

**January 22, 2019**

The Wythe County Board of Supervisors held its regularly scheduled meeting at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 22, 2019. The location of the meeting was in the Boardroom of the County Administration Building, 340 South Sixth Street, Wytheville, Virginia.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Timothy A. Reeves, Sr., Chair  
 Joe F. Hale, Vice Chair  
 B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.  
 Ryan M. Lawson

Charlie G. Lester  
 Coy L. McRoberts  
 Brian W. Vaught

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Stephen D. Bear, County Administrator  
 Scot Farthing, County Attorney  
 Martha Collins, Administrative Assistant/Clerk  
 Bill Vaughan, County Engineer

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Faye Barker  
 Keith Dunagan  
 Ashley Edwards  
 Lori Guynn  
 Pam Heath

Buddy Johnstone  
 Pastor Shelly Kyle  
 Bob Litton  
 Jeff Russell

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Reeves determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Pastor Shelly Kyle, Bethlehem Baptist Church, provided the invocation and Chair Reeves led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CITIZENS' TIME**

Chairman Reeves inquired if anyone present wished to address the Board.

With no one wishing to address the Board, Chairman Reeves closed Citizens' Time.

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**PAYMENT OF COUNTY INVOICES**

Supervisor Horney made a motion to pay the invoices for approval on January 22, 2019, for the various departments of County government. The invoices were paid on General Warrants 30102728-30102823 as follows:

**EXPENDITURES BY DEPARTMENT  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
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<b>CHECK #</b>	<b>ISSUE DATE</b>	<b>VENDOR</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
30102728	01/11/2019	APPALACHIAN POWER	5,689.92
30102729	01/11/2019	LOWE'S	1,412.61
30102730	01/11/2019	TRACTOR SUPPLY COMPANY	206.91
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES 01/11/2019</b>			<b>\$7,309.44</b>
30102731	01/22/2019	APPALACHIAN POWER	35,167.90
30102732	01/22/2019	BKT UNIFORMS	110.25
30102733	01/22/2019	BLUE RIDGE AUTO PARTS INC	250.86
30102734	01/22/2019	BOB HUFF	16.00
30102735	01/22/2019	BRENNTAG MID-SOUTH INC	1,762.46
30102736	01/22/2019	CARILION HEALTHCARE CORP	92.00
30102737	01/22/2019	CARTER BANK & TRUST (NOTE	16,120.00
30102738	01/22/2019	CENTURYLINK	39.98
30102739	01/22/2019	CENTURYLINK	52.76
30102740	01/22/2019	CENTURYLINK	58.39
30102741	01/22/2019	CENTURYLINK	284.95
30102742	01/22/2019	CHANNING BETE COMPANY, IN	1,341.83
30102743	01/22/2019	CHESAPEAKE SYSTEMS, LLC	14,738.00
30102744	01/22/2019	COULTER'S FLORIST INC	50.00
30102745	01/22/2019	CRIPPLE CREEK AG SOLUTION	31,000.00
30102746	01/22/2019	CW WARTHEN	373.96
30102747	01/22/2019	DEPOT DESIGNS OF RURAL RE	276.00
30102748	01/22/2019	DEPT OF GENERAL SERVICES	11.00
30102749	01/22/2019	DEPT OF MOTOR VEHICLES	7,115.00
30102750	01/22/2019	DEPT OF MUSEUMS HERITAGE	1,250.00
30102751	01/22/2019	DISTRICT THREE	12,404.00
30102752	01/22/2019	DUKE'S PRINTING	130.00
30102753	01/22/2019	FARTHING, SCOT S	2,355.00
30102754	01/22/2019	FERGUSON ENTERPRISES #5	1,400.96

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30102755	01/22/2019	FIRE RESCUE AND TACTICAL	218.49
30102756	01/22/2019	FN WHOLESALE LIGHTING & S	322.21
30102757	01/22/2019	FROEHLING & ROBERTSON INC	3,773.27
30102758	01/22/2019	GALLS	351.38
30102759	01/22/2019	GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICE	61.35
30102760	01/22/2019	GRANT, BRUCE M	4,136.75
30102761	01/22/2019	GRUBB FUNERAL HOME	1,137.00
30102762	01/22/2019	HALE, JOE	95.20
30102763	01/22/2019	HALL OIL & PROPANE, INC	6,096.02
30102764	01/22/2019	HOMESTEAD OIL CORP	530.46
30102765	01/22/2019	HORNEY, B GENE JR	64.80
30102766	01/22/2019	HURT & PROFFITT INC	1,090.00
30102767	01/22/2019	KAASE, ROBERT	120.00
30102768	01/22/2019	KC AUTOMOTIVE	456.95
30102769	01/22/2019	LACY, CAMPBELL & MUNIQUE	120.00
30102770	01/22/2019	MANSFIELD OIL CO	4,294.64
30102771	01/22/2019	MCI COMM SERVICE	33.05
30102772	01/22/2019	MCI COMM SERVICE	87.18
30102773	01/22/2019	MCI COMM SERVICE	559.92
30102774	01/22/2019	MCROBERTS, COY L	102.40
30102775	01/22/2019	MEREDITH'S GARAGE	43.00
30102776	01/22/2019	MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS, INC	123.75
30102777	01/22/2019	MUELLER CO	819.00
30102778	01/22/2019	MUSSER, JEREMIAH	383.95
30102779	01/22/2019	NATIONAL BANK	98,544.15
30102780	01/22/2019	NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOC	115.00
30102781	01/22/2019	NEW RIVER VALLEY JUVENILE	1,580.00
30102782	01/22/2019	NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL	123,585.00
30102783	01/22/2019	OC RUGGED LAPTOPS	24,884.00
30102784	01/22/2019	OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFE	120.00
30102785	01/22/2019	ERIC TYLER OGLE	225.00
30102786	01/22/2019	PIPERS GAP RESCUE SQUAD,	340.00
30102787	01/22/2019	PITNEY BOWES INC	153.42
30102788	01/22/2019	R&C TOWING & REPAIR CO	1,153.72
30102789	01/22/2019	R&R ENTERPRISES INC	135.22
30102790	01/22/2019	R.E. MICHEL COMPANY, LLC	173.37
30102791	01/22/2019	REEVES, TIMOTHY A SR	28.80
30102792	01/22/2019	RURAL RETREAT AUTO PARTS	31.57
30102793	01/22/2019	SALEM STONE	51,358.25

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30102794	01/22/2019	SHENTEL	68.37
30102795	01/22/2019	SMG	34,000.00
30102796	01/22/2019	SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CRIMIN	200.00
30102797	01/22/2019	SOUTHWESTERN VA GAS SERVI	3,005.32
30102798	01/22/2019	STATE ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO	104.07
30102799	01/22/2019	STREET, HAROLD P III	100.00
30102800	01/22/2019	SUPPLYWORKS	291.37
30102801	01/22/2019	THE CROM CORPORATION	57,587.10
30102802	01/22/2019	THOMPSON TIRE	1,091.72
30102803	01/22/2019	THREE RIVERS MEDIA CORP	330.00
30102804	01/22/2019	TOWN OF WYTHEVILLE	487.46
30102805	01/22/2019	TOWN WYTHEVILLE	2,000.00
30102806	01/22/2019	TRANSUNION RISK & ALTERNA	34.70
30102807	01/22/2019	TUCK, W DOUG	187.93
30102808	01/22/2019	TWO WAY RADIO	338.00
30102809	01/22/2019	TYLER TECHNOLOGIES INC	55,051.25
30102810	01/22/2019	UNIFIRST CORP	69.08
30102811	01/22/2019	US CELLULAR	67.35
30102812	01/22/2019	US CELLULAR	648.28
30102813	01/22/2019	US CELLULAR	902.14
30102814	01/22/2019	US CELLULAR	1,007.41
30102815	01/22/2019	VAUGHT, BRIAN W	176.40
30102816	01/22/2019	VGFOA	50.00
30102817	01/22/2019	PENITENTIARY INDUSTRIAL D	77.20
30102818	01/22/2019	VIRGINIA RESOURCES AUTHOR	2,619.74
30102819	01/22/2019	VUPS	67.20
30102820	01/22/2019	WYTHE CO HEALTH DEPT	89,734.50
30102821	01/22/2019	WYTHE TIRE AND MUFFLER	568.97
30102822	01/22/2019	WYTHEVILLE OFFICE SUPPLY	370.31
30102823	01/22/2019	XEROX	608.44

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**TOTAL EXPENDITURES 01/22/2019** **\$705,693.88**

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES APPROVED 01/22/2019** **\$713,003.32**

Supervisor Lester seconded the motion and the roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Brian W. Vaught	Coy L. McRoberts
	Charlie G. Lester	B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
	Ryan M. Lawson	Timothy A. Reeves, Sr.

Joe F. Hale

NAYS: None

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The Board was presented with the January 8 and 16, 2019 minutes for approval.

Supervisor McRoberts made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Lawson, to approve the January 8 and 16, 2019 minutes as presented.

The roll call vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Brian W. Vaught	Joe F. Hale
	Charlie G. Lester	Coy L. McRoberts
	Ryan M. Lawson	B.G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Timothy A. Reeves, Sr.

**BUCKLEY DRIVE ABANDONMENT**

Mr. Bear explained there was a public hearing on January 8<sup>th</sup>. The Board had requested that a representative from VDOT address this topic before taking any action.

Mr. Jeff Russell from VDOT appeared before the Board and recapped the history of Buckley Drive. He said it used to be a through road going from Route 11 over to Radio Drive (Rt. 679) and when I-81 was built, the small section left of this road became Buckley Drive. At that time and for many years, he said, Buckley Drive was used as a driveway for the one property owner. Although the road remained in VDOT's system, they ceased maintenance of the road. Recently, this was brought to his attention since the property had been divided among two different parcels/owners. Also, he said, there is a structure built right in the middle of the right-of-way apparently constructed before dividing the parcels. Mr. Russell stated that the Department's recommendation is to abandon the roadway since it no longer serves the public.

Supervisor Lester asked Mr. Russell if VDOT can provide any assistance to Mr. Fogelsong in creating a right-of-way to his parcel.

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Mr. Russell said that VDOT can issue an entrance permit but there is no financial assistance available for this purpose.

Supervisor Hale asked how the right-of-way will be split.

Mr. Bear responded that it will go to each landowner from where the prescriptive easement is.

Supervisor Lester made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Hale, to adopt Resolution 2019-01 Abandonment of Buckley Drive.

Supervisor Vaught voiced concern from a property-rights standpoint. If Mr. Fogelsong were to sell parcel 51-336A, then he would not have access to parcel 51-338. Supervisor Vaught asked how can we take away his right to access his property? Why can't VDOT provide financial assistance to put a right-of-way in there?

Chairman Reeves asked if you don't abandon the right-of-way, how would he have access?

Mr. Bear clarified that VDOT is not the party requesting abandonment of Buckley Drive, and that VDOT has a process that has to be followed.

Mr. Russell said that the road has not been maintained for years, and the building was already there when the property was transferred to Mr. Fogelsong. So, he hasn't lost anything as he never had access. Mr. Russell further said that if Mrs. Wilson is required to tear down the building, then Mr. Fogelsong would be required to rebuild the road from the property line to the interstate, which is currently a hay field. Mr. Russell said that VDOT has no interest in requiring either.

Supervisor Horney asked if Mr. Fogelsong puts in a right-of-way to his back property, how wide would it have to be?

Mr. Bear responded that Mr. Fogelsong has 200 feet of road frontage so he can subdivide and put in an access easement.

Chairman Reeves said he recently spoke with Mr. Fogelsong who said he had no problem with the abandonment as long as he can still access his property. He asked if VDOT would provide assistance with an entrance way.

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Mr. Russell responded that VDOT won't spend State money to build a private entrance.

Supervisor Hale called for question.

The roll call vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Charlie G. Lester	Coy L. McRoberts
	Ryan M. Lawson	B.G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
	Joe F. Hale	Timothy A. Reeves, Sr.

NAYS: Brian W. Vaught

### **VDOT MATTERS**

Supervisor Lester thanked Mr. Russell and VDOT for the recent scraping of Sharitz Road.

Supervisor Hale also thanked Mr. Russell and VDOT for their efforts on the secondary drainage project, clean up, trash pick-up, and future relief on the gas line crossing at Miller's Creek. He appreciates it.

Supervisor McRoberts received a call from Mr. Charlie Davis who indicated that there's water on Rickey Road running down through the field and across his driveway. Supervisor McRoberts would also like to say "thank you very much" as he hasn't had a phone call for two months!

Supervisor Horney received a couple road requests to be added to the Six-Year Plan if they qualify: Ward Branch Road, Kiser Road, and Zion Church Road.

Supervisor Hale alerted both Mr. Bear and Mr. Russell that something is happening at the pressure tank on 126 at the firehouse. He said that water is running down and out of that tank area and out onto the road. There is now a large patch of ice if someone could treat that area.

Chairman Reeves asked Mr. Russell if he's had a chance to check on the potholes on Hager Springs.

Mr. Russell said that if the request was sent to him, he definitely sent it on, but he will look into it.

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Chairman Reeves also wanted to thank Mr. Russell and the VDOT crew for their efforts with the snow removal last month and trash clean up. They did an excellent job.

Supervisor McRoberts received a request for Porter Road to be added to the Six-Year Plan.

Mr. Bear asked Mr. Russell if he could send us soon an updated Six-Year Plan spreadsheet so we can start that process. Mr. Bear also added that he is meeting later this week with VDOT, AEP and the gas company to discuss the Grouse Ridge Road project.

Mr. Bear reported that VDOT is working on the Ready Mix Road entrance.

Mr. Russell said that he would check on the status of the flashing traffic light and send Mr. Bear an update.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Lori Guynn appeared before the Board and presented the Treasurer's Report as follows:

1. 2018 Tax Bills – Ms. Guynn was happy to report that she and her staff finished clearing the backlog of mail last week so now, as tax payments come in, they get processed immediately. She estimated that tax collections for 2018 are around 78%. Ms. Guynn expects that a lot of people will pay once they receive their income tax refunds.
2. Revenue Statement – Ms. Guynn reported that the Consolidated Account was comprised of \$71,717,077 of which \$43,756,798 was in the General Fund Account at the end of December, an increase of \$8.5MM from the previous month, primarily due to tax collections. Overall collections for December (tax related) are a little over \$11MM.

Supervisor Hale asked if we are doing better in the other revenue accounts excluding real estate and personal property taxes? He said the food establishments seem to be fairly busy as of late and he wonders if there's a way to monitor that activity.

Ms. Guynn said that monthly meals tax collections and comparisons are reflected in Mr. Grant's reports. Overall, she stated that we may be up some, but nothing significant.



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Mr. Bear referenced page 151 of the board package for more information on tax collections and trends.

Ms. Guynn said she would provide a better breakdown of tax season reports next month.

### **COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE'S REPORT**

Commissioner of Revenue, Faye Barker, appeared before the Board and presented her report as follows:

1. 2018 Report – Ms. Barker reported that real estate increased by \$1,219,429 over 2017, and public service is up \$453,616. She added that most everything increased except merchant's capital which is down \$28,288.

Supervisor Hale asked if meetings have taken place yet with Ms. Barker with respect to admissions tax collection.

Mr. Bear responded they had, and that Ms. Barker has an ordinance and prepared a form that has already been sent to Mr. Krewson (SMG).

Ms. Barker added that those collections will be monthly, not quarterly.

### **SHERIFF'S REPORT**

Sheriff Dunagan had nothing new to report to the Board.

Supervisor Hale asked the Sheriff how he intends to handle activity around the APEX (non-event specific).

Sheriff Dunagan responded that he previously spoke with Mr. Krewson, provided him rates for event security. He added that the APEX Center is already on their check list for routine patrol.

Supervisor Lawson asked the Sheriff, although it's not her district, if the trash pick-up on Huddle Road and Pope Road can be added to the rotation? She was by there yesterday and was surprised by the amount of trash.

Sheriff Dunagan responded affirmatively.

Supervisor Vaught mentioned that around the Exit 77 truck stop, the banks on both sides are very messy.

Mr. Bear will contact Code Enforcement Officer to address the issue.

## **WATER COMMITTEE REPORT**

1. Fort Chiswell Sewer Extension Project – Supervisor Horney made a motion, as recommended by the Water Committee, to accept the Peed & Bortz proposal for A/E preliminary engineering design for \$16,900.

The roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Brian W. Vaught	Coy L. McRoberts
	Charlie G. Lester	B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
	Ryan M. Lawson	Timothy A. Reeves, Sr.
	Joe F. Hale	

NAYS: None

2. Kennel Lane - Supervisor Horney made a motion, as recommended by the Water Committee, to direct staff to work with VDOT on a solution to the Kennel Lane tank road culvert issue.

The roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Brian W. Vaught	Coy L. McRoberts
	Charlie G. Lester	B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
	Ryan M. Lawson	Timothy A. Reeves, Sr.
	Joe F. Hale	

NAYS: None

3. R&R Enterprises - Supervisor Horney made a motion, as recommended by the Water Committee, to approve R&R Enterprises' permit and to authorize the County Administrator to sign.

Mr. Bear explained that R&R wishes to activate a line to run directly into our sewer. The R&R facility (Peppers Ferry Road) would either bring the discharge to our wastewater treatment plant or inject it in our line to come directly to us.

Mr. Bear said this recommendation just authorizes the permit to discharge into our wastewater system (pre-treated), which includes guidelines on samples and limitations. We will invoice them for the regular sewer charges plus any additional surcharges based on sample results.

The roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Brian W. Vaught	Coy L. McRoberts
	Charlie G. Lester	B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
	Ryan M. Lawson	Timothy A. Reeves, Sr.
	Joe F. Hale	

NAYS: None

4. Fort Chiswell Well #2 – Supervisor Horney made a motion, as recommended by the Water Committee, to recommend decommissioning Fort Chiswell Well #2 and removing it from the Health Department permit.

Mr. Bear said the Health Department wanted us to put in UV systems to treat the water (est. \$200k) but he said it's more cost effective to take Well #2 offline and purchase water from NRRWA. To close the well will cost between \$2,000-2,500.

The roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Brian W. Vaught	Coy L. McRoberts
	Charlie G. Lester	B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
	Ryan M. Lawson	Timothy A. Reeves, Sr.
	Joe F. Hale	

NAYS: None

## BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Violence Against Women's Act – Supervisor Lester made a motion, as recommended by the Budget Committee, to accept the Violence Against Women's Act grant in the amount of \$24,919.

The roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:     Brian W. Vaught                             Coy L. McRoberts  
              Charlie G. Lester                            B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.  
              Ryan M. Lawson                            Timothy A. Reeves, Sr.  
              Joe F. Hale

NAYS:     None

2. Sheriff's Compensation Board – Supervisor Lester made a motion, as recommended by the Budget Committee, to approve a transfer of \$10,000 from the Sheriff's Compensation Board vacancy savings to Vehicle Supplies and \$800 to Temporary Personnel contingent upon Compensation Board approval.

Supervisor Vaught read the following disclosure statement, "I, Brian Vaught, as a member of the Wythe County Board of Supervisors, declare pursuant to the Virginia Conflict of Interest Act, that regarding this matter of the Budget Committee recommendation involving the Wythe County Sheriff's Office, I have a personal interest because I am a full-time employee of the Wythe County Sheriff's Office which will be affected by these matters to be discussed today, and I declare that I am able to participate in this matter fairly, objectively and in the public interest."

Supervisor Lawson read the following disclosure statement, "I, Ryan Lawson, as a member of the Wythe County Board of Supervisors, declare pursuant to the Virginia Conflict of Interest Act, that regarding this matter of the Budget Committee recommendation involving the Wythe County Sheriff's Office, I have a personal interest because my husband is a full-time employee of the Wythe County Sheriff's Office which will be affected by the matters to be discussed in our meeting today. And I declare that I am able to participate in this matter fairly, objectively and in the public interest."

The roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: Brian W. Vaught  
Charlie G. Lester  
Ryan M. Lawson  
Joe F. Hale

Coy L. McRoberts  
B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.  
Timothy A. Reeves, Sr.

NAYS: None

3. Commonwealth Attorney – Supervisor Lester made a motion, as recommended by the Budget Committee, to approve a transfer of \$5,200.44 from the Commonwealth Attorney's Asset Forfeiture account to Furniture & Fixtures for the purchase of new office furniture.

The roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: Brian W. Vaught  
Charlie G. Lester  
Ryan M. Lawson  
Joe F. Hale

Coy L. McRoberts  
B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.  
Timothy A. Reeves, Sr.

NAYS: None

### **WYTHE COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE**

Ms. Ashley Edwards provided the Board with an Extension Office update. She is a commercial horticulture extension agent covering the counties of Grayson, Carroll and Wythe. She has spent most of her time on commercial fruit and vegetable production. Because SWVA has the most pumpkins in the State of Virginia, Ms. Edwards has devoted a lot of her time to pumpkin research, variety trials, and a lot of field day events with the Virginia Pumpkin Growers Association. She has also worked with fruit tree production, research opportunities with VA Tech, and general orchard meetings. Ms. Edwards does a lot of work with the VA Christmas Tree Growers Association.

The bulk of her time this past year has been spent on fresh produce food safety and, along with specialists from VA Tech and other extension agents, has developed a new grower manual focusing on food safety and how to prepare for audits. Ms. Edwards explained that the Food Safety Modernization Act is a federal law that was passed in 2015. She said that many growers are coming into compliance with this law, and that she provides training to help them do that. Ms. Edwards has also been involved in youth

outreach, school programs, farmers markets, as well as helping individuals with gardening and landscaping issues.

Supervisor Hale asked if Ms. Edwards could work with the APEX Authority to look into the feasibility of having a pumpkin festival. He referenced a hugely successful annual pumpkin festival held in Pickaway, Ohio.

Ms. Edwards replied that Carroll County started one that was a one-day event. She would be happy to help with that and will reach out to Matthew Miller.

### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

County Administrator Stephen Bear appeared before the Board and reported the following:

1. DHCD – Enterprise Zone Amendment – Mr. Bear stated that the amendment has been approved and that no further action is required.
2. VDOT Smart Scale Application (Progress Park Connector Road) – Mr. Bear had very good news to report. He said the Commonwealth Transportation Board met last week and highlighted this project for its improvement in economic development, receiving the second or third highest score in the State. Mr. Bear said this project is also recommended for funding in Smart Scale and that we need to stay in touch with the Transportation Board members to continue to support this. Mr. Bear extended thanks to Mr. Vaughan, VDOT and the outside consultants for all their help with this project.
3. APEX Center Update – Mr. Bear reported that RGM has met all the life-safety building requirements. A Certificate of Occupancy has been issued if the Board will take action to accept substantial completion and authorize staff to finish the paperwork (testing, certifications, and punch list of items).

Supervisor McRoberts made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Hale, to accept substantial completion.

The roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Brian W. Vaught	Coy L. McRoberts
	Charlie G. Lester	B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
	Ryan M. Lawson	Timothy A. Reeves, Sr.

Joe F. Hale

NAYS: None

Mr. Bear added that the only thing that prevented our first event from taking place last week was the bleachers. All seats and benches are in and they're finalizing the railing/fencing and related clean-up which is expected to be done by Friday. He said it is imperative that we not cancel another event.

Supervisor Lawson asked if they were power-spraying the seating.

Mr. Litton responded that they used a combination of cleaning methods that did a good job on the seats, but the decking has not cleaned up as brightly.

Chairman Reeves said the seats looked good when he saw them yesterday. He added that they were removing the numbers on the seats.

Supervisor Horney wanted to be sure that either no numbers or the correct numbers are reflected to avoid any negative comments from the public.

Supervisor Hale asked about bush-hogging the auxiliary lot (Umberger's lot), weather permitting. He also mentioned that Bleacher Builders possibly has some shuttles, in need of refurbishing, to transport people from the auxiliary lot to the arena (late summer time frame).

Mr. Bear said Mr. Vaughan is accepting proposals now for the lower parking lot.

Supervisor Lawson asked when the sign will come down that indicates the APEX will be open Fall of 2018.

Mr. Johnstone responded that the Authority is meeting tonight and they will address it with Mr. Topham who he believed had already ordered a new sign.

Mr. Bear added that the Town has agreed to let the County use their directional display sign for 45 days (similar to what VDOT uses).

Supervisor Lawson reported a lot of talk in the community about who is to blame for the delayed opening (RGM, Bleacher Builders, etc.). She asked how best to respond to the public's concerns?

Mr. Bear responded that substantial completion was expected in November but the contractor encountered several weather and other delays. But last week's cancellation was solely due to Bleacher Builders.

Supervisor Hale added that this project underwent many architectural-driven change orders. Normally, he said, the general contractor asks for an extension due to those change orders. Our local contractor did not do that, and had we used an out-of-state contractor, every change order would have resulted in a request for more days (extension). It should be noted that by using a local contractor, we kept the money here in our County.

Mr. Vaughan stated that RGM had the floor cleaned and ready in plenty of time for Bleacher Builders to have been there installing the seating. The delay was not on RGM.

Supervisor Vaught mentioned that he and the Board were at the APEX in November, and Bleacher Builders could have been there working on the seating then.

Mr. Bear said that Bleacher Builders had come in and built the frames and then left (presumably to work on other jobs) and that is when they lost substantial time. Mr. Bear added that according to Mr. Jordan, he misjudged the fabrication timing.

Supervisor Vaught understands delays but when it comes to having to cancel an event, that is what really bothers him. He hopes that SMG has concessions for the traffic this weekend or else it could be another black eye. Supervisor Vaught said he has not yet been impressed by SMG.

Supervisor Hale wanted to add that the APEX is an economic development project, bringing taxes in from meals and hotels, and will draw events that will provide tax revenue to the County and Town immediately. That is why he would like to track that revenue coming in as a result of the APEX over the next several years.

Supervisor Vaught feels that SMG should be doing more to partner with the County hotels. If the event promoters stay in town, he said, that doesn't help the County.



Supervisor Hale thought maybe we should promote the idea to some of the County hotels to provide (and advertise) shuttle service to the APEX. He thinks those hotels will fill up quickly once people discover that extra service.

Mr. Litton added that the Authority had received a spreadsheet from SMG this month that contained a list of contacts, initial contact, follow-up contact, etc. He said that SMG apparently did not receive much positive response from the County hotels.

4. Planning Commission – Capital Improvement Plan Input – Mr. Bear provided an information sheet from the CIP input sessions the Planning Commission held. Some noteworthy items are education, security at schools, economic development, and Internet access.
5. 2019-2020 Budget Parameters Discussion – Mr. Bear stated that budget letters will be going out soon to all the department heads, constitutional officers, and other departments we fund. Mr. Bear would like to know what budget items in particular the Board of Supervisors may have interest in.

Supervisor Vaught said that one item that's been raised in the past and should be considered again is County salaries. He said we need to take care of our in-house people and he believes the Board should concentrate on salaries this year.

Chairman Reeves agreed with Supervisor Vaught and said that the pay scale in each department should be adjusted as well as the salaries of some of the constitutional officers.

Supervisor Hale also agreed and said the salaries should also be adjusted for the Board of Supervisors; an adjustment that is long past due. He said if you consider the amount of time that the Supervisors put into their jobs, the pay is "ridiculous". Supervisor Hale said not to use Bland or Grayson counties as a comparable because the workload is not the same, especially when you factor in all the committee meetings. He added that if you want your people to do a good job, you should support them with decent compensation.

Mr. Bear wants to look at the committees with the hope of possibly combining some of them.

Supervisor Hale also stressed the importance of tourism and how tourism and economic development should go hand-in-hand, whether it be historical or entertainment. He said with all the travelers who pass by here, we need to better utilize our waterways (canoes, kayaks, fishing) and old furnace sites, and help promote small businesses along the river.

Supervisor Lester said that both Supervisors Hale and Vaught covered his points of interest for budget considerations (salaries and tourism).

Supervisor Lawson stated that while she appreciates the two new firetrucks, she would like to dig deeper into Emergency Services. Supervisor Lawson would also like to examine more closely what comes out of the PAF (police activity fund).

Supervisor McRoberts spoke of his intention to help the citizens of his district when he joined the Board of Supervisors ten years ago. He has tried to get a building that can be enjoyed by both the senior citizens and the youth but has not yet been successful. He has done his best to help them, but said he is really going to push hard this year to make it happen. Supervisor McRoberts said these people pay taxes too and we need to take as good care of them as we do the citizens of Wytheville, Max Meadows, Ivanhoe, etc. He also added that he knows of someone in Barren Springs who will sell a piece of their property if we want to build on it.

Chairman Reeves suggested we use the proceeds from the sale of surplus property in Barren Springs to help pay for Supervisor McRoberts' building.

Supervisor Horney stated that, while he agrees with what everyone else has said, he does not want to raise taxes.

Supervisor Hale said that economic development does not have to be a negative and we should be able to successfully move forward and grow. Our tax collections are going up and some of these things are revenue positive, but we need to take the initiative to make them happen. He said that new and progressive should be viewed as a positive, not negative. As long as it's revenue positive, he said, then we should invest the money. It's called planning for the future.

Chairman Reeves said that even though we're in a good economy, we still need to look at what we're taking in and what is going out and adjust our revenue

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forecast and budget accordingly. The Chairman feels we need to do better with tourism and marketing, possibly partner with hotels to create videos promoting the County, and increased use of social media.

Supervisor Hale said the trail brochure is great but it is not widely circulated enough. He would also like to see more development at the eastern end of the County where he said there's been a lot of growth but very few trails for biking/hiking. Supervisor Hale suggested considering a comprehensive review of tourism and asked if that is something the Planning Commission could look into.

Mr. Bear responded that the Planning Commission along with Parks & Recreation could possibly develop that. He said that mountain bike trails are a huge attraction to a lot of people. Mr. Bear added that promotion and development of those areas in the eastern end is critical to boosting tourism.

Supervisor Hale suggested we interface with Pulaski County to develop the eastern corner between Bland and Pulaski County, where there is 20+ miles of nothing but wilderness. He said we could also work with the Town to possibly connect trails to the lake and the facilities there. Supervisor Hale stated that there's a network of trails that could be capitalized.

Mr. Bear said blueways is one we should be supporting as well as trail development. He and Supervisor Lawson do attend meetings regarding the bike trail to Roanoke.

Chairman Reeves stated that we still need to work on industrial and retail development in the County, and wondered if we should renew the agreement with Retail Coach. The Board needs to consider what we got out of that partnership over the past three years. The Chairman added that we need to do better getting industry here. He hopes that with Amazon opening up in northern Virginia, that we can capitalize on that by bringing some satellite companies/distribution centers to this part of the State.

Mr. Bear mentioned that we should also consider capital expenditures on the water side, focusing on internal repair and maintenance; fixing old lines and no new expansions unless it's cost effective. He said there are several lines that have been inground for too many years and need to be replaced.

Chairman Reeves would like to look at “one-time cost” projects, if we have any extra money in the budget. He said there are things that have been neglected, outside of water.

Mr. Bear said on the Building & Grounds side, there still needs to be a lot of clean up on and around our buildings.

Supervisor Hale encouraged applying for smaller grants, stating that it’s like low-hanging fruit that few others go after. He said that can certainly help with the one-time cost projects.

Mr. Bear reported that the Ager Park playground, built in 1994 and updated in 2011, is in need of a \$1MM facelift, but that it could be done in phases. He also said that grant support of that project is needed.

Supervisor Hale feels the Town should be pitching in more for Ager Park since few citizens in the County actually use it.

Chairman Reeves thinks the Ager Park renovation topic should come before the Town/County Committee for discussion.

## **COMMITTEES**

Mr. Bear announced that appointment/reappointments need to be made for the remaining committees, unless the Board wants them to remain the same.

No one requested any changes; therefore, Chairman Reeves reappointed all committee members, including liaisons.

Mr. Bear explained the purpose and role of the liaisons.

## **SUPERVISORS’ REPORTS**

1. Convenience Centers – Supervisor Vaught said he had an issue with burned out lights at the center, but he contacted Mr. Bear and the problem was addressed in a timely manner. He encouraged other Supervisors to check the lights at the centers in their districts too.
2. Trash Pickup and Litter Programs – Supervisor Hale reported that Loves truck stop (on the Lee Highway side) is bad, although they do clean it up every time

Code Enforcement contacts them. Supervisor Hale is pleased with the trash pickup but would really like to see programs in the schools to address littering and pollution.

Supervisor Vaught searched extensively to find a litter education program but couldn't find anything.

Supervisor Hale suggested we incentivize the schools to conduct such a program and become more involved.

Mr. Vaughan spoke briefly about the country's "Keep America Beautiful" program, but more importantly the State's program "Keep Virginia Beautiful". He suggested possibly getting some concerned citizens, along with yourselves, to get more involved or at least to obtain some educational information.

3. Speedwell Feed Lot – Supervisor Horney asked for an update on the feed lot and use of the plastic pipes.
4. Richmond and Washington, DC Meetings Update – Chairman Reeves attended meetings recently in Richmond (financial forum) and Washington, DC. He met a lot of people from all over the U.S. and learned quite a bit. He reported that many of them are encountering the same problems that we are. They were provided an update on the opioid lawsuits (Federal and State), which are in settlement talks already.

Regarding the cigarette tax legislation, for which Chairman Reeves testified, he said that it got to a vote but unfortunately ended up in a tie (4/4), which killed the motion to bring it out of committee. The Chairman of the Finance Committee said this is not the right year but added that he will co-sponsor it next year. Chairman Reeves said we're making progress but still have a way to go. He added that when equal taxation among cities, counties and towns is docketed on the committee, Chairman Reeves will go to Richmond again and testify.

The Chairman announced that on May 18<sup>th</sup>, VACO will be having their Board of Directors meeting here in Wytheville. He said there will be a reception and dinner that Saturday night. If anyone has suggestions where to take them, please let the Chair know. He said that past presidents have provided members nice little tote bags (with the County seal) and contents that promote the County. He is expecting approximately 60 people (including spouses). Chairman Reeves said

many of these people have never been to Wythe County and there are even a few who are coming in early.

5. Compensation Board Funds – Supervisor Vaught asked if VACO can address the compensation board not funding what is due the County.

Chairman Reeves responded that they asked them to do what they're supposed to, and there are some bills in that address that. He added that it's good to get local officials to go and support these bills, mentioning that both Bland and Pulaski representatives went.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Supervisor Horney made a motion to approve the consent calendar as presented for January 22, 2019, as follows:

**1. PAYROLL – December 2018:**

General County Fund	\$ 518,891.50
Police Activity Fund	57,825.46
Courthouse Security Fund	9,106.12
Water Department Fund	20,082.49
Wythe County Wastewater Fund	19,458.89
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 625,364.46</b>

**Check Numbers:** 20000388-20000409

**Voucher Numbers:** 6006-6361

**2. STATUS REPORTS:**

- A. Animal Control – Arlan Dunford
- B. Building Inspection – Tim Spraker
- C. Engineering – Bill Vaughan
- D. Finance – Bruce Grant

**3. PERSONNEL:**

- A. Austin, Martin – Hired, Full-time Water Maintenance, Annual Salary \$25,434, Effective December 3, 2018
- B. Coake, Caleb – Resigned, Full-time IT Support, Effective December 7, 2018

- C. Agee, James – Hired, Full-time Deputy, Annual Salary \$34,500, Effective January 1, 2019
- D. Mabe, Tanner – Hired, Full-time Deputy, Annual Salary \$31,009, Effective January 14, 2019

**4. BUDGET AMENDMENTS:**

- A. \$1,137 (1101-451420) – Burial Cost for Indigent Remains

Supervisor Lester seconded the motion.

The roll call vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Brian W. Vaught	Coy L. McRoberts
	Charlie G. Lester	B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
	Ryan M. Lawson	Timothy A. Reeves, Sr.
	Joe F. Hale	

NAYS: None

**DRAFT BUDGET CALENDAR FY2020**

Mr. Bear asked for approval of the budget calendar which he would like to see adopted by the end of May to help the Treasurer with collections. He has set three days for the Board work sessions as opposed to four.

Supervisor McRoberts made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Lawson, to approve the budget calendar for FY2020.

Supervisor Lawson advised that she will be out of town March 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> and asked if she can attend the meeting (school board) on March 26<sup>th</sup> by telephone.

Supervisor Hale asked if the school Superintendent can visit before the budget work sessions. He said that the Superintendent is working on a couple of items and that he would like him to have opportunity to discuss those items with the Board before the work sessions.

Mr. Bear suggested moving the March 26<sup>th</sup> budget meeting to Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 9 a.m.

Supervisor Lawson made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Lester, to approve the budget calendar for FY2020 as amended.

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

### **COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DAY**

Mr. Bear will send out an agenda tomorrow for next week's meeting with legislators.

Chairman Reeves announced that he will be going back to Richmond tomorrow for a VACO and VML reception and executive committee dinner. He will try to get more information on bills in the General Assembly.

Mr. Bear added that Rural Caucus is Wednesday night, and Legislative Day is Thursday. He asked if anyone wants to stay another night (Thursday) if he can get a dinner with legislators. Supervisors Lester, Lawson, Vaught, and Horney responded that could stay. Chairman Reeves will be there through Friday.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business to come before the Board, Chair Reeves adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:09 p.m.

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Timothy A. Reeves, Sr., Chair