

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 3rd day of September, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

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

ABSENT: Christopher S. Maness – Chairman.

Vice-Chairman L. Michele Glover opened the meeting, gave the invocation, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Darrel W. Jeter, duly seconded by Stefanie C. Addington, this Board hereby amends the agenda by adding item 9e - Sheriff’s Department Compensation Board Officer Request to New Business.

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

Voting nay: None.

Absent: Christopher S. Maness.

On a motion by Stefanie C. Addington, duly seconded by Darrel W. Jeter, this Board hereby approves the August 6, 2025 minutes.

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

Voting nay: None.

Absent: Christopher S. Maness.

Vice-Chairman L. Michele Glover opened Citizen Expression Period to receive public comments.

Claudia Jessee addressed the Board about Meals of Love located in Nickelsville. She went on to say that meals are provided to the elderly. The organization consists of volunteers that rely on donations. Ms. Jessee noted that one meal is provided each week. She mentioned that the volunteers see people who need medical care and transportation and assist with those needs as well. Some only get one complete meal per week, and it shows them that they are not forgotten.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen stated that he is familiar with the group.

Supervisor Darrel Jeter inquired if Ms. Jessee is asking for a donation.

Ms. Jessee replied that she is asking for a donation.

Supervisor Casteel inquired about the number of meals that are provided per week.

Ms. Jessee replied that one meal is provided per week.

Peggy Tyus addressed Snowflake Road and dirt roads throughout Scott County. She thanked the Virginia Department of Transportation for the maintenance done on Snowflake Road. Also, Ms. Tyus suggested that Terry Kilgore and Todd Pillon obtain more funding for dirt roads. She questioned Riverside being a benefit to Scott County Taxpayers. Ms. Tyus went on to say that she hopes there is funding for the Six Year plan. She thanked her sister and a bus driver from Snowflake Road for attending the meeting today and expressed appreciation to the Board of Supervisors.

School Bus Drive Darrel Dougherty spoke about Route 671 and thanked Virginia Department of Transportation for clearing the rights-of-way in that area. In addition, he invited the Board of Supervisors to go on a school bus tour of Snowflake Road to see the condition of roads in that area. He noted that the most precious cargo is kids.

Gary Baker of Boozy Creek thanked Peggy Tyus for speaking on dirt roads, and he thanked Eddie Skeen for assisting with Boohers Chapel Road maintenance. He noted tiles and ditches that need to be cleaned out and inquired about residents using their own equipment to clean out the ditches.

Bill Dingus announced that a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day will be held on September 13, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. He noted that the event will be held at the Community Services Building Parking Lot this year instead of the Gate City Municipal Parking Lot. Mr. Dingus encouraged citizens to bring any hazardous waste items they want to discard.

Hearing no further comments, Vice-Chairman L. Michele Glover closed Citizen Expression Period.

On a motion by Eddie N. Skeen, duly seconded by Darrel W. Jeter, this Board hereby funds Meals of Love \$1,000 from Board Contingency.

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

Voting nay: None.

Absent: Christopher S. Maness.

There was discussion as to setting up a date and time to ride the school bus with Darrel Dougherty to view road conditions that he travels daily.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen suggested that the Board work on establishing a date and time to meet with Mr. Dougherty.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen pointed out comments made by Peggy Tyus regarding Terry Kilgore and Todd Pillion getting more funding for dirt roads. He noted that the County Administrator extended an invitation to Mr. Kilgore and Mr. Pillion to attend a meeting with no response. Supervisor Skeen added that he tried to make an appointment two years ago as well. He reported that the Riverside Project has been delayed. Supervisor Skeen noted that the Virginia Department of Transportation has been clearing rights-of-way, and he encouraged school bus drivers to contact him about any rights-of-way that need to be cleared.

Supervisor Danny Casteel pointed out that a fine job was done clearing the rights-of-way on Route 65 Clinch River Highway at the bluff.

Vice-Chairman L. Michele Glover opened a public hearing concerning the intention of the Board of Supervisors of Scott County, Virginia (the “County”), to propose for passage a resolution authorizing the issuance of an estimated maximum amount of \$6,000,000 principal amount of general obligation school bonds of the County. The proposed use for which more than ten percent of the bond proceeds are expected to be used are the financing of the construction and renovation of one or more schools located within the County, including Weber City Elementary School and Yuma Elementary School, all of which constitute capital projects for public school purposes. The Bonds will be sold to the Virginia Public School Authority.

Austin Sacks with Davenport & Company gave a presentation on results of a request for proposals for financing. Mr. Sacks presented options for financing and suggested moving forward with the Capitol One 4.6 percent proposal and noted that a public hearing is not required. He reported that a motion to move forward with Capital One is needed today, and there will be formal approval from various boards. Mr. Sacks stated that he would attend the October Board meeting for passage of a resolution and financing agreement prepared by Bond Counsel along with approval by the School Board to use a school building for collateral. He went on to say that this type of transaction requires a conduit issuer, and that would be the Economic Development Authority. He pointed out that the Economic Development Authority would have no financial liability. Mr. Sacks added that closing would occur by the end of October and funds would be accessible to commence with the project. (Said report attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 31 Attachment No: 71).

Darrel Jeter inquired about the interest rate going down.

Mr. Sacks replied that there is no way to know if interest rates will go up or down; however, it is good to know the interest rate that can be locked in.

Supervisor Skeen inquired about the grant status.

Mr. Sacks replied that he does not know the status.

Superintendent of Schools John Ferguson reported that he has not received anything about the grant.

Supervisor Skeen questioned how that would affect this project if received.

Mr. Ferguson replied that would be applied toward the loan.

Vice-Chairman Glover inquired about a deadline.

Mr. Ferguson replied maybe by the end of the month. There was no specific time given.

Supervisor Jeter inquired about a five million dollar grant the school system already received.

Mr. Ferguson replied that the newspaper was referring to lottery funds. Those funds are intertwined with the funds received from the State.

Supervisor Skeen inquired about school capital projects.

Mr. Ferguson noted roofing projects, heating and cooling upgrades, and window upgrades. He went on to say that the school system keeps a five-year time-line of things to accomplish, and he recognized Maintenance Supervisor Robbie Saltee for the excellent job he has done. Mr. Ferguson pointed out the renovations at Weber City and Yuma due to space needs. He added the need for electrical upgrades.

Maintenance Supervisor Robbie Saltee discussed the HVAC upgrade at Rye Cove High School. He noted that all the boilers are being abandoned. Mr. Saltee went on to say that the heating and cooling upgrades project was approximately three million dollars. COVID money was used for window projects and those projects have continued with the budget. Roofing projects have continued since 2014 with 85 percent of all roofs complete. Mr. Saltee pointed out that heating and cooling equipment is approaching 30 years. He went on to say that there are eleven to twelve maintenance personnel and one Administrative Assistant who bring good skills to the department that provides electrical, HVAC, plumbing, carpentry, and renovations.

Supervisor Darrel Jeter mentioned that the Vocational School roof is bad.

Mr. Saltee replied that a large portion is being replaced over the auditorium area of that building. He added that there are multiple contractors working on that building due to asbestos, and dealing with the rain has been a major challenge.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen inquired about student population. He asked Mr. Ferguson about his forecast for the next ten years. A study by the Weldon Cooper Center projects Southwest Virginia and Southside Virginia are projected to have major population decreases. Supervisor Skeen went on to say that Buchanan County is expecting a fifty percent reduction. It is projected that Lee, Wise, and Russell will have a thirty percent reduction. Scott County is expected to decrease by 18 percent. Supervisor Skeen asked Mr. Ferguson if he feels that Scott County will remain steady.

Mr. Ferguson stated that there has been an increase in student population this year. The majority are coming from within the county. He noted that there is a large population of home-schooled students. Mr. Ferguson pointed out that he has seen families moving to the area. The projection that the state provided in the Spring is wrong. Some schools gained and others lost some.

Supervisor Danny Casteel requested the number of students in Scott County schools at this time.

Mr. Ferguson replied that there is a little over 3,200 in-person.

Supervisor Skeen inquired about the cost to educate a student in the county.

Mr. Ferguson replied \$15,000 to \$20,000, and that is state and federal funding. The county portion is a little over \$3,000.

Supervisor Stefanie Addington reminded Supervisor Casteel of the presentation she gave regarding school funding.

Mr. Ferguson referred to Supervisor Skeen comparing Wise County and Scott County. Mr. Ferguson noted that the budget for Wise County was ninety million dollars not seventy million as Supervisor Skeen once stated. Mr. Ferguson noted that he is more concerned about Scott County than Wise County.

Supervisor Casteel stated that Mr. Ferguson told him that he was going to be out of here in two years.

Mr. Ferguson replied that he never stated that. Mr Ferguson went on to say that Supervisor Skeen wanted to know the ten-year plan, and he replied that he would not be here in ten years.

Supervisor Casteel stated that he took it the wrong way, and he asked Supervisor Skeen if he recalled two years.

Supervisor Skeen replied that he thought it was two years.

Mr. Ferguson pointed out that he does not know the relevance if he is here in two years or not.

Supervisor Casteel replied that he took it that Mr. Ferguson did not care after two years.

Mr. Ferguson stated that he did not say two years.

David Carter from Sallings Monument Lane stated that he has been attending some of the board meetings for the past nine years and watches them on YouTube as well. Over the last year, he noted that some of the actions have been embarrassing. He went on to say that he does not have any children and has been working as a volunteer coach for fifteen years. He pointed out that he has coached kids from Rye Cove, Twin Springs, Gate City and other counties because he wants to make a difference by helping these kids. Mr. Carter stated that he agrees with the school bus driver who spoke earlier about the kids being the most important thing. Supporting those kids in the school system is the most important thing. Last month, Mr. Carter stated that the five/two vote was embarrassing for the county. He questioned what kind of message that brings to the students and teachers. Mr. Carter pointed out to the Board that Mr. Ferguson was only asking for their blessing to improve Weber City and Yuma. Mr. Carter commended Ms. Addington for her PowerPoint presentation two months ago. He went on to say that she did her research and presented the way it all works. He pointed out there are kids who go from Russell County to Wise County, Lee County to Wise County, and Kentucky to Wise County. Mr. Carter stated that it is not costing the taxpayers any more money for Tennessee kids to attend school in Scott County. Today's vote should be 6/0 because Supervisor Maness is not here.

Supervisor Casteel asked Mr. Carter if he opposes bringing more Tennessee kids to Scott County schools.

Mr. Carter replied that he does not oppose Tennessee kids coming to Scott County schools.

Supervisor Casteel asked Mr. Carter if he is in favor of taxes going up.

Mr. Carter asked Mr. Casteel if the taxes would be going up specifically for Tennessee kids coming to Scott County.

Mr. Casteel stated that he was going to try and get all the Tennessee kids to come to Scott County schools because it seems that we want to educate them all. He welcomed all to come here because it seems that is what we all want. He went on to say that he is all for it as long as there is no tax increase for the citizens of Scott County.

Hearing no further comments, Vice-Chairman Glover closed the public hearing.

County Administrator Josh Wilson noted that Mr. Ferguson confirmed that this is not any additional ask of the taxpayers or the Board. This is more of a formality to move forward with this project so that Mr. Ferguson can move ahead with the Weber City and Yuma projects. The request is for board action to move forward with the Capital One 4.6 percent proposal.

Supervisor Skeen referred to Mr. Sacks comments about deep pockets and using Weber City Elementary School as collateral. He went on to say that they have a real good record for making payments, but we are here today to cover any defaults.

Supervisor Addington noted that the school is the collateral.

Supervisor Skeen pointed out that there are some risks.

On a motion by Stefanie C. Addington, duly seconded by L. Michele Glover, this Board hereby approves moving forward with the Capital One 4.6 percent proposal as reviewed by Austin Sacks with Davenport & Company.

Voting aye: Darrel W. Jeter, L. Michele Glover, Michael K. Brickey, and Stefanie C. Addington.

Voting nay: Eddie N. Skeen and Danny M. Casteel.

Absent: Christopher S. Maness.

Vice-Chairman L. Michele Glover opened a public hearing on an Ordinance Authorizing Bonuses for County Employees.

Hearing no comments, Vice-Chairman Glover closed the public hearing.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen inquired about this happening last year.

County Administrator Josh Wilson explained that the county did not have an ordinance for bonuses. This ordinance is being presented so that we have a policy in place.

Vice-Chairman Glover added that Social Services received a bonus from the State and that is why this came up. She went on to say that it comes through the county payroll, and that is why this ordinance is needed.

Supervisor Skeen inquired about the ordinance including all county employees.

Mr. Wilson clarified that it would give the ability if the Board chose.

County Attorney Sally Kegley advised that the Board needs to approve the ordinance and payment of the bonuses authorized by the State for county paid employees needs to be approved.

On a motion by Michael K. Brickey, duly seconded by Stefanie C. Addington, this Board hereby adopts the following ordinance and approves payment of bonuses as currently authorized by the state for county-paid employees.

ORDINANCE NO: 2025 – 02

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING BONUSES FOR COUNTY EMPLOYEES

WHEREAS, § 15.2-1508 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, permits local governments to make payments of monetary bonuses to its employees and officers; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors for the County of Scott, Virginia (the “Board”) finds that having the ability to provide bonuses to employees can be an incentive to retaining employees and recognizing them for their contributions to the work of the County and its service to the public, and the Board wishes to authorize the County Administrator to provide bonuses to County employees, according to the procedure adopted herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Supervisors of Scott County that:

- A. The County Administrator is authorized to make payment(s) of monetary bonuses to County employees, including its constituent departments, agencies, and boards, whether individually or by position classification, for their performance over the course of each year or for a single exemplary achievement.
- B. The monetary bonuses may be awarded across the board, for individual achievements, as part of an incentive-based pay compensation plan, or for any reason that is in support of the County’s compensation plan and its objectives.
- C. When such bonuses are not set forth in the annual budgeting and appropriation process, the County Administrator shall develop a proposal to the Board of Supervisors, and with its approval, the bonus shall take effect without need for adoption of an additional ordinance.
- D. Bonuses, authorized to local employees of the County, its constituent departments, agencies or boards, out of funds made available by the Commonwealth, shall be presented to the Board for approval, and such bonus shall take effect upon approval by the Board, without need for adoption of an additional ordinance.
- E. This ordinance shall be effective immediately.

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

Voting nay: None.

Absent: Christopher S. Maness.

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: 72).

Mr. Sumpter addressed Mr. Baker's question about ditches during Citizen Expression Period. He noted that Virginia Department of Transportation does not allow citizens to use their own equipment to clean out ditches due to liability concerns.

Supervisor Casteel pointed out Copper Creek Road from Route 71 to Manville Road was mowed; however, the brush is out in the road. He thanked Mr. Sumpter for the work done on Routes 65 and 72.

Mr. Sumpter noted that the boom ax is a machine that can be run through the winter.

Supervisor Casteel stated that Speers Ferry to Clinchport has a very narrow concrete medium. He inquired about guardrail being installed there.

Mr. Sumpter replied that would be highway safety improvements. It would be an expensive project, and guardrail could not just be installed.

Supervisor Casteel asked when the Moccasin Gap Project tying into 72 would begin.

Mr. Sumpter replied that is on hold. There are no plans to move forward.

Supervisor Casteel noted that is one thing that needs to be fixed in the county. He went on to say that would be another way in and out if the road shut down on Highway 23 at Moccasin Gap. Supervisor Casteel reported that he has talked with Terry Kilgore several times and was told that the price went up.

Mr. Sumpter replied that became a very expensive project, and he noted the cost was 85 to 90 million dollars.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen stated that he received a call on widening Obeyes Creek Road. There is no room to pass on that road.

Mr. Sumpter noted that rural rustic roads are built on existing rights-of-way. He went on to say that the road will be widened as much as possible within that, but that will be limited.

Supervisor Skeen questioned what the speed limit will be.

Mr. Sumpter replied that the speed limit on paved secondary roads is 55 unless otherwise marked. A rural rustic project is set at 35 once it is paved.

Supervisor Skeen asked if it is still a possibility to mow three times this year.

Mr. Sumpter replied that it will depend on cooling temperatures, but it looks like there will be a number of routes that will need to be mowed again.

Supervisor Skeen stated that he cannot remember a single time that he has contacted Mr. Sumpter with an issue that was not taken care of.

Mr. Sumpter pointed out that it is a juggling act, and he credits the area headquarters for taking care of all these issues.

Supervisor Darrel Jeter mentioned that the edge on the left side of the road drops off on Yuma road before Oak Glenn Church, and there have been several wrecks there.

Mr. Sumpter replied that he would check into that to see if there is anything we can do to fix that situation.

Supervisor Casteel mentioned the road between Slant and the Sallings Monument on Route 65 needs maintenance for holes. He noted that one place has an orange cone that has been in place for a long time. Mr. Casteel noted that ditch lines need to be cleaned out, and it seems that no one can touch them. Some say that they will get fired if they clean them out.

Mr. Sumpter explained the situation. He pointed out that Virginia Department of Transportation is under requirements by the Department of Environmental Quality to have permits before we can do any ditching. There are some ditches that do not require that, but a lot do. If we disturb more than 10,000 square feet, an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan is required. There are some areas that have restrictions due to certain species, but no one is threatened to be fired.

Supervisor Casteel stated that 50 percent of culverts are stopped up in this county. He requested that Mr. Sumpter look at a hole in the road on Rye Cove Memorial between Casteel Hollow Road and Stanley Town.

Gary Baker questioned why Tennessee is being allowed to keep their ditch lines cleaned out and Virginia not being allowed.

Mr. Sumpter replied that those guidelines come from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

Supervisor Danny Casteel asked if anyone has looked into getting the creek cleaned for Myron Fields.

Bill Dingus replied that several agencies have been by there due to the flood event.

Supervisor Danny Casteel pointed out that no one has contacted Myron Fields. That creek has been out of its banks at Myron Fields' home. Mr. Casteel pointed that it will get his home if nothing is done about it.

Mr. Sumpter replied that Virginia Department of Transportation will probably not be allowed to clean out the creek.

Vice-Chairman Glover requested that Mr. Sumpter look into that matter and get back with Supervisor Casteel.

Mr. Sumpter stated that he would be attending the December meeting.

BREAK: 10:58 a.m.

RECONVENE: 11:12 a.m.

Emergency Management Coordinator Jeff Brickey gave an update on the Scott County Emergency Operations Plan (Said update being attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 35 Attachment No: 73).

Supervisor Darrel Jeter inquired about a mock disaster that used to occur every year.

Mr. Brickey replied that there will be a tabletop in October, and the EOC will be set up. He noted that there are not enough volunteers for rescue services and fire departments in the county; therefore, there are not enough people to do a mock exercise at this point. He went on to say it does not mean that we don't need to do mock exercises. During the day, there is a shortage of volunteers for the Fire Department

Supervisor Eddie Skeen pointed out that a lot of people in this county did not know where they could go or what was available during the Helene emergency. He asked what can be given to them so they will know where to go if another event occurs.

Mr. Brickey explained that we are limited on the amount of shelters that can be set-up. Normally, we try to set up at least one shelter, and we look for a shelter that has power and access to water. He pointed out that there is no guarantee that all schools will be open for shelter. When a shelter is opened, it is broadcast to the public. It can be on the radio, media, or text. It is also broadcast to police and fire departments so that they can tell people. There is a priority to get the roads cleared or passable to transport people to a shelter.

Mr. Casteel stated that there was no power during the Helene emergency and people had no way of knowing where to go. He went on to say that he drove through the county, and Duffield had power. He pointed out that this building was the only building that had power in Gate City. Many areas in Tennessee did not have power. Mr. Casteel questioned how to get the word out when there is no power.

Mr. Brickey replied that citizens need a battery-powered radio. Many people have generators at their homes, and no one requested shelter during the Helene emergency. He went on to say that the weather was nice during that time, and people could stay in their homes. Also, the Public Works Department employees deliver food and check on people during emergencies. At some point during the storms, communication becomes a challenge, and that was the case with Helene. Mr. Brickey stated that he will try to be better about notifying people, telling people how to be more sufficient, and ask questions about what they need to do.

Supervisor Skeen asked where the shelters are located.

Mr. Brickey replied that all the schools are considered shelters, but they do not have back-up power. Gate City Middle School has two power circuits; therefore, there is a back-up power source if one of those is lost. During the Helene disaster, both circuits were lost. The buildings that have back-up power include a portion of this building, E-911, radio transmitter sites, sheriff’s office, and a portion of the Pioneer Center. Having the people and supplies to set up a shelter is a challenge.

Mr. Dingus pointed out that the schools are designated as shelters, but people should not assume that all the schools are open as shelters. They should contact the E911 office to find out what shelters are open.

Mr. Brickey added that E911 can direct them to a shelter that is open and get some basic information like their address if they need someone to come out and check on them. Some fire department volunteers were going out and assisting people with getting trees cut out of the driveways and placing FEMA tarps on roofs.

Supervisor Skeen inquired about grants that might be available.

Mr. Brickey replied that there are not any grants available at this time.

County Administrator Josh Wilson added that he is looking for any funding that becomes available.

Supervisor Skeen pointed out that LENOWISCO has done some work with utilities and funding for large generators.

Mr. Brickey stated that he and Mr. Dingus met with them about that.

Supervisor Skeen asked if 32 cots are adequate.

Mr. Brickey replied that is about the amount that can be hauled in our Community Emergency Response Team trailers. He added that several churches were part of that team at one time, but people lost interest. He stated that he could try to find another group to be a part of that team and get them trained. Mr. Brickey noted that the Red Cross can bring in more resources to Scott County if needed. In October, we will have a drill and operate an emergency operations center. Mr. Brickey thanked the Board of Supervisors for funding fire, law enforcement, and public works.

On a motion by Stefanie C. Addington, duly seconded by Darrel W. Jeter, this Board hereby approves a Mutual Aid and Cooperation Agreement for Law Enforcement Services between Scott County and Washington County, Virginia (Said Agreement being attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 35 Attachment No: 70).

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

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

RESOLUTION NO: 2025-11

WHEREAS Scott County is a community in Virginia, a region with many rich assets, including our land, water, heritage, and people who have mined coal that has fueled the United States for over a century; and

WHEREAS one of the consequences of our history of coal mining has been that generations of our families and communities have suffered from high rates of black lung disease, an incurable and fatal disease caused by exposure to coal and silica dust; and

WHEREAS thousands of coal miners disabled by black lung disease and their dependents rely on federal black lung benefits including, in FY2024, 2,941 Virginians, of which 60 claimants reside in Scott County; and

WHEREAS the federal benefits provided to residents of Scott County delivered an estimated \$1,359,447.65 in disability and medical benefits in 2024, providing an important financial lifeline to affected families and supporting the local economy through spending at local businesses and medical facilities; and

WHEREAS the spending value of federal black lung benefit payments have declined by over thirty percent since 1969, because black lung benefits are not tied to increases in the cost of living or rising inflation; and

WHEREAS a living wage in Scott County is over four times the amount of what is provided by federal black lung benefit rates; and

WHEREAS we are concerned about the general welfare of our mining families, specifically the impacts of rising inflation, and believe that our miners deserve to live their lives with dignity;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the County of Scott, Virginia urges U.S. Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner, along with U.S. Representative Morgan Griffith, to support and vote for legislation to assist disabled miners, including legislation to increase monthly black lung benefit rates.

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

Supervisor Eddie Skeen noted that Sheriff Edds has reported in the past that he is understaffed and citizens in the county want more coverage. Supervisor Skeen recalled Investigator Ross speaking about the caseload for investigators, and the need for more investigators. Obviously, there is a need for more law enforcement. The General Assembly allocates one person per 1,500 for law enforcement. Otherwise, you have to petition the state for needs. Supervisor Skeen reported that he spoke with the Commonwealth’s Attorney, and he feels like there is a need for additional officers. Supervisor Skeen stated that the Board of Supervisors need to be involved in pushing this forward for the State of Virginia to add more law enforcement officers to the Sheriffs Department through the Compensation Board. Supervisor Skeen went on to say that the Board of Supervisors has an option to fund it at the local level. Supervisor Skeen stated that the Compensation Board is the best option.

Vice-Chairman Michele Glover suggested speaking with Sheriff Edds and ask him to attend the next meeting.

Supervisor Darrel Jeter asked if the Board of Supervisors currently funds one officer.

Assistant County Administrator/Public Works Director Bill Dingus replied yes.

County Administrator Josh Wilson offered to reach out to Sheriff Edds about attending the next Board of Supervisors meeting.

Amy Vicars presented bookkeeping.

On a motion by Stefanie C. Addington, duly seconded by Danny M. Casteel, this Board hereby appropriates the following:

\$21,128.56 to Rescue Services – Four For Life Grant 1000-32300-405621-000-0000-0000-0000

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

Tina Seay advised that there were no applications for the Building Code Appeals Board appointment opening.

Bill Dingus noted that he spoke with Robbie Sallee, and he is willing to serve.

Building Code Appeals Board Appointment

Darrel W. Jeter nominated Robbie Sallee

On a motion by Stefanie C. Addington, duly seconded by Darrel W. Jeter, this Board hereby ceases nominations and, by acclamation, appoints Robbie Sallee to serve a five-year term on the Building Code Appeals Board.

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

Supervisor Eddie Skeen inquired about the small business incentive meeting that County Attorney Sally Kegley attended.

County Attorney Sally Kegley replied that discussion is ongoing. She went on to say that John is working with LENOWISCO, and there will be another committee meeting for further discussion.

Supervisor Skeen asked what the judge is looking for with Animal Control issues. He noted people coming forward about animal cruelty. Supervisor Skeen inquired about anything those people need to move forward.

Ms. Kegley replied that Jake Daugherty and Stacy Cookenhour could answer that better since she does not attend those cases with them.

Supervisor Skeen inquired about the one case Ms. Kegley did attend.

She replied that it was an emergency custody order. The person was taken from her home, the animals needed to be taken care of, and she came back and reclaimed those animals.

County Administrator Josh Wilson presented the claims and related reports (Said reports being attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 35 Attachment No: 74).

On a motion by Stefanie C. Addington, duly seconded by Danny M. Casteel, this Board hereby orders that:

- a. General Fund 1000 be allowed the sum of \$999,036.98 for voucher numbers 50025251 – 50025172, 50025175 – 50025177, 50025245 – 50025249, 50025251 – 50025275, 50025277 – 50025280, 50025282, 50025285 – 50025294, 50025327 – 50025371, 50025373, 50025375, 50025377 – 50025387, 50025424 – 50025437, 50025439 – 50025446, 50025458 – 50025470, 50025495, 50025497 – 50025498, 50025500 – 50025519, 50025521 – 50025543 and wire 598, 600, 601, and 602 and payroll /DD Fund 1000 in the amount of \$624,476.23.
- b. Regional Improvement Fund 1050 be allowed the sum of \$25,000.00 for voucher numbers 50025276, 50025281, 50025438, and 50025520.
- c. Health Insurance Reimb. Fund 1098 be allowed the sum of \$249,495.00 for wire 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590.
- d. Delinquent Tax Litigation Fund 1105 be allowed the sum of \$631.75 for voucher number 50025174.
- e. Courthouse Security Fund 1210 be allowed the sum of \$1,203.30 for voucher number 50025462 and Wire 600, 601, and 602 and Payroll DD/Fund 1210 \$3,539.09.
- f. Sheriff Forfeit Seizure Fund 1215 be allowed the sum of \$4,989.84 for voucher number 50025284.
- g. Motor Vehicle Violation Fines Fund 1225 be allowed the sum of \$39.95 for voucher number 50025496.
- h. Weapons Permit Fund 1230 be allowed the sum of \$313.36 for wire 601 and 602 and Payroll/DD Fund 1230 in the amount of \$638.27.
- i. Sheriff's Miscellaneous Fund 1285 be allowed the sum of \$706.53 for voucher numbers 50025283, 50025374, 50025509, and 50025510.
- j. Law Library Fund 1305 be allowed the sum of \$449.32 for voucher numbers 50025173 and 50025365.
- k. CWAO Collection fund 1310 be allowed the sum of \$1,139.01 for voucher numbers 50025459 and 50025470 and wire 598, 600, 601, and 602 and payroll/DD Fund 1310 in the amount of \$1,562.94.
- l. CWAO Forfeit Asset Fund 1320 be allowed the sum of \$468.13 for voucher number 50025427.
- m. IT Technology Fund (CLERK) Fund 1405 be allowed the sum of \$4,572.48 for voucher numbers 50025153, 50025288, 50025330, and 50025376.
- n. Wireless Grant – 911 Fund 1505 be allowed the sum of \$10,800.65 for voucher numbers 50025250, 50025372, and 50025499 with Wire 601 and 602, and Payroll/DD Fund 1505 in the amount of \$1,377.61.

- o. American Rescue Plan Act Fund be allowed the sum of \$9,703.05 for voucher numbers 50025177, 50025288, 50025376.
- p. Social Services Fund 5000 be allowed the sum of \$314,908.62 for voucher numbers 50025050 – 50025150, 50025295 – 50025300, 50025388 – 50025392, 50025447 – 50025457, 50025544 – 50025552, and Wire 594, 595, 596, and 599 and Payroll/DD Fund 5000 in the amount of \$137,893.00.
- q. CPMT Fund 5500 be allowed the sum of \$83,140.01 for voucher numbers 50025553 – 50025568.

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

Voting nay: None.

Absent: Christopher S. Maness.

On a motion by Stefanie C. Addington, duly seconded by Danny M. Casteel, this Board hereby ratifies a Fireworks Permit for Duffield Daze.

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

Voting nay: None.

Absent: Christopher S. Maness.

On a motion by Eddie N. Skeen, duly seconded by Danny M. Casteel, this Board hereby approves bypassing ratification of future fireworks permits that deal with Economic Development Authority property.

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

Voting nay: None.

Absent: Christopher S. Maness.

County Administrator Josh Wilson reported that registration is open for the VACO Conference. Mr. Wilson went on to say that he reached out to the Board to see who was interested. Each County gets three rooms allocated, and he requested two more rooms be placed on a wait list for Sally Kegley and Bill Dingus to be allowed to attend as well. Mr. Wilson stated that he will be attending along with Supervisors Stefanie Addington and Michele Glover.

County Attorney Sally Kegley pointed out that a VACO voting representative needs to be appointed.

On a motion by Stefanie C. Addington, duly seconded by Eddie N. Skeen, this Board hereby appoints L.

Michele Glover as the VACO voting representative for the 2025 annual meeting.

- Voting aye:

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

None.
- Absent:

Christopher S. Maness.

County Administrator Josh Wilson reported that there will be some opportunities for grants with recent storm damage. The Farm Recovery Block Grant will be open in early September and could be beneficial to Scott County farmers. Scott Jerrell will be taking the lead on this. Mr. Wilson stated that he has a meeting regarding the CDBG Disaster Recovery Grant with four programs that include housing recovery, infrastructure recovery, economic revitalization, and public services recovery. Also, there will be a Resilient Revolving Fund along with other opportunities with loan options. He noted that anyone displaced as a result of the storm can reach out to the County Administrative Office.

Supervisor Stefanie Addington pointed out that Mr. Begley from Ft. Blackmore was displaced.

Mr. Wilson replied that there was a meeting to develop a list, and he was on the list.

Supervisor Danny Casteel asked Mr. Dingus if he knows anything about the situation with Mr. Begley.

Mr. Dingus stated that he was given assistance with his current residence, and noted that FEMA has shifted a lot to the State.

Mr. Wilson stated that he applied for the PPE grant, worked with all seven fire departments in the county, and thanked them for getting him the information for submitting the application.

Supervisor Skeen asked about the S.C.O.T.T. Service inmate restitution account fund balance.

Mr. Dingus replied that it goes to the general fund now.

Supervisor Stefanie Addington noted that a weekly payment is made to the Treasurers Office.

Supervisor Casteel asked how the Board can go into closed session. He went on to say that we had some disagreements on that.

Supervisor Skeen pointed out that the County Attorney sent an email to the Board about that process.

Supervisor Skeen addressed restitution paid to the Economic Development Authority and comments made by Chairman Maness at the last meeting about matching funds for the Devil’s Bathtub and Crooked Road Tech Center. Supervisor Skeen stated that he did some research through accounting and the Economic Development Authority, and there have been no matching funds for those projects in recent history. Supervisor Skeen went on to say that he thought restitution would be about \$2,000 per month, but the first restitution payment was \$22,279.00.

Mr. Wilson clarified that was a one-time kickoff payment. The agreed amount is \$5,000, but he is not sure about the amount after court fees.

Supervisor Skeen stated that he attended a LENOWISCO meeting. Dungannon is applying for phase II water through LENOWISCO. The Lee County Flowers Gap project was funded and additional funding is being requested. Supervisor Skeen stated that he attended a Nickelsville Town meeting, and they received a DHCD Planning Application Grant to work on some projects in Nickelsville. He noted that they are working on Bush Mill and doing tours. EDA has received funding for the Pioneer Center Roof, and they will be applying for additional funding.

Chairman Michele Glover expressed appreciation to the staff for all they do.

Hearing no further comments, Vice-Chairman L. Michele Glover adjourned the meeting to October 1, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

CLERK