The Wythe County Board of Supervisors held its regularly scheduled meeting at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 27, 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
James D. “Jamie” Smith
Stacy A. Terry

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
John Crowgey
Charles Foster
Andy Fowler
Mike Griffin & family
Lori Guynn
Pam Heath
Gary Houseman

James Hutzler
Gus Kincer
Linda Meyer
Jeff Miller
Kathy Vaught
Zach Wright
and one or two others

CALL TO ORDER
Chair Vaught determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Pastor Gary Houseman, Berea Christian Church, provided the invocation and Supervisor Cook led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Pastor also noted that he is not yet able to pay his water bill online.
PRESENTATION OF VACo ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Mr. James Hutzler, Government Relations Associate of VACo provided a brief background of VACo and the achievement award Wythe County is receiving for the very first time. VACo has existed since 1984 to serve and support county officials through advocacy efforts, educational programs, member services and communication efforts. The achievement award program was established in 2003 to recognize counties who’ve adopted innovative approaches to providing public services and identifying programs that could serve as models for others to emulate. He said that 100 entries were considered and that it was very competitive. Mr. Hutzler is proud to present Wythe County with the VACo Achievement Award for the Blue Star project that former Governor Northam characterized as a “game changer”. This is a $714M investment to the area creating 2,400 new jobs, and one of the largest investments in Southwest Virginia’s history. It is Mr. Hutzler's honor to present this award to the Board of Supervisors.

Chair Vaught thanked both Mrs. Delp and Mr. Hankins for their efforts preparing the award application.

CITIZENS’ TIME

1. Neighbor Complaints/Domestic Terrorism – Mr. Jerry Blevins appeared before the Board and stated “My domestic terrorism report has not changed much since I last spoke at the Wythe County Board of Supervisors’ meeting. Someone loosened a nut that held the washtub drain tac causing a minor leak. While travelling on Pope Road one evening coming from Cripple Creek toward Route 94, I was approximately a mile from Route 94 when I noticed a pickup parked in the middle of the road. As I approached the vehicle, they started to move at a slow pace approximately 20 mph and continued that pace all the way to Pope Road. This is something that’s happened several times before and the advantage is that you obtain a license plate number from the vehicle and display it on the Wythe County Board of Supervisors video recording system. It also notifies you that you are being tracked and also one must do is call that person close by and have them wait on you to come by. However, a 24/7 intense metal system has a much larger advantage. Assuming it is well known that cyber technology is advanced to the point that anyone with the proper equipment can see anywhere, anytime and thus removing words and word phrases like classified and top secret from the dictionary. This should help Donald Trump on his defense of charges in Mar-a-Lago raid on his home by the FBI for possessing unauthorized government documents. I doubt if Donald
Trump did his own packing when leaving the White House anyway and probably did not realize the documents were at Mar-a-Lago. Donald Trump did a lot for this country by stopping illegal migration in the territory of Northern Iraq and stopped the country from going bankrupt. His accomplishments were starting to take over China and place a large tariff on incoming China’s goods which raised prices and increased inflation. Had Trump not done so, we would not have a country at all. The Federal Reserve has so far this year raised interest rates five times and each time it has caused prices to go up except for gasoline. Slowing the economy and lowering inflation may not be related. Before the first interest rate hike, I checked one-year CD rates at a local bank and it was .010% and after five interest rate hikes and once again I checked interest rates for one-year CD rate and it is still at .010%. This would mean that banks have plenty of cash on hand and they do not need any more. Almost every time I go into a bank, I rarely see a busy loan officer which tells me spending does not appear to be out of control. It seems to me that continuing to raise interest rates will lead to more pain than gain. Inflation of 2022 is much different that inflation of 1981. Thank you.”

Hearing no other comments, Chair Vaught closed Citizens’ Time.

PAYMENT OF COUNTY INVOICES
Supervisor Smith made a motion to pay the invoices for approval on September 27, 2022, for the various departments of County government. The invoices were paid on General Warrants 30113597-30113692 as follows:

EXPENDITURES BY DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
September 27, 2022

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Supervisor Terry seconded the motion and 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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING
The Board was presented with the September 13, 2022, minutes for approval.

Vice Chair Lawson made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Burnett, to approve the September 13, 2022, minutes as presented.

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

DRAFT DERA PLAN
Mr. Hankins presented the Board with an updated draft prepared primarily by the rescue agencies and reviewed by the Fire & Rescue Committee. The plan defines who
can and cannot be a designated emergency response agency in Wythe County, their responsibilities and those of the secondary agencies. This Board has the authority under the Code of VA to make that determination. If the Board chooses to adopt the plan now, changes can be made later within the confines of the State Code. Mr. Hankins is still researching the Code to determine whether a penalty can be established for agencies operating without Board approval.

The Vice Chair has been on the Fire & Rescue Committee for the last five years and is pleased with the plan as presented. Supervisors Smith and Terry concurred.

Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, to approve the DERA Plan as presented.

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

APPOINTMENTS
Mr. Bear continues to work on filling the vacancy that exists on the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission. If any Board member has a recommendation, please let him know.

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 $83,549,711 of which $42,203,949 was in the General Fund Account at the end of August.

   Mr. Bear referenced the Water and Wastewater Operating Funds on page 56 of the board package and explained that those numbers will fluctuate in and out with the many capital projects taking place. Some of the funding for those projects will also come from the Utility Capital Project Fund.
September 27, 2022

2. **Delinquent County Tax, Other Charges, Administrative Cost and Attorney Fees Ordinance** – Mrs. Guynn said the ordinance has needed updating for several years now (adopted in 1997). She has drafted an update that the County Attorney and County Administrator have reviewed. The original ordinance only covered collections for delinquent real estate taxes (not personal property). The proposed updated ordinance will now include collection language for delinquent personal property and will assess the additional 20% to cover the attorney/administrative fees and costs. The proposed ordinance will state any account 30 days delinquent can be turned over to collections. The Treasurer requests approval for a public hearing to consider the ordinance.

Supervisor Cook asked the Treasurer if an account is delinquent after 30 days, does her office send a delinquent notice before turning over to collections?

The Treasurer doesn’t send delinquent notices until around March/April because many people will pay after receiving their income tax refunds. Her office doesn’t actually pursue personal property (warrants/debts) until around June/July. Real Estate delinquents are not turned over to collections until around two years later. She does issue a late notice but doesn’t pursue collections right away. The “30-day after notice deadline” mirrors State Code even though the Treasurer does not take action until later.

Chair Vaught said although 30 days mirrors State Code, we can take 60 or even 90 days before pursuing collections if we desire. But his concern is how future Boards or Treasurer will interpret “30 days” in the future and feels perhaps it should be changed to 90 or 120 days after notice that collections will be pursued.

Vice Chair Lawson said even though they have a County to run, she is not fond of the 30-day language as January is a difficult time of year, financially, for many people.

Supervisor Cook said he would hate to see a child go without presents at Christmas because his parents had to pay their taxes. He suggested 90 days would be more fair. Supervisors Smith, Horney and Terry agreed.

Mr. Bear suggested minor revision to language in Section 3.3 and to advertise a public hearing.
Supervisor Horney made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Terry, to advertise a public hearing on October 25, 2022 to consider the Delinquent County Tax, Other Charges, Administrative Cost and Attorney Fees Ordinance with the aforementioned revision to Section 3.3.

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Mrs. Guynn added that the due date (December 5\textsuperscript{th}) was standard across Virginia. The Board may want to consider changing that due date and/or consider splitting the tax into two payments.

3. Personal Property and Real Estate Tax Due Date – Mrs. Guynn said regarding Personal Property, the Commissioner has closed her tax book and the Treasurer should be ready to send the bill file to print this week or next. Tax bills should be received by citizens in mid-October with a December 5\textsuperscript{th} due date. She asked the Board to consider moving the personal property due date to December 30\textsuperscript{th} due, in part, to the November holidays, Tyler/Munis upgrade and training, and the related office closures. In addition, training for personal property is delayed due to Tyler's inability to secure a trainer. The 'Go Live' date for the new upgrade is December 7-8 and will require the Treasurer’s Office to be closed. This is just two to three days after the tax payment due date of December 5. Also, with the increase in value of vehicles, the tax bills will be that much higher. All that being considered, the Treasurer feels it’s appropriate to extend the due date for personal property taxes to December 30\textsuperscript{th}.

Regarding Real Estate, the Treasurer has been working with Commissioner and the IT Director to get mapping worked out for the CAMA Bridge which is necessary to get real estate data out of Vision system (reassessment system) and into Munis. This process of moving data will take 90 days according to Munis. The Treasurer has been unable to get them to move any faster. October 14\textsuperscript{th} will be a test run loading CAMA Bridge to make sure all data is coming over correctly. The Treasurer’s Office will then do a bill run. If all goes well then Munis will load CAMA Bridge into Live System in order to complete a full bill run to send out the real estate bills. The Treasurer is not sure when exactly the bills can be sent out. She is not going to ask for an extension as she has no idea when might be a viable date.

The Treasurer made it very clear that her office does not "hold payments" as many may believe. However, it does take time to process all the incoming mail
payments while they are taking payments over the phone and in person; they do the best they can with the staff they have. The Board of Supervisors and County Administration are welcome to come to their office to get a complete picture of how her office operates during tax season.

Chair Vaught asked why, with all these upgrades and money spent, has this whole process been so difficult?

Mr. Bear responded that this is the first year of Vision and, therefore, it’s been a challenging learning curve. Once it’s up and running, it should be smooth sailing here on out. Mr. Bear said Vision is still an improvement over the in-house system we had, yet this has been a very frustrating process.

The Treasurer added that there were delays with the reassessment team which set them back quite a bit.

Chair Vaught said when we spend taxpayer dollars on a new system, it should not be this painful, nor should it be filled with delays and excuses. He does not fault the Treasurer, Commissioner or IT Department, but said the responsibility lies solely with the companies with whom we contracted.

Mrs. Guynn also added that we were forced by Tyler to upgrade, as many other localities were, otherwise they would not support our system.

Supervisor Cook made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Smith, to approve moving the Personal Property Tax due date to December 30, 2022.

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

The Treasurer will keep the Board updated with respect to timing of the real estate tax bills.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

1. **PAYROLL – August 2022:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General County Fund</td>
<td>$710,789.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police Activity Fund</td>
<td>75,831.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courthouse Security Fund</td>
<td>12,519.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Water Department Fund 24,702.32
Wythe County Wastewater Fund 28,487.21
TOTAL $ 852,330.53

Check Numbers: 2001793-2001816
Voucher Numbers: 24207-24585

2. STATUS REPORTS:

A. Animal Control – Arlan Dunford
B. Building Inspections – Kyle Taylor
C. Engineering – Johnny Kincer
D. Finance – Regina Williams
E. Parks & Recreation – Kevin Williams
F. Solid Waste – Billy Bowers

3. PERSONNEL:

A. Holmes, Meagan – Trainer Increase, Dispatcher, Annual Salary $33,669,
   Effective July 1, 2022
B. Hunley, Terri – Trainer Increase, Dispatcher, Annual Salary $36,185, Effective
   July 1, 2022
C. Mutter, William – Trainer Increase, Dispatcher, Annual Salary $35,333,
   Effective July 1, 2022
D. Stover, Morgan – Hired, Full-time Dispatcher, Annual Salary $28,651,
   Effective August 8, 2022
E. Hawks, Vayden – Hired, Full-time Dispatcher, Annual Salary $28,651,
   Effective August 8, 2022
F. Moore, Dena – Hired, Full-time Deputy Commissioner of the Revenue,
   Annual Salary $29,763, Effective August 15, 2022
G. Davis, Carter – Hired, Full-time Athletics Coordinator, Annual Salary $32,652,
   Effective August 20, 2022
H. Austin, Martin – Resigned, Full-time Water Maintenance, Effective August
   23, 2022
I. Wilson, Emily Terry – Resigned, Full-time Deputy Commissioner of the
   Revenue, Effective August 23, 2022

4. BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

A. $1,219.25 (3202-457292) – Hazmat Cleanup Reimbursement
B. $1,086.60 (3202-457292) – Hazmat Cleanup Reimbursement
C. $425.00 (1209-458060) – Travel Reimbursement, Commissioner of Revenue

Supervisor Horney seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

**VDOT MATTERS**

Pam Heath and Andy Fowler from VDOT appeared before the Board with updates on the following roads and open issues:

1. **Progress Park Guardrail** – Ms. Heath said that the issue with guardrail placement is related to utility regulations. As an alternative, VDOT can install a concrete barrier there which is above ground and would not affect utility lines. Mr. Fowler added that when work needs to be done on the utilities, the concrete barriers can be moved.

2. **Route 52/94 Speed Limit** – Ms. Heath said that any changes to speed limit have to go through the district traffic engineer who examines regulations as they relate to increase in volume, number and severity of accidents, etc. The engineer did not find significant changes to warrant a change in the speed limit.

   Supervisor Smith asked that they reexamine the area and requests the engineer, after reaching a determination, to come and explain their findings. He believes the volume has increased significantly especially on the weekends.

   Chair Vaught strongly believes this issue should be brought to the attention of General Assembly and VACo this January. Fatality rates are up in Southwest Virginia and it needs to be addressed.

3. **Cripple Creek/Slate Spring** – Ms. Heath said regarding the request for a “Watch for Turning Vehicles” sign, it is scheduled to be reviewed and if approved, a sign will be installed.

4. **Route 52/94 School Intersection** – Ms. Heath said that per the traffic engineer, this area would not be a good candidate for Highway Safety Improvement Program funding. Sadly, the number of fatalities drives the benefit-to-cost ratio for Highway Safety Improvement Program funding.

   Supervisor Smith would very much like to have the VDOT engineer come to a meeting to further explain and address these issues. There is a middle school and a high school there and while we may not have a lot of fatalities, he said that is precisely what we’re trying to avoid.
Ms. Heath has recommended Safe Routes to School program. However, Mr. Bear said that the County was advised not to continue with that grant, rather a better source of funding would be local infrastructure grants or TAP (Transportation Alternative Program). Mr. Bear asked Ms. Heath for assistance with TAP funding.

5. **Gleaves Road (Rt. 619) Bridge** – Mr. Fowler confirmed that the bridge has been condemned due to deterioration and must remain closed until replaced. He’ll try to get a replacement date from the bridge engineer.

6. **VDOT’s New Paver** – Mr. Fowler announced that VDOT recently purchased a new paver so their in-house crew can do some paving (quicker and cheaper); they’ve already started on Old Bank Road.

7. **Major Graham Road (near Red Hollow) Guardrail** – Mr. Fowler stated that they’ve requested reflective delineators until a guardrail can be installed.

8. **Exit 77/Flying J Intersection Potholes** – Supervisor Smith asked if the potholes can be patched again at this location.

9. **Caution Signs East on Rt. 619** – Supervisor Horney asked about getting a caution curve sign in this area (S curve near his home). Mr. Fowler said he will look into it.

10. **Rt. 100 (Barren Springs) Tree Trimming** – Mr. Fowler said they recently had a retirement in their tree trimming and have now contracted with someone new. He will look into this tomorrow. Supervisor Burnett said there is limited sight distance where you pull out of the post office on Foster Falls Road.

11. **Ditching Crews** – Chair Vaught has passed a few crews over the past several weeks and they seem to be doing a good job. He asked Mr. Fowler to relay his thanks. Mr. Fowler said that all residencies now have to meet certain lineal footage of ditching, pipe replacement and roadside vegetation, so they’re working diligently to meet that criteria and replacing pipes before they fail.

**MAX MEADOWS FIRE DEPARTMENT – MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**
Mr. Hankins commented that several board members have met with County staff and the fire department to finalize the agreement for paid personnel (daytime coverage).
Language has finally been agreed to and the fire department is ready to vote on this pending Board approval. They hope to have new staff employed on or about the first of the year.

Supervisor Smith made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Terry, to approve the Max Meadows Fire Department Memorandum of Agreement.

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

**VACo VOTING CREDENTIALS**
Mr. Bear stated that, traditionally, a Board Member is nominated to cast votes for the County at the VACo annual meeting. Since Chair Vaught has confirmed his attendance, he recommends nominating him.

Vice Chair Lawson made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Cook, to nominate Chair Vaught as the voting delegate at the VACo annual meeting.

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

**FY23 EXPENDITURE BUDGET 2\textsuperscript{nd} QUARTER APPROPRIATION**
Vice Chair Lawson made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Cook, to approve FY23 Expenditure Budget 2\textsuperscript{nd} Quarter Appropriations.

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
EMORY & HENRY SPORTS HALL OF FAME
Chair Vaught congratulated Mr. Hankins on being inducted into the Emory & Henry Sports Hall of Fame. Mr. Hankins has been the football stadium announcer since 1991 and has only missed a few games. Congratulations Mr. Hankins on this well-deserved honor!

ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT
1. Wythe-Bland Foundation Grant – Mr. Hankins said Mr. Williams and Mrs. Delp worked on this application asking for $500k. Unfortunately, the Foundation only offered $50k for the Ager Park redevelopment. There are some other available grants; some through playground equipment companies. Mr. Williams could possibly develop some fundraising initiatives but the Foundation needs to know by October 1st whether we accept their terms.

Chair Vaught asked about language in the grant agreement relating to repaying the grant award or turning over the playground property should services cease to exist. This is very disconcerting.

Mr. Hankins said we can advise the Foundation that we will accept the grant but not agree to that specific term.

Supervisor Smith asked why only such a small amount was awarded (10%), but Mr. Hankins is not privy to that information. Supervisor Smith also mentioned that several of our fire and rescue chiefs have applied to the Foundation for grant funding and they haven’t received a dime. He asked why Wythe County is not getting any funding?

Chair Vaught said Ager Park is the most used park in Wythe County. The Wythe-Bland Foundation is supposed to promote healthy lifestyles and they can only award 10% for this playground? He is inclined not to accept this grant.

Supervisor Cook shared pictures of the Park with the Board and said he is not inclined to accept the grant because “we can’t take care of what we already have.” Several areas need to be fixed, stained, replaced, and large bolts are exposed making it hazardous. Leaves continue to pile up in the corners of the ball field. Why spend additional taxpayer money on something we can’t take care of?
Mr. Bear understands his concerns especially when it comes to child safety. He said the reason staff have not done more work on the Park is because we were anticipating all new equipment pending the grant award. It didn’t make sense to put time and money into the playground only to tear it down a short while later. The Foundation even commented that staining could possibly affect/contaminate the soil. Mr. Bear feels the Foundation has gone well beyond micromanaging projects.

Supervisor Smith said when the Foundation can only give us 10% of what we asked for then attaches stipulations to it, it’s probably not worth pursuing.

Vice Chair Lawson, made a motion to accept the Wythe-Bland Foundation Grant for Ager Park. However, with no one moving to second the motion, it failed and the grant will not be accepted.

2. **Public Safety Radios** – Per the request of one of the fire chiefs, digital pagers were priced. Although the plan was to use portable radios, pagers are more practical to carry. Pagers allow members to monitor calls but they would not be able to communicate with dispatcher or other members/agencies. Two stations currently use pagers and all others would like to have them. Pagers that we’re currently using would be sold as surplus to help recoup some of the costs. Adding in pagers would bring the total cost of the Public Safety Radio Upgrade to $1,461,801.10.

Supervisor Horney indicated that Speedwell also currently uses pagers. He also knows of a fire department member who carries both radio and pager. When he goes into a church, he can put the pager on vibrate which he can’t do with the radio; it’s either on or off. He was also told by someone that Two-Way has a bunch of VHF channels. Were they considered?

Mr. Hankins said that Two-Way’s proposal was significantly higher than the rest but he will ask about their VHF frequencies.

VSP and highway patrol would have to approve those frequencies, insuring they won’t interfere with their operations.

Vice Chair Lawson made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Terry, to approve Change Order #1 covering the change from VHF ($1,017,652) to UHF frequencies at a cost of $944,554.
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

Supervisor Horney made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Smith, to move forward with ProComm to purchase radio and pager equipment under state contract for UHF change not to exceed $517,247.10.

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

Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, to approve the resolution to amend and appropriate $444,149.10 from reserve funds to 9000-470232 to cover the change in project costs for public safety radios.

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

3. **Other updates:**

A. **Personnel** – Mr. Hankins referenced the updated draft job description for Animal Control Officer as Arlan Dunford is retiring at the end of October.
The Chair asked about the Law Enforcement Certified reference under Education.

Mr. Hankins understands that there is an Animal Control School conducted through the Academy and that the Town of Wytheville is enrolling a couple of people in the coming weeks.

The Chair wanted to make clear that Law Enforcement certification is completely different and separate from Animal Control certification.

Mr. Hankins will amend the language accordingly.

B. Regional Improvement Commission – Mr. Hankins reported that the Commission met again last week and elected officers. While it was anticipated that Wythe County would receive ~$500-600k, it now appears that we could be looking at over $700k in the first year. However, that money does not get paid out until next August (FY24). The money will be held in an interest-bearing account the Commission set up, earning 2.75%.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

1. Fort Chiswell Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion – Mr. Bear explained the County is in the middle of the design of the subject expansion. He is requesting Board approval of Aqua-Aerobic Systems as sole source provider of the Sequencing Batch Reactor equipment for the expansion. Mr. Bear said that Aqua-Aerobic is the system currently being used in the wastewater treatment plant. Thrasher has also reviewed the information and believes the cost is reasonable and supports the County moving forward.

   Supervisor Horney made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Cook, to approve Aqua-Aerobic Systems as sole source provider.

   The vote on the motion was unanimous.

   The Chair would like to further discuss the commercial 2” meter water rate if it could remain on the agenda for the next meeting. He does not believe the Board had all the necessary information to vote on the issue.
COUNTY ATTORNEY
Mr. Scot Farthing, County Attorney, provided the Board with his task list yesterday and will address any questions or concerns the Board may have.

BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

1. **Franklin Street Building Roof Replacement** – Supervisor Burnett made a motion, as recommended by the Building & Grounds Committee, to award the Franklin Street Roof Replacement Project to Umberger Construction at a low bid of $78,482, and to accept Change Order #1 adding the zip board at $1,000 and installing the anchor system based on the updated truss drawing at $4,200.

   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

2. **Health Department Flooring** – Supervisor Burnett made a motion, as recommended by the Building & Grounds Committee, to replace the flooring in the Health Department nurse’s work station, Room 323, at the Health Department’s expense.

   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

3. **Tree Trimming (Courthouse Grounds)** – Supervisor Burnett made a motion, as recommended by the Building & Grounds Committee, to contract with Jarvis Tree Services to trim the five elm trees located around the old Courthouse at a cost of $5,000 (trimming and clean-up).
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
       James D. “Jamie” Smith

NAYS: None

4. **V&amp;M Holiday Closure Request** – Supervisor Burnett made a motion, as recommended by the Building & Grounds Committee, to authorize V&amp;M to close the Trash Collections Centers on December 24, 2022. This will allow for the centers to be closed December 24th and 25th for the Christmas holiday.

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

**SUPERVISORS’ REPORTS**

1. **Rural Retreat Fairgrounds** – Supervisor Terry asked if there is any update relating to the fairgrounds lease. Mr. Bear will follow-up and confirm that the other parties are still interested.

2. **Proclamation – Fort Chiswell Church of God** – Supervisor Smith had the honor recently of presenting the following Proclamation to the Fort Chiswell Church of God on their 25th Anniversary:

   **WHEREAS**, Fort Chiswell Church of God has served the Wythe County community for 25 years; and,

   **WHEREAS**, Fort Chiswell Church of God is a multi-generational Pentecostal church located on Fort Chiswell Road in Max Meadows; and,

   **WHEREAS**, Fort Chiswell Church of God, a spirit-filled church, strives to make a positive impact on the community for the cause of Christ; and,

   **WHEREAS**, the mission of Fort Chiswell Church of God is also to bring hope and inspiration to change the world through various ministry programs for the very young to the very old – the hearing impaired as well.
NOW THEREFORE, Wythe County does hereby recognize Fort Chiswell Church of God for its 25 years of service and dedication to the community and adopt this proclamation with gratitude and praise.

Adopted this 27th day of September 2022.

Supervisor Smith made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Terry, to approve the Proclamation in recognition of Fort Chiswell Church of God’s 25th Anniversary.

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

2. **Fire & Rescue Committee Recommendation** – Supervisor Smith made a motion as recommended by the Fire & Rescue Committee on September 26, 2022 to amend and appropriate $150,000 for Speedwell VFD’s purchase of air packs to 32025-461400.

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

3. **Dunford Road Water Request** – Supervisor Burnett had a resident of Dunford Road ask about potential and timing for water. Mr. Bear will get updated status to Supervisor Burnett to share with the resident(s).

4. **Trash & Recycling Centers Signage** – Supervisor Burnett asked about getting signage at the centers stating “Wythe County Residents Only” or something appropriate.

5. **Speed Camera Enforcement Signage** – Supervisor Burnett has also been asked about signs in the school zones regarding speed cameras. Sheriff Foster responded that all signs are up but cameras are not yet installed. However, officers are using handheld speed devices.
6. Elderly Tax Relief Ordinance – Supervisor Burnett commented that he is looking forward to what can be done for elderly tax relief at the next board meeting.

CLOSED MEETING
Supervisor Smith made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Terry, to enter into Closed Meeting under Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711.A.3 Acquisition/Disposition of Real Property (APEX Property), and Section 2.2-3711-A.1 Personnel (Parks & Recreation Director).

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Supervisor Burnett made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Terry, to return to open meeting.

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Upon returning to open meeting, Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Smith, 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  Jesse R. Burnett
       Rolland R. Cook  B. G. “Gene” Horney, Jr.
       Ryan M. Lawson  Stacy A. Terry
       James D. “Jamie” Smith

NAYS:  None

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to come before the Board, Chair Vaught adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:54 p.m.

____________________________________
          Brian W. Vaught, Chair