The Wythe County Board of Supervisors held its regularly scheduled meeting at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 24, 2022. The location of the meeting was in the Boardroom of the County Administration Building, 340 South Sixth Street, Wytheville, Virginia.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**
- Brian W. Vaught, Chair
- Ryan M. Lawson, Vice Chair
- Rolland R. Cook
- B. G. “Gene” Horney, Jr.
- Jesse R. Burnett
- Stacy A. Terry

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**
- James D. “Jamie” Smith

**STAFF PRESENT:**
- Stephen D. Bear, County Administrator
- Martha Collins, Administrative Assistant/Clerk
- Scot Farthing, County Attorney
- Matthew C. Hankins, Assistant County Administrator
- Regina Williams, Finance Director

**OTHERS PRESENT:**
- Jerry Blevins
- Jim Ennis
- Andy Fowler
- Lori Guynn
- Richie Johnson
- Dalton Marshall
- Linda Meyer
- Ashley Stuart
- Kathy Vaught
- Zach Wright

**CALL TO ORDER**
Chair Vaught determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He added that Supervisor Smith is absent due to an event where he and his wife, Tammy, are presenting the first annual Logan Tanner Smith Memorial Scholarship in their son’s memory. He asked that everyone keep the Smith family in their prayers.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
Pastor Richie Johnson, First Church of Wytheville, provided the invocation and Supervisor Cook led the Pledge of Allegiance.
CITIZENS’ TIME

1. **WCPS Pornography and Proposed Resolution** – Ms. Linda Meyer appeared before the Board and stated “I have notified a couple people, we had presented on two occasions a resolution to support Wythe County parents’ objections to these porn books that we have in our school system. Last week, Delegate Tim Anderson, who is also a lawyer, he announced a major legal victory, the Virginia Beach Circuit Court found probable cause that these books, in fact, some of the books that we have here are obscene and should be restricted viewing by minors. And we would like to know if, in fact, you are working on it, getting the resolution and supporting the parents’ objections to these pornographic books. Okay, so that was the Virginia Beach Circuit Court issued that directive last week. Thank you.”

2. **DSS and Sheriff’s Office Complaint** – Mr. Jerry Blevins appeared before the Board and stated “Due to running out of time at the last Board of Supervisors’ Meeting, I will continue where I left off. Since being released from jail, I’ve had two hearings in General District Court. They were very interested about my attorney going to a room on the left front corner of the courtroom where he meets the district prosecutor and the Wythe County Sheriff Major Cline. They didn’t discuss what to do apparently. My last hearing on May 3, 2022, they had two hours to give me; the latter one was most interesting and went as follows: If I would agree to good behavior for a year, the prosecutor would then drop the obstruction of justice charge. That would imply that I had done something wrong and would allow the police to keep my personal property for another year. When the police arrived on my property with long guns and didn’t announce their presence, the only way I knew it was the police was by calling 911 and telling the operator that an intruder is on my property and she replied ‘it is the police’ and not to shoot, where she then states the police were there to talk to me. Coming to my place with long guns is not a good way to communicate with me. I’m still mad about what they were there for, and announcing themselves on arrival would have been much more rational to just come on otherwise. Once I was arrested, however, the police would have aborted a false charge of attempted murder by immediately searching my camera footage, my security camera footage. Not having . . . specify the facts you swore to, diminishes the credibility of an emergency custody order from the Wythe County Social Services Department. Having the Mount Rogers Community Services report, as well as the Wythe County Community Hospital report, neither specify any need for further cure on my part supports my claim that . . . arrest was not warranted in the first place and there wasn’t a need for
police interfering. Since my last speech at the Wythe County Board of Supervisors, I’ve had problems with my neighbor such as removing or loosening lug nuts on my . . . car, making loud noises, and lately turning my phone ringer down to where it will not ring. By the police not investigating this matter, but instead shooting down the DSS complaint about the neighbor, raises a lot of questions that eventually will be answered. Having my case reviewed by several attorneys and all agreeing there is a civil rights case involved is quite helpful. My speech to the Board of Supervisors is not solely for public knowledge, but a legal requirement before any civil case can be filed. Thank you.”

3. **Treasurer’s Office** – Ms. Ashley Stuart appeared before the Board and stated “Hello. I am here to address an ongoing situation that has happened for multiple years with the local Treasurer’s Office. In 2020, my husband and I sole owned a 2006 Toyota Sequoia. Somehow, the Treasurer’s Office mixed it up and got my mother linked to it. Every year I go in to pay, there is one vehicle that is always just in my husband’s name only. The other vehicles are in my both of our names. I am never given a receipt. I am always refused. For the past three years I have been. The past three years have been an absolute headache for me to be able to go and pay my taxes to the point I don’t even want to go in the office anymore. My mother’s name was linked to that, my husband had a hold on his tags, I had a hold on mine, she had a hold on hers. She has never been on this vehicle or co-signed a vehicle to her name. We’re still not quite sure how that mix-up happened. Same thing happened last year. I went in, paid my taxes; to my understanding Ms. Guynn told me everything was paid. Got a call in late August from a friend that worked there and said ‘Hey, that bill was misplaced again. You need to hurry up and get in here. A hold is being placed on your stuff at the DMV.’ I had to leave from school from getting my kids to go take care of that and then go back to Spiller and pick up. Yesterday I went to pay my taxes. I was refused a receipt again. I paid $785.95. I have every bill here and all the receipts. I was refused a receipt. I asked to speak with Ms. Guynn. She came out with the rudest, arrogant attitude I have ever dealt with from a county official. She looked at me in the face and said ‘Oh, I remember who you are.’ She and I went back and forth about the receipt. If there was not so many mix-ups and mistakes in our county Treasurer’s Office, there would be no need for she to know who I was for the past three years. I got to looking at my taxes too. I have both papers here that I got mailed; paper she printed me yesterday. I was overcharged $5.60. I called in yesterday and recorded the call. The employee there was so nice to me and kind. Her name was Carolyn. She tried to help me and resolve the issue. Ms. Guynn would not come to the phone to me to try and resolve this issue, in a
personable manner for over 20 minutes, and I was at work and couldn’t stay on the phone any longer. Yesterday, the employee that was trying to help me, Ms. Guynn put her hand in her face and pushed her away from the counter to keep her from helping me. I don’t know what to do. I was charged $22.89 yesterday to pay with a debit card, and I’m also having to pay $30 a pop at my bank to get bank statements to take to them to show them what I’ve paid. And this is to the point I can’t deal with this a fourth year. This is costing us hundreds of extra dollars and it should not be this kind of a fit to pay my taxes as a Wythe County citizen. And I do have the recorded calls or any copies that any of the board members would like to have if they would like that. Thank you.”

The Chair asked Mr. Bear to follow-up with Ms. Stuart to address the situation. With no one else signed up to address the Board, Chair Vaught closed Citizens’ Time.

**PAYMENT OF COUNTY INVOICES**

Supervisor Terry made a motion to pay the invoices for approval on May 24, 2022, for the various departments of County government. The invoices were paid on General Warrants 30112531-30112627, and two wire transfers, as follows:

**EXPENDITURES BY DEPARTMENT**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**May 24, 2022**

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

AYES:  Brian W. Vaught  Jesse R. Burnett
       Rolland R. Cook  B. G. “Gene” Horney, Jr.
       Ryan M. Lawson  Stacy A. Terry

NAYS:  None

ABSENT: James D. “Jamie” Smith

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING
The Board was presented with the May 10, 2022, minutes for approval.

Supervisor Cook made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Burnett, to approve the May 10, 2022, minutes as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:  Brian W. Vaught  Jesse R. Burnett
       Rolland R. Cook  B. G. “Gene” Horney, Jr.
       Ryan M. Lawson

NAYS:  None

ABSENT: James D. “Jamie” Smith
ABSTAIN: Stacy A. Terry

VDOT SECONDARY SIX-YEAR PLAN RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Bear explained that a public hearing was previously held approving the Six-Year Plan. The following resolutions now require Board approval:

1. VDOT Secondary Six-Year Plan ("SSYP") Resolution 2022-06 – Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, to adopt Resolution 2022-06 as follows:

WYTHER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
RESOLUTION 2022-06

The governing body of the Wythe County Board of Supervisors, consisting of seven (7) members, at its regularly scheduled meeting on the 24th day of May, 2022 at which a quorum was present RESOLVED as follows:

WHEREAS, Sections 33.2-358 and 33.2-331 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, provide the opportunity for each county to work with the Virginia Department of Transportation in developing a Secondary Six-Year Road Plan; and

WHEREAS, this Board had previously agreed to assist in the preparation of this Plan, in accordance with the Virginia Department of Transportation policies and procedures, and participated in a public hearing on the proposed Plan (2022/23 through 2027/28), as well as the Construction Priority List (2022/23) on May 10, 2022, after duly advertised so that all citizens of the County had the opportunity to participate in said hearing and to make comments and recommendations concerning the proposed Plan and Priority List; and

WHEREAS, Andy Fowler, Residency Administrator, Virginia Department of Transportation, appeared before the Board and recommended approval of the Six-Year Plan for Secondary Roads (2022/23 through 2027/28) and the Construction Priority List (2022/23) for Wythe County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously at the May 10, 2022 public hearing to approve the Six-Year Plan for Secondary Roads and Priority List as attached;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that since said Plan appears to be in the best interest of the Secondary Road System in Wythe County and of the citizens residing on the Secondary System, said Secondary Six-Year Plan (2022/23 through 2027/28) and Construction Priority List (2022/23) are hereby approved as presented at the May 10, 2022 public hearing.

The roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: Brian W. Vaught Jesse R. Burnett
      Ryan M. Lawson B. G. “Gene” Horney, Jr.
      Rolland R. Cook Stacy A. Terry

NAYS: None

ABSENT: James D. “Jamie” Smith

2. **SSYP Construction Priority List (Doe Run/Millers Creek) Resolution 2022-07** – Vice Chair Lawson made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Terry, to adopt Resolution 2022-07 as follows:

   **WYTHER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RESOLUTION 2022-07**

   The Board of Supervisors of Wythe County, Virginia, in regular meeting on the 24th day of May 2022, adopted the following:

   **WHEREAS**, Sections 33.2-358 and 33.2-331 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, provide the opportunity for each county to work with the Virginia Department of Transportation in developing a Secondary Six-Year Road Plan; and

   **WHEREAS**, this Board had previously agreed to assist in the preparation of this Plan, in accordance with the Virginia Department of Transportation policies and procedures, and participated in a public hearing on the proposed Plan (2022/23 through 2027/28), as well as the Construction Priority List (2022/23) on May 10, 2022, after duly advertised so that all citizens of the County had the opportunity to participate in said hearing and to make comments and recommendations concerning the proposed Plan and Priority List; and
WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Wythe County, Virginia ("Board") desires to change the Construction Priority List order of the existing Six-Year Plan by trading the .45 mile section of Doe Run Road for a .5 mile section of Millers Creek Road; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board hereby approves the exchange in Construction Priority List order of Doe Run Road and Millers Creek Road, and requests that the Residency Administrator for the Virginia Department of Transportation concur.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Virginia Department of Transportation Residency Administrator.

The roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: Brian W. Vaught Jesse R. Burnett
Ryan M. Lawson B. G. “Gene” Horney, Jr.
Rolland R. Cook Stacy A. Terry

NAYS: None

ABSENT: James D. “Jamie” Smith

3. SSYP Cost Estimates Update Resolution 2022-08 – Supervisor Horney made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Cook, to adopt Resolution 2022-08 as follows:

WYTHE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
RESOLUTION 2022-08

WHEREAS, Sections 33.2-358 and 33.2-331 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, provide the opportunity for each county to work with the Virginia Department of Transportation in developing a Secondary Six-Year Road Plan; and

WHEREAS, this Board had previously agreed to assist in the preparation of this Plan, in accordance with the Virginia Department of Transportation policies and procedures, and participated in a public hearing on the proposed Plan (2022/23 through 2027/28), as well as the Construction Priority List (2022/23) on May 10, 2022, after duly advertised so that all
citizens of the County had the opportunity to participate in said hearing and to make comments and recommendations concerning the proposed Plan and Priority List; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Wythe County, Virginia ("Board") desires to use $1,161,362 of the current year’s allocation to update the cost estimates for all existing routes on the Secondary Six-Year Plan; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board hereby approves utilizing $1,161,362 of this year’s allocation to update cost estimates for all existing routes on the Secondary Six-Year Plan, and requests that the Residency Administrator for the Virginia Department of Transportation concur.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Virginia Department of Transportation Residency Administrator.

The roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: Brian W. Vaught Jesse R. Burnett
       Ryan M. Lawson B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
       Rolland R. Cook Stacy A. Terry

NAYS: None

ABSENT: James D. "Jamie" Smith

4. Conners Valley Road Resolution 2022-09 – Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, to adopt Resolution 2022-09 as follows:

**WYTHE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**
**RESOLUTION 2022-09**

WHEREAS, Section 33.2-332 of the Code of Virginia, permits the hard surfacing of certain unpaved roads deemed to qualify for designation as a Rural Rustic Road; and

WHEREAS, any such road must be located in a low-density development area and have not more than 1,500 vehicles per day; and
WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Wythe County, Virginia ("Board") desires to consider whether adding .9 miles of Conners Valley Road From: End of Pavement To: .9 mile, should be designated a Rural Rustic Road; and

WHEREAS, the Board is unaware of pending development that will significantly affect the existing traffic on this road; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that this road should be so designated due to its qualifying characteristics; and

WHEREAS, this road is in the Board’s Six-Year Plan for improvements to the secondary system of State highways.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board hereby designates this road a Rural Rustic Road, and requests that the Residency Administrator for the Virginia Department of Transportation concur in this designation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board requests that this road be hard surfaced and, to the fullest extent prudent, be improved within the existing right-of-way and ditch-lines to preserve as much as possible the adjacent trees, vegetation, side slopes, and rural rustic character along the road in their current state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Virginia Department of Transportation Residency Administrator.

The roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: Brian W. Vaught                   Jesse R. Burnett
       Ryan M. Lawson                     B. G. “Gene” Horney, Jr.
       Rolland R. Cook                    Stacy A. Terry

NAYS: None

ABSENT: James D. “Jamie” Smith

5. Foster Falls Road Resolution 2022-10 – Supervisor Burnett made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Cook, to adopt Resolution 2022-10 as follows:
WHEREAS, Section 33.2-332 of the Code of Virginia, permits the hard surfacing of certain unpaved roads deemed to qualify for designation as a Rural Rustic Road; and

WHEREAS, any such road must be located in a low-density development area and have not more than 1,500 vehicles per day; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Wythe County, Virginia (“Board”) desires to consider whether adding .1 miles of Foster Falls Road From: the Intersection of Hillyhaven Road, To: 2726 Foster Falls Road, should be designated a Rural Rustic Road; and

WHEREAS, the Board is unaware of pending development that will significantly affect the existing traffic on this road; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that this road should be so designated due to its qualifying characteristics; and

WHEREAS, this road is in the Board’s Six-Year Plan for improvements to the secondary system of State highways.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board hereby designates this road a Rural Rustic Road, and requests that the Residency Administrator for the Virginia Department of Transportation concur in this designation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board requests that this road be hard surfaced and, to the fullest extent prudent, be improved within the existing right-of-way and ditch-lines to preserve as much as possible the adjacent trees, vegetation, side slopes, and rural rustic character along the road in their current state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Virginia Department of Transportation Residency Administrator.
Supervisor Burnett asked Mr. Fowler if he had spoken yet with Ms. Mabry. VDOT staff did speak with her but she referred them to her son, who they have not yet been able to reach. As such, Supervisor Burnett will try and make contact.

The roll call vote was as follows:

**AYES:**
- Brian W. Vaught
- Ryan M. Lawson
- Rolland R. Cook
- Jesse R. Burnett
- B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
- Stacy A. Terry

**NAYS:**
- None

**ABSENT:**
- James D. "Jamie" Smith

**VDOT PROJECT I-81 EXIT 77 – RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT & COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

Mr. Bear stated that the BOS had work session last month with VDOT to consider Exits 77 and 80. One of the designs agreed upon was the one with j-ramps. Applications are being made in Smart Scale for this and a resolution of support is required, as well as updating language in the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Bear added that the design is “conceptual only” and he indicated that the southern j-ramps would likely be better served if moved a little eastward. This would have limited impact on existing businesses.

In response to the Chair and Vice Chair’s inquiry, Mr. Bear said the design includes two roundabouts at Exit 77 (north and south) and that studies were conducted at both sites.

Chair Vaught said he has some grave concerns relating to roundabouts; not so much with the locals but more so with travelers who are not accustomed to them.

Vice Chair Lawson has seen roundabouts in North Carolina and, as much as she doesn’t care for them, she said they do seem to work.

The Board requested that a VDOT representative (Blake Ailor) come and further discuss details of this project.

Supervisor Horney asked Mr. Fowler to address the potholes on St. Peter’s Road, between Fleming and Cripple Creek roads. Also, the road near Jerry Porter’s house is “falling away”.

Chair Vaught asked, in Supervisor Smith’s absence, if anything has or can be done to the crosswalk at Fort Chiswell High School?

Mr. Fowler will look into funding options since that is an intersection of two primary routes and safety aspects are a concern.

Mr. Bear said that the County Engineer has been talking with one of the firms that do a lot of traffic-related work about this project, and money may be available through the Safe Routes to School fund.

Supervisor Terry asked about filling pot holes on Peppers Ferry Road near the home of Ellis Hundley. Mr. Fowler made note of this.

Supervisor Burnett asked about the pine trees between the post office on Route 100 and Foster Falls Road. Mr. Fowler responded that he will see if their roadside vegetation contractor can trim that area.

Chair Vaught expressed thanks for filling the potholes on Stony Fork Road, as well as the mowing that is taking place.

Supervisor Horney also said thank you for addressing the drainage issue he previously raised, and the residents said the workers did a great job!

**FY 2023 BUDGET – SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR JUNE 14, 2022**

Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, to approve setting a public hearing for Tuesday, June 14, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. to consider both the School Board Budget and the County Budget for Fiscal Year 2023.

The vote on the motion was unanimous, with one absent.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Treasurer, Lori Guynn, appeared before the Board and reported the following:

1. **Revenue Statement** – Mrs. Guynn reported that the Consolidated Account was comprised of $88,973,476 of which $47,345,596 was in the General Fund Account at the end of April.

Mrs. Guynn said her office is just catching up now after some system delays, so she has no other news-worthy items to report.
COMMISSIONER’S REPORT
Commissioner of the Revenue, Mrs. Kathy Vaught, appeared before the Board to provide a reassessment update. The Commissioner said approximately 600 properties are being appealed and they hope to have them all resolved in the next two weeks.

Chair Vaught asked Mr. Bear about Board of Equalization (“BOE”) and how it is set up.

Mr. Bear said the BOE is appointed and trained, and they are now ready to go. He believes BOE can schedule appointments 30 days after the appeals process. He will get an update and email it to the board members in case citizens are asking.

The Commissioner added that, in addition to posting on the county website, this information will also be advertised in the newspaper.

Supervisor Cook asked if 600 is a large number for appeals?

Mrs. Vaught felt that 600 properties out of 19,800 doesn’t seem too bad. Both she and Mr. Bear were expecting more.

CONSENT CALENDAR
Supervisor Terry made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar as follows:

1. **PAYROLL – April 2022:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General County Fund</td>
<td>$609,269.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police Activity Fund</td>
<td>55,214.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courthouse Security Fund</td>
<td>15,174.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Department Fund</td>
<td>22,605.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wythe County Wastewater Fund</td>
<td>25,256.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$727,519.88</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   **Check Numbers:** 2001671-2001682; 2001687-2001698

   **Voucher Numbers:** 22778-22938; 22944-23113

2. **STATUS REPORTS:**

   A. Animal Control – Arlan Dunford
   B. Building & Grounds – Billy Bowers
   C. Building Inspection – Kyle Taylor
   D. Finance – Regina Williams
E. IT – Todd Catron
F. Planning Commission – Michelle Cassell
G. Water & Wastewater – Don Crisp

3. **PERSONNEL:**

A. Linkous, Timothy – Merit Increase, Full-time Deputy Commissioner, Annual Salary $30,370, Effective April 16, 2022

B. Shelton, Lisa – Merit Increase, Full-time Deputy Commissioner, Annual Salary $39,872, Effective April 16, 2022

C. King, Brandi – Merit Increase, Full-time Deputy Commissioner, Annual Salary $29,763, Effective April 16, 2022

D. Woods, Kelly – Salary Increase, Full-time Staff Accountant, Annual Salary $52,014, Effective April 16, 2022

E. Lovelace, Teresa – Transferred, Full-time Deputy Clerk, Clerk of Circuit Court, Annual Salary $32,193, Effective April 20, 2022

4. **BUDGET AMENDMENTS:**

A. $3,739.55 (43048-443020) 2019 Ford F250 Auto Claim dated 3/30/2022

B. $12,411.83 (3202-457235) ATL Reimbursement

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

**AYES:**
- Brian W. Vaught
- Rolland R. Cook
- Ryan M. Lawson

**Jesse R. Burnett**
- B. G. “Gene” Horney, Jr.
- Stacy A. Terry

**NAYS:**
- None

**ABSENT:**
- James D. “Jamie” Smith
1. **Commissioner of Revenue Budget Transfer Request (CAMA System)** – Mr. Hankins explained that due to an oversight last year, $7,000 was not carried over to the current fiscal year’s budget for the CAMA (mass appraisal) System.

Vice Chair Lawson made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Horney, to amend and appropriate $7,000 from Reserves for the Commissioner’s cloud hosting and data backup for the CAMA System.

The roll call vote was as follows:

**AYES:** Brian W. Vaught  Jesse R. Burnett  Ryan M. Lawson  B. G. “Gene” Horney, Jr.  Rolland R. Cook  Stacy A. Terry

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** James D. “Jamie” Smith

2. **Speedwell Volunteer Fire Department** – Mr. Hankins announced that the new pumper tanker was delivered.

3. **ProComm (Radio) Contract** – Mr. Hankins said that the contracts have now been fully executed.

4. **Blue Line Solutions** – Mr. Hankins reported that this contract is currently being executed.

5. **Regional Improvement Commission (Gaming Tax)** – Yesterday was the first meeting of the commission where they discussed funding priorities. The general consensus was that EMS is a priority, but money won’t likely be available until next year (amount unknown).

Chair Vaught added that Smyth County is planning to build a new EMS station in Atkins which should help reduce pressure on Rural Retreat EMS.

6. **New River Valley Regional Jail Authority** – There is a special called meeting of the Authority on May 26th where the Personnel Committee will be recommending a
new Superintendent. Sheriff Foster, Chair Vaught and Mr. Hankins will be attending.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

1. **Budget Amendment Request – Medical Examiner** – Mr. Bear explained that we typically budget $500 annually for Medical Examiner but the numbers have been greater than what we budgeted for. $200 should be adequate for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Supervisor Horney made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, to amend and appropriate $200 for Medical Examiner’s budget (3503).

The roll call vote was as follows:

**AYES:** Brian W. Vaught

 Ryan M. Lawson

 Rolland R. Cook

 Jesse R. Burnett

 B. G. “Gene” Horney, Jr.

 Stacy A. Terry

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** James D. “Jamie” Smith

2. **Infrastructure Projects** – Mr. Bear stated that all the infrastructure projects are proceeding accordingly. They meet weekly with Thrasher on the Lots Gap Tank project and on the wastewater plant. Contracts have been awarded for the force main and pump station, as well as the rail expansion.

3. **STS and Agracel** – This project is moving ahead, and we are currently reviewing the plat to create a 35-acre track for them. The company is ready to begin construction, and are submitting paperwork to get stormwater approval. All other utilities are in place.

JIDA will be getting drone pictures of Progress Park updates.

4. **CRIFA** – Mr. Bear attended meeting this week, and came back with a dividend check of $248,000!
SUPervisors’ Reports

1. Speedwell Volunteer Fire Department – Supervisor Horney mentioned that the dryer for their turnout gear needs to be rewired, as it keeps blowing breakers. Additionally, can the County patch the filled pothole in the front of the firehouse?

2. Tyler Self-Service Portal – Supervisor Cook asked when exactly will ACH online transactions will be available to the public?

Mr. Bear stated there is a meeting tomorrow morning to talk about that.

Mrs. Guynn responded that they are meeting with Tyler in June to go through the demo, then they can add on the citizens’ self-serve which will give customers the ability to view and pay bills/taxes online. Online payments will be fee-based transactions. After that, other departments will be added (animal licenses, building permits, etc.). Mrs. Guynn understands and shares frustration with how long this process has taken (over five years) and she too would like this all functional now.

Mr. Bear added that our goal is to get this process up and running as quickly as possible. Citizens want it, we want it, and it will free up the Water Department so they can focus more on delinquent collections.

Chair Vaught asked that the Board be updated on the delinquent accounts and money recovered.

3. Speedwell Volunteer Fire Department – Chair Vaught mentioned that Gus Kincer had opportunity to drive the new truck on its first call last Sunday and he is very pleased with it.

Building & Grounds Committee

1. Public Safety Radio Upgrades Project – Supervisor Burnett made a motion, as recommended by the Building & Grounds Committee, to amend and appropriate $300,000 for the public safety radio upgrades project (deposit), from Reserves to 9000-470232.

The roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: Brian W. Vaught Jesse R. Burnett
2. **DSS Additional Doors and Locks** – Supervisor Burnett made a motion, as recommended by the Building & Grounds Committee, to amend and appropriate $25,624 to 43043-470040 for additional DSS doors and locks, contingent upon confirmation of DSS State funding for the project.

Mr. Bear explained that DSS would like to add some doors and locks for safety reasons. They can request partial reimbursement on this expenditure, and we are waiting for them to receive authorization to proceed.

The roll call vote was as follows:

**AYES:** Brian W. Vaught  
  Ryan M. Lawson  
  Rolland R. Cook  
  B. G. “Gene” Horney, Jr.  
  Stacy A. Terry

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** James D. “Jamie” Smith

3. **Staff Street Transportation Service District** – Supervisor Burnett made a motion, as recommended by the Building & Grounds Committee, to amend and appropriate $100,000 for Staff Street Transportation Service District 4100-470067 for the road construction project.

The roll call vote was as follows:

**AYES:** Brian W. Vaught  
  Ryan M. Lawson  
  Rolland R. Cook  
  B. G. “Gene” Horney, Jr.  
  Stacy A. Terry

**NAYS:** None
ABSENT: James D. "Jamie" Smith

RECESS
Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Burnett, to recess until Tuesday, May 31, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. for Real Estate Tax Rate Public Hearing. The vote on the motion was unanimous, with one absent.

RECONVENE
The Board reconvened on May 31, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. for a Real Estate Tax Rate Public Hearing.

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Brian W. Vaught, Chair                        Jesse R. Burnett
Ryan M. Lawson, Vice Chair                   James D. "Jamie" Smith
Rolland R. Cook                               Stacy A. Terry
B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.

STAFF PRESENT:
Stephen D. Bear, County Administrator
Martha Collins, Administrative Assistant/Clerk
Matt Hankins, Assistant County Administrator
Regina Williams, Finance Director

OTHERS PRESENT:
Chris Brown                                  Doug Robinson
Lori Guynn                                    Jannie Smythers
Tim Hughes                                    Kathy Vaught
Jimmy Moux-Rodriguez                          And Approximately Six Others
Chris Reeves

PUBLIC HEARING – REAL ESTATE TAX RATE
Mr. Bear read the following public notice "In compliance with §58.1-3321 of the Code of Virginia, Wythe County proposes to increase property tax levies.

1. Assessment Increase: Total assessed value of real property, excluding additional assessments due to new construction or improvements to property, exceeds last year’s total assessed value of real property by 20.4% (twenty-point four percent).
2. Lowered Rate Necessary to Offset Increased Assessment: The tax rate which would levy the same amount of real estate tax as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of real estate with the exclusions mentioned above, would be $.45 per $100 of assessed value. This rate will be known as the “lowered tax rate.”

3. Effective Rate Increase: Wythe County proposes to adopt a tax rate of $.52 per $100 of assessed value. The difference between the lowered tax rate and the proposed rate would be $.07 per $100, or 15.6% (fifteen-point six percent). This difference will be known as the “effective tax rate increase.”

Individual property taxes may, however, increase at a percentage greater than or less than the above percentage.

4. Proposed Total Budget Increase: Based on the proposed real property tax rate and changes in other revenues, the total budget of Wythe County will exceed last years by 65% (sixty-five percent).

A public hearing on the increase will be held on Tuesday, May 31, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the Boardroom of the County Administration Building, 340 South Sixth Street, Wytheville, VA 24382.”

Mr. Bear explained that tonight’s hearing relates to the real estate tax rate for calendar year 2022. This public hearing is held separate from the budget public hearing since this calendar year we will have new real estate values from the reassessment. Wythe County conducts reassessments every five years. This year’s reassessment revealed an overall increase of 20% in the assessed value of the real estate in Wythe County, which equates to an approximate increase of 3.8% per year. Wythe County’s current tax rate is $.54 per $100 of assessed value. The Board has advertised a rate of $.52 per $100. This rate, while lower, calculates to approximately just over a 15% increase effective tax rate. Wythe County takes pride in continuing to have the lowest tax rate than any of the surrounding areas. The proposed $.52 leaves us $.07 below the next lowest county and $.22 below the highest surrounding county.

The Chair opened the comment period of the public hearing.

1. Mr. Mike Forrest, unable to attend the public hearing, submitted the following: “According to the BOS minutes the reassessment increased the property values by over $7,000,000. Also Mr. Bear is proposing a tax rate of $0.52/100, a 3.7% decrease. However, the average property value increased by 20%. This will be an
average tax increase of 16.3% for the county taxpayers. According to the report a tax rate of $0.45/100 would be a net zero tax. Many property values increased well over the 20% average. My property value increased 49.5%. With the current inflation and rising prices this proposed new tax rate will create burden on the Wythe County taxpayers. I realize that inflation affects the county also, but a 16.7% increase in property taxes is double the inflation rate and, in my opinion, excessive. I urge each of you, as representatives of the citizens of Wythe County, to reconsider the new tax rate. I believe a tax rate of $.048/100 for FY 2023 would be more reasonable.”

2. Mr. Tim Hughes appeared before the Board and stated “I have a reassessed value of 81.63%. My building improvements went from 36.4 to 87.5 but there were no building improvements; zero. So, my increase is 81.63%. My land value went from 35.7 to 44.3. My building improvement went from $400 to $28,800 an increase of 102.49%. Nothing has changed. It’s my understanding that when you hired this outside service, if I read this correctly, you had made a mistake. There was no research done. They just came out with these values, it was accepted, and here we are. I don’t know what to say to this. And every year, my mortgage payment will go up $100. I’m paying enough already; at least $100 maybe two, on a mobile home.”

The Chair asked Mr. Hughes if he appealed the reassessment.

Mr. Hughes responded yes.

The Chair explained that this public hearing is on the proposed real estate tax rate, not the reassessment, and this Board does not engage citizens during the public comment period. However, Chairman Vaught said that the company hired to do the reassessment was, in fact, evaluated and references were checked.

Mr. Hughes added “Well, I still don’t understand 102%, do you? With no improvements?”

The Chair encouraged Mr. Hughes to proceed with the appeals process, that tonight’s hearing is about the real estate tax rate. Reassessments are required by law to be conducted on a regular basis, and the appeals process is a two-step procedure. You first appeal to the company, then it goes to the Board of Equalization made up of Wythe County property owners.
Mr. Hughes continued “So at this point, it’s just a waiting game for them. Okay. I get it; sometimes what you read – we were under the impression that there was a mistake made to begin with. I, personally, feel they made a big mistake.”

Mr. Bear told Mr. Hughes that he should be getting a letter in the mail from the assessors (Wampler-Eanes). If you don’t receive anything, there is a telephone number you can call to follow-up. Alternatively, the Commissioner of Revenue’s office may be able to assist you in that process.

3. Mr. Chris Brown appeared before the Board and stated “I made some copies of a spreadsheet I was using to guide me along if you’re interested in that. I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you guys. I didn’t have a problem so much with the new assessment values. They’re up there quite a bit because there’s been some – real estate’s been kind of crazy, and it didn’t surprise me and I experience stuff pretty much like you, Mr. Vaught, that the property value went up and I just hope I can sell it for that. Makes the balance sheet look good anyway. What motivated me to action was I had a problem with, when I looked on the website and saw the verbiage that Mr. Bear was reading about the, when you start talking about these percentages, the starting point is the reassessment and so when you drop out the new and improvements out of the top of it, and so you just dropped 40% of the increase out of the conversation when you’re talking about how much the tax increases would generate. So, at the start, I got to this little spreadsheet if you look with me, the new assessment gives you about $3.2B; the previous assessment was about $2.3, so you’re up quite a bit, and the values that you’ll use to drive your tax rate off of to levy your taxes, you drop those new improvements out, and that’s on the lefthand column under Wythe County BOS column, and it drops it back to $401,332 so it reduces the increase quite a bit on paper. However, unless I’m mistaken somehow, you’re going to be - Wythe County’s going to be taxing the entire assessed value of all the real estate out there by the end of the year. So, I just didn’t understand why that went away. I went ahead and ran the numbers down below so you could see at .54% on the revised estimate that you guys were working off of, versus the gross, the $3.2B. At .54% you had advertised that you had proposed at .52% and .52% produces a hefty increase as well. But the last year, now you can correct me on this or maybe you can’t, I went to the budget and looked for last year; it looks like your budgeted revenues from real estate was about $1.242M. So, if you lower the tax rate to .45%, if you’re taxing $3.2B, you’re going to produce about a 16% increase. That’s on the next to the bottom line in your revenues from real estate tax. Of course that would mean that, overall, we’re going to pay about 16% more
and below that I put my target rate would be more in the neighborhood of like a generous 8% based on a .42% tax rate. So, I don’t know. I’ve run a couple of businesses - I’m just used to looking at the big numbers. If I see revenues coming in that are 8% over last year, that could make me pretty happy. If I saw revenues coming in that were 16% over last year, I’d be ecstatic, and I know you guys have the ability to change the tax rate as is needed going forward. So, I would just hope that you use constraint and minimize or at least soften to the extent that you can the amount of rate increase. I’d like to fill up the truck there one time next year if I can, things like that. But is that sheet, can you follow where I was talking? I think those numbers are pretty good. Sometimes Excel can whack a couple numbers out but I looked over it and it looks pretty close so if the revenues are right from last year, that’s pretty accurate as to what kind of increase it would give the County based on the new assessment.”

4. Ms. Jannie Smythers appeared before the Board and stated “I think we’re in the same situation as the first gentleman that came on up. We did appeal our tax reassessment. Maybe this is not, sounds like it wasn’t the right place to come about this but since we’re here, let you know that there’s been no improvements to our house and in five years, it’s gone up by $65,500. The land has gone up by $35,400 and, like I said, no improvements to the house and it’s just a piece of land. That land is valued at $3,700 in April and three miles up the road from us, we own an additional six acres and that was valued at $2,500 an acre. So, I didn’t understand why the extremes of the increases. You expect there to be reassessments and increases but you know there’s no amenities; we’re out in the rural section and it just felt like this was way out of line for our property . . . it’s like with the other six acres, it’s not valued at what the land is valued at where our house sits and it’s just a field; it hasn’t changed any, and neither has the house in the last five years. So, you say our next step after this is this Board of Equalization?”

The Chair responded that if you appeal your reassessment through the company (Wampler-Eanes), they will give you an answer and then, if you’re still not pleased with their determination, the next step is the Board of Equalization.

5. Mr. Doug Robinson appeared before the Board and stated “I’d like to, can’t understand why my property went up so much when all around me everything is either trashed or falling down. I mean, it went up $50,000 plus I pay another $50,000 on it for the Town which is $100,000 and between the next year or five years that’s $500,000 and my old place wouldn’t - that’s twice what my place is
worth. If they can get to what they valued it at, well I’ll take it today. If any of them wants to buy it, any of them . . . or any one of them wants to buy my place, you tell them come over there and hand me the money and I’ll sign the deed. What I need is, understand this, I got a place, three places and one on the left side is a lodge. It’s a black peoples’ lodge. It’s been there since 1912. Never paid a dime in taxes since 1912. Now how much would that add up to? That’s worth more than all my properties together and they aint paying and still aint paying. I tried to buy the place to tear it down because it’s full of rodents. They come down on me and aggravate me. The Town has condemned it. It’s been condemned for over two years now and they aint doing a thing about it. The Town can’t do nothing about it. Over 15 years, maybe even longer, nobody even claimed it. All the old members are dead and they lost their membership and the place just sit there and went down; it’s falling apart. All the junk off of it falls over on me. And finally, there’s a place out of Staunton, VA, this lodge, they said ‘We’re going to claim it; we’ll have it.’ Well, they came down and put up a couple signs ‘No Trespassing’, that’s all they’ve done. And the Town’s been trying to call them and trying to get them to do something. They say well . . . each month the Town calls them and they say ‘We’re not sure if we’re going to fix it up or sell it.’ Well, it would cost probably close to $200,000 to fix it up. They left the roof uncovered for almost a year and the insides all fell in. The outside’s porch and everything, and the bricks and the gutters and the facia and everything is all falling down. It’s really a bad eye sore, and nobody seems to be able to do anything about it. So, it’s next to my place and I don’t think that anybody would give me this price if they looked at that place up there and they say ‘Well, I don’t think that place is worth that much. Look what an eye sore he’s got on that side.’ In front of me, got a rental property; they rent it to the cheapest people they can to; not thrown off on nobody. They trash it. They either got the law there every other day or they trash the place or something like that and on the other side of me I got a rental property. He rents his to the lowest bidder and they trash his place so I have, I got three sides on me and the only place I got is the backend so that’s the only way I can get out of my place without looking at trash is go out the backend. So, that’s the way I feel like – feel like I’m going backend. And I don’t understand why I’m being penalized for a place that’s been there 110 years and never paid a dime of taxes and they still feel like paying them they say ‘Well, we’re tax exempt.’ Fine, why can’t I be tax exempt? Aint nobody living in the darn place. Nobody been there for about 25 years except for a few little groundhogs and skunks and opossums and all that crap. And when they get tired of living right there, they come down on me, eating my gardens up, and aggravate me. Raccoons and everything else comes through there. So, I can’t figure that out,
why I’m being penalized – I feel like I’m being penalized for having them three places on the side of me and then they raised my taxes like that and it just don’t make sense to me. I wished the man that done that would have to live where I live at then face that every day. I wish he’d get up every morning and face that lodge and get up about 12 o’clock and face the one in front of me and get up at 5 o’clock or 6 o’clock and face the one on the other side of me. I hope you fellas can do something about that because I . . . and I got another place up there on Stage Road, it went up $24,000 and all the buildings belong to my mother and I just got it, and all the buildings fell down and there aint no places around it that they can base what they went up on there and this just needs a lot of improvement and I don’t see how I can try to improve much on it with all the taxes they putting on it. They didn’t take into consideration none of this. They just came by my place or come by the other place up there and looked at it and said ‘Boy, what a good looking place there. I bet we can get a lot of taxes out of him.’ But they didn’t bother to go up to the lodge. They should’ve went up there and got in the lodge there. They could’ve had a ball up there with all that crap falling down. They might’ve broke their neck if they had tried to get in.”

The Chair encouraged Mr. Robinson to go to the Town Council to voice his concerns about the neighboring properties.

Mr. Robinson asked “Well, what’s your idea of trying to get it done? Y’all hired that bunch. What’s your idea of trying to get these taxes down?”

Chair Vaught said this public hearing is part of the process in setting the tax rates and that the rate will not go above $.52.

Mr. Robinson said “The tax rate aint gonna get that much money down. You’d have to go down 5 cents. You willing to go that low? Is that as far as y’all are going down is just $.52? Oh, you don’t know yet. If y’all can go down low enough to make up for what they’ve put on there, well, I sure would appreciate it. I appreciate all you guys. I hope I didn’t offend nobody. I mean, sometimes I get mad when I get talking then it’s not good.”

6. Mr. Chris Reeves appeared before the Board and stated “Thank y’all for taking time to put this on this evening. I’m here just like everybody else talking about the tax appraisal. I understand they’re necessary to some degree. The amounts, you know, that’s probably up for a different discussion. But you know my concern with it is, and I want to address it to the Board, what am I getting out of this? I
know in 2012 I sat and listened to the President of the country at the time, talk about when we get high-speed internet in the inner cities and rural communities. I've lived in this county for 15 years. I've heard we’re going to get county water, county sewer, high-speed internet. I've still not seen none of that. I know Mr. Vaught you mentioned the firetrucks and things of that nature and I really agree with the purchases of that for the county. But there are still residents in the county that don’t have county water, county sewer, high-speed internet. So, you know, my increase was 37%. I've heard people 66% was the highest I've heard until today, till I heard this gentleman and lady over here at 87%. So, it seems like it’s all over the board. Again, mine don’t sound as bad as it did earlier but I still think it’s a little bit high. If we were getting bang for our buck out in the edge of the county, I live out in the Fort Chiswell district. So, I've talked to my Board of Supervisor about that in the past; he’s aware of it. So, I just wanted to address that with the Board and make sure that is a big concern for the communities further out in the county.”

Chair Vaught said he’d never promise that every place in the county will have county water, but he can promise that high-speed internet is coming.

Mr. Hankins explained that Point Broadband was awarded the contract from DHCD to connect every unserved and underserved 911 address in the county by this time in 2024.

With no other citizens signed up to speak, the Chair closed the public comment period of the public hearing.

One citizen asked how to contact the Board of Equalization.

The Commissioner of the Revenue, Mrs. Kathy Vaught, responded that when the assessors (Wampler-Eanes) make their determination, they will send out letters (around mid-June). Thirty days later, the Board of Equalization will begin their hearings and they will advertise such in the newspaper, in libraries, and on the county website for property owners wishing to appeal further. Property owners will be instructed to call for an appointment.

The Chair concluded the public hearing by stating that the Board will consider all citizens’ comments. While the Board of Supervisors can set/adjust the tax rate, the Board cannot set or adjust the assessments. Also, because the State budget is still unknown, the County budget is not likely to get passed until the end of June.
Mr. Bear added that the public hearing on the budget will be on June 14th at 6:00 p.m.

*The Board took a five-minute recess.*

**BUDGET REQUESTS**

Mr. Hankins presented the Board with the following budget requests:

1. **ARPA Tourism** – The County received $85,000 in ARPA Tourism funding, the first of two equal installments from Virginia Tourism Corporation. Wytheville Convention & Visitors Bureau has expended funds in the current year and is requesting reimbursement. Staff recommend amending the FY22 budget and appropriating $85,000 as follows:

   A. Appropriate $85,000 7100-457711 (VATC ARPA Tourism)
      i. Amend 11003-325081 Regional Tourism $85,000

   Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, to amend and appropriate $85,000 from VATC ARPA Tourism to 11003-325081.

   The vote on the motion was as follows:

   **AYES:**
   - Brian W. Vaught
   - Ryan M. Lawson
   - Rolland R. Cook
   - James D. “Jamie” Smith
   - Ryan M. Lawson
   - B. G. “Gene” Horney, Jr.
   - Stacy A. Terry

   **NAYS:** None

2. **Lead Mines Rescue Squad (“LMRS”)** – The Fire & Rescue Committee recommended authorizing LMRS to spend an additional $5,000 on equipment, part of which is for their new ambulance paid in most part by the Rescue Squad Assistance Fund. However, LMRS does not have available funds for this equipment. In addition, fuel, repair and supplies line items are all over budget due to rising costs, additional call volume and running a second response unit to handle rollover calls. Staff recommend amending the FY22 budget and appropriating $10,000 as follows:

   A. Appropriate $5,000 from Reserves
      i. Amend 9000-470235 (Capital Budget – Replacement Ambulance)
Supervisor Smith made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Terry, to amend and appropriate $5,000 from Reserves to 9000-470235.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:  Brian W. Vaught  Jesse R. Burnett
       Ryan M. Lawson  B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
       Rolland R. Cook  Stacy A. Terry
       James D. "Jamie" Smith

NAYS:  None

B. Appropriate $5,000 from Reserves
   i. Amend 32031-457326 (Fuel)  $1,000
   ii. Amend 32031-461200 (Repairs & Maintenance)  $2,500
   iii. Amend 32031-461400 (Operating Supplies)  $1,500

Supervisor Smith made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Burnett, to amend and appropriate $5,000 from Reserves to 32031-457326 ($1,000), and 32031-461200 ($2,500) and 32031-461400 ($1,500).

The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:  Brian W. Vaught  Jesse R. Burnett
       Ryan M. Lawson  B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
       Rolland R. Cook  Stacy A. Terry
       James D. "Jamie" Smith

NAYS:  None

Chair Vaught asked if Mr. McCabe can provide a comparison of fuel costs this year to last year’s costs for fire and rescue. This is one area that increased tax revenue is greatly needed.

**CLOSED MEETING**
Supervisor Smith made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Cook, to enter into Closed Meeting under Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711.A.1 Discussion of Personnel Matters, and Section 2.2-3711.A.3 Acquisition/Disposition of Real Property (Fort Chiswell District).
The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, to return to open meeting.

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Upon returning to open meeting, Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, to adopt the following Resolution certifying the business conducted in closed meeting as follows:

**RESOLUTION**

**CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING**

**WHEREAS,** the Wythe County Board of Supervisors has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and,

**WHEREAS,** Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Wythe County Board of Supervisors that such meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Wythe 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 Wythe County Board of Supervisors.

The roll call vote was as follows:

**AYES:**
- Brian W. Vaught
- Rolland R. Cook
- Ryan M. Lawson
- James D. “Jamie” Smith
- Jesse R. Burnett
- B. G. “Gene” Horney, Jr.
- Stacy A. Terry

**NAYS:**
- None
Birthday wishes were extended to Supervisor Smith!

The Chair also extended ‘Congratulations’ to all the graduating seniors. He attended all four graduations last week and said they were quite nice. He was very impressed with all the scholarships and recipients.

**ADJOURNMENT**
With no other business to come before the Board, Chair Vaught adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:33 p.m.

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Brian W. Vaught, Chair