott County Public Service Authority. There is another well one-half mile away. If these wells become contaminated, we will have a catastrophe that will spill over to this Board. Nickelsville is an island that is not connected to anyone else for water supply even though the Public Service Authority is working on that. The property owner and those with Pivot Energy do not have to drink the water because they do not live here, and they will not have to clean up the mess if something happens. Mr. Dixon stated that it is a big gamble to say that we will not have an extreme weather event that will damage these panels. Solar farms may be in the best interest for Scott County, but it comes down to location. He pointed out that this is a bad location.

Supervisor Michele Glover questioned if Pivot Energy has ever had any toxins go out into the land and into water since 2009.

Ms. DeCruz replied no.

Bobbie Powers addressed toxins from the panels. She noted that it is silica that includes sand, glass, and a gas that is inside of windows. It is not water soluble. She went on to say that she might not like the way Aunt Myrtle's panties look on a clothes line, but it does not make sense for her to say that she can't hang them. Ms. Powers pointed out that we may not like how a lot of things look, but we have no right to tell someone what they can do with their property. Ms. Powers questioned the difference in having a solar site that poses no risk that we know of and having junk yards that leak different chemicals, set above creek beds, and an eyesore.

Mark McCarty from Nickelsville stated that he cuts his own fire wood to reduce electric costs. Mr. McCarty noted that he has a prosthetic leg that has to be charged along with a C-Pap machine that he uses every night. He went on to say that his children and grandchildren will see great benefits from this solar project. Mr. McCarty stated that Scott County needs change for the future.

Gary Broadwater from Nickelsville stated that he lives across the road from the proposed solar farm. He went on to say that there are numerous places to put solar farms throughout Scott County that would not have the same affects that Nickelsville could possibly face. Mr. Broadwater encouraged the Board to be selective on the location of future solar farms and vote no on this particular site.

Greg Corder from Blountville, Tennessee stated that he owns property in Scott County near the proposed solar farm. He pointed out, if people were offered free solar panels for their home, people would take it. Therefore, people should not fear a solar farm. Mr. Corder stated that it is the appearance that some don't like. He stated that he is in support of solar.

Hearing no further comments, Chairman Maness closed the public hearing.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen stated that he lives in the Nickelsville area and has received messages from both sides. He mentioned that the Board approved the Rye Cove Solar Farm. There is one house that can be seen from that location. Supervisor Skeen stated that he went to that home to see if those residents were in favor of that solar farm, and they were in favor of it. The Board voted unanimously to approve that project; however, he sees this project being different. It is in a residential community. The Planning Commission did not vote to recommend it. The Town of Nickelsville does not recommend this project.

Darrel Jeter inquired about restrictions on the number of years the ground could be plowed after dismantling a solar farm.

Ms. DeCruz responded that there are no restrictions.

Danny Casteel inquired about Pivot Energy being responsible for any contamination that occurs.

Ms. DeCruz replied yes, we will be doing water testing.

Chris Maness inquired about well testing.

Ms. DeCruz replied that testing will occur once per year for five years and every five years afterwards.

Supervisor Darrel Jeter inquired about the parcel on the hill and a vegetation buffer around the panels.

Ms. DeCruz replied that they would be happy to expand the buffer. She added that the mobile home will remain. There will be a vegetation buffer, and you will see trees or the abandoned mobile home.

Chairman Maness pointed out a \$25,000 one-time payment to Nickelsville Fire Department.

Danny Casteel mentioned a home in North Carolina that has had solar panels for 50 years. He went on to say that he has not seen any dead grass in their yard. Supervisor Casteel pointed out that some see solar panels as being ugly, but Supervisor Casteel stated that he has seen uglier. He noted that American Electric Power costs 40 percent more than Powell Valley Electric, and he is for anything that will keep taxes low.

On a motion by Danny M. Casteel, duly seconded by L. Michele Glover, this Board hereby adopts the following:

RESOLUTION: 2025 - 04

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(B)(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 500-124.1(B)(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 72 A 77, as requested by Applicant Pivot Energy, subject to the conditions presented here by the applicants today.

Voting Aye: L. Michele Glover
Michael K. Brickey
Danny M. Casteel
Christopher S. Maness.

Voting Nay: Darrel W. Jeter
Eddie N. Skeen
Stefanie C. Addington.

BREAK: 11:00 a.m.

RECONVENE: 11:20 a.m.

Pivot Energy Project Manager Georgia DeCruz gave a presentation on Copper Ridge II solar facility (Said presentation attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 35 Attachment No: 34).

Mr. Harr noted that the project was pushed back primarily because the community did not want to see solar. He went on to say that they wanted it to be hidden. When you come into Nickelsville, the solar facility will be 200 feet from the road, and that far exceeds the solar ordinance. With this project being pushed back along with the vegetation, Mr. Harr pointed out that it gives a larger barrier and would take a concerted effort to see this project.

Chairman Maness opened a public hearing on a Special Use Permit Application submitted by Pivot Energy for tax map # 72-A-67C, on Twin Springs Road, Nickelsville, Virginia, to use the parcel as a Solar Generation Facility.

Mr. Harr noted that the letters of support, petition, and previous comments made by those who left the meeting during the break are for both projects.

Robert Sallee with the Scott County School System inquired about the projects providing back-up power or power that is going onto the grid.

Mr. Harr replied that this power goes directly into the grid. If there is an interruption in power during the day, it could provide power to the first 1,000 closest homes. However, there would not be power through the night.

Hearing no further comments, Chairman Maness closed the public hearing.

Supervisor Michele Glover clarified that it could help the schools and businesses to have power during the day.

Robert Sallee inquired about it being a backup power supply that would keep the school walk-in refrigerators running during a power outage.

Mr. Harr replied that it is not a back-up power. In times of a power outage, it would run during the day and might help with that. Mr. Harr stated that there would probably be power twelve hours out of the day.

Chris Maness noted that the vegetation would cover the visual impact in a couple years.

There was discussion as to farmers supplementing their income with solar farms.

On a motion by L. Michele Glover, duly seconded by Danny M. Casteel, this Board hereby adopts the following:

RESOLUTION: 2025 - 05

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(B)(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 500-124.1(B)(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 72 A 67C, as requested by Applicant Pivot Energy, subject to the conditions presented here by the applicants today.

Voting Aye: L. Michele Glover
Michael K. Brickey
Danny M. Casteel
Christopher S. Maness.

Voting Nay: Darrel W. Jeter
Eddie N. Skeen
Stefanie C. Addington.

Acting County Administrator Bill Dingus requested that each board member submit a road for the Six Year Plan. He went on to say that the Virginia Department of Transportation will evaluate criteria and cost. Then, the Board of Supervisors will rank the roads, and a public hearing will be held in June.

The following roads were submitted:

Darrel W. Jeter – None

L. Michele Glover - Timber Tree Branch Rd

Eddie N. Skeen - Dean Hollow Rd – the unfinished section

Michael K. Brickey - Snowflake Rd – the remainder not currently on the Six-Year Plan

Danny M. Casteel - Dingus Hollow Ln

Christopher S. Maness - Ford Branch Rd

Stefanie C. Addington - Hales Spring Rd

Buddy Delp and Jane Branham with the High Knob Music Festival gave an update. The group thanked the Board for supporting the High Knob Music Festival in the past. Buddy Delp pointed out that the festival is free and those attending may bring a cooler with lunch for their family. In addition, there will be food for purchase. The High Knob Music Festival was created to make the High Knob Recreational Area viable again. Also, funds are being raised to build a handicap wheelchair accessible platform with volunteers.

Mr. Dingus requested a list of work days to get information out for volunteers.

Chairman Maness inquired about the amount being requested.

Mr. Delp replied \$1,000 and noted that the funding is needed by the end of May.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen asked if Mr. Delp has been working with the new Scott County Tourism Director.

Mr. Delp replied that he would be glad to talk with the new director.

Mr. Dingus offered to connect Mr. Delp and Tourism Director Brittany Robertson.

On a motion by Darrel W. Jeter, duly seconded by Michael K. Brickey, this Board hereby funds the High Knob Music Festival \$1,000 from Board Contingency.

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.

Superintendent of Schools John Ferguson addressed the Board about letters of support for a school assist program grant for Yuma and Weber City Elementary additions.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen inquired about the number of students that attend those schools from Tennessee and how that affects Scott County taxpayers.

Mr. Ferguson replied that he has not requested additional funds. This is a competitive grant.

Supervisor Skeen requested that the matter be discussed at a future date because he has concerns about Tennessee students.

Mr. Ferguson pointed out that there are families of students from Tennessee who are property owners in Scott County, and he explained that he is only asking for a letter of support.

On a motion by Stefanie C. Addington, duly seconded by L. Michele Glover, this Board hereby approves two letters of support for the Scott County School Board to pursue a School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP) FY25 grant for Weber City Elementary and Yuma Elementary additions (Said letters attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 35 Attachment No: 25).

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 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 L. Michele Glover, this Board hereby returns to open session.

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

Voting nay: None.

Absent: Darrel W. Jeter.

Supervisor Darrel Jeter was excused from the meeting.

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

Voting nay: None.

Absent: Darrel W. Jeter.

Amy Vicars presented bookkeeping.

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

\$10,900.00 to 1000-32200-405624 State Paid Contributions from VA Department of Fire Programs Aid to Localities (ATL) Fund FY2025.

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

Voting nay: None.

Absent: Darrel W. Jeter.

On a motion by Stefanie C. Addington, duly seconded by L. Michele Glover, this Board hereby accepts Sheriff’s Office – Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) 544417 Local Law Enforcement (LOLE) Grant Program grant # 548580 total award amount of \$3,048.00.

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

Voting nay: None.

Absent: Darrel W. Jeter.

Tina Seay presented applications for appointment. There were no applicants for the Community Policy Management Team. It was a consensus to advertise the Community Policy Management Team opening for the May agenda.

Housing Authority Appointment

Christopher S. Maness nominated Kevin Barnett

On a motion by Stefanie C. Addington, duly seconded by L. Michele Glover, this Board hereby ceases nominations and, by acclamation, appoints Kevin Barnett to serve a four-year term on the Housing Authority.

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

Voting nay: None.

Absent: Darrel W. Jeter.

On a motion by Stefanie C. Addington, duly seconded by Michael K. Brickey, this Board hereby ratifies the submission of a withdrawal from the Motion for Leave to Amend PBM Defendants (Said submission attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 35 Attachment No: 26).

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

Voting nay: None.

Absent: Darrel W. Jeter.

Acting County Administrator Bill Dingus presented the claims and related reports (Said reports being attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 35 Attachment No: 29).

Supervisor Stefanie Addington inquired about \$11,000 for Spearhead Trails.

Amy Vicars replied that is their allocation in the current budget.

On a motion by Michael K. Brickey, duly seconded by L. Michele Glover, this Board hereby orders that:

- (a) Social Services Fund be allowed the sum of \$337,876.52 for voucher numbers 50021998 – 50022095, 50022271-50022279, 50022380-50022397, 50022462-50022471, 50022535-50022542 and Wire 444, 445, 446, 447, 448 and Payroll/DD Fund \$118,498.00.
- (b) General Fund be allowed the sum of \$769,309.57 for voucher numbers 50022096-50022113, 50022115-50022121, 50022123, 50022196-50022201, 50022203-50022232, 50022234-50022236, 50022239-5002240, 50022280-50022331, 50022280-50022328, 50022331-50022347, 50022398-50022404, 50022406-50022435, 50022437-50022452, 50022472-50022518, 50022520-50022529, 50022532-50022534, 50022590-50022598, 50022600-50022601 and wire 449, 450, 451, 452, 453 and Payroll/DD.
- (c) Health Insurance Reimb. Fund be allowed the sum of \$232,283.00 for wire 435,436,437,438,439,440, and 442
- (d) Courthouse Security be allowed the sum of \$827.82 for voucher number 50022530 and 50022594 and wire 449, 452, and 453 and Payroll/DD \$1,986.38.
- (e) Law Library Fund be allowed the sum of \$419.12 for voucher numbers 50022114 and 50022323.
- (f) Wireless Grant – 911 be allowed the sum of \$5,738.26 for voucher numbers 50022202 and 50022329 and Wire 449, 452, and 453 and Payroll/DD Fund \$1,566.06.
- (g) CPMT be allowed the sum of \$98,783.84 for voucher numbers 50022570 – 50022589.
- (h) CWAOC Collection Fund be allowed the sum of \$1,484.12 for voucher numbers 50022473 and 50022484 and wire 450, 451, 452, and 453.
- (i) IT Technology Fund (Clerk) be allowed the sum of \$118.01 for voucher numbers 50022237.
- (j) American Rescue Plan Act be allowed the sum of \$12,406.99 for voucher number 50022122 and 50022237.

- (k) Delinquent Tax Litigation Fund be allowed the sum of \$750.00 for voucher number 50022233and 50022330.
- (l) Motor Vehicle Violation Fines Fund be allowed the sum of \$39.95 for voucher number 50022405.
- (m) Coal Road Tax Fund be allowed the sum of \$294.20 for voucher number 50022238.
- (n) CWAO Forfeit Asset Fund be allowed the sum of \$140.06 for voucher number 50021889.
- (o) Sheriff’s Forfeit Seizure Fund be allowed the sum of \$1,809.44 for voucher numbers 50022436 and 5022599.
- (p) Sheriff’s Miscellaneous Fund be allowed the sum of \$897.72 for voucher numbers 50022499, 50022519, 50022531, and 50022593.

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

Voting nay: None.

Absent: Darrel W. Jeter.

On a motion by Stefanie C. Addington, duly seconded by Danny M. Casteel, this Board hereby funds Dungannon Volunteer Fire Department \$500.00 from Board Contingency to assist with the cost of their annual horse show fundraiser.

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

Voting nay: None.

Absent: Darrel W. Jeter.

Acting County Administrator Bill Dingus pointed out that April is Litter Awareness Month and presented a billboard advertisement to illustrate that. He mentioned the styrofoam ban that will take effect July 1, 2025 and phase II that will take effect in July 2026.

Supervisor Addington noted that Litter Control Officer Stacy Cookenhour does a fantastic job.

There was discussion among the Board about trash pick-up along roadways

Mr. Dingus thanked the staff for stepping up and helping him.

Public Service Authority Director Mike Dishman gave an update (Said update being attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 35 Attachment No: 30).

There was discussion among the Board about various projects.

On a motion by Michael K. Brickey, duly seconded by Stefanie C. Addington, this Board hereby establishes Fund 1280 - Sheriff’s Office Community Outreach and Fund 1285 - Sheriff’s Office Miscellaneous.

- Voting aye: L. Michele Glover, Eddie N. Skeen, Michael K. Brickey
Danny M. Casteel, Christopher S. Maness, and Stefanie C. Addington.
- Voting nay: None.
- Absent: Darrel W. Jeter.

Chairman Maness expressed appreciation to the staff.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen reported that he received fewer Virginia Department of Transportation calls, and the overhanging trees reported by a bus driver have been corrected. Supervisor Skeen addressed the Mountain Empire Community College Promise Program and making parents more aware of programs and scholarship opportunities. He pointed out Appalachian Community Action and Development Agency assistance with tax returns and a meeting with Habitat for Humanity about remodeling units and financing offered. Supervisor Skeen announced that the Mobile Loan Unit will be at Weber City on April 8th from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. In addition, he noted that the Tourism Director is working on a marketing plan for lodging operators in Scott County. Supervisor Skeen reported on the Fort Blackmore river bridge launch site improvements. He reported on the PITT Program and AEP budget plan for all customers. Supervisor Skeen noted that there is nothing new with Appalachian Harvest in Duffield. Supervisor Skeen recognized media representatives Lisa McCarty and Gabe Edmunds with the Scott County Virginia Star that circulates 6,500 and that does not include online, Mike Still with the Kingsport Times News that circulates 4,500 daily with over 1,000 online. He noted that David with Heritage TV has not missed any meetings and attends the School Board meetings as well. Mr. Skeen recognized Tina Seay who is the keeper of records, minutes, meeting updates, and FOIA. He went on to say that all these people are important to this operation along with YouTube as a source of information to inform people.

Chairman Maness adjourned the meeting until April 14, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. for a budget workshop.

CHAIRMAN

CLERK