The Wythe County Board of Supervisors held its regularly scheduled meeting at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 25, 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  
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  
Don Crisp, Water/Wastewater Director  
Matthew C. Hankins, Assistant County Administrator  
Don Martin, Assistant County Attorney  
Kyle Taylor, Building Official  
Wes Taylor, Building Inspector  
Regina Williams, Finance Director

**OTHERS PRESENT:**
Jerry Blevins  
Linda Meyer  
Sam Blevins  
William Robinson  
Steve Canup & spouse  
Robert Soly  
Jim & Dee Ennis  
Lon Tobin  
Charles Foster  
Kathy Vaught  
Lori Guynn  
Barbara Williams

**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 Lon Tobin, St. Paul United Methodist Church, provided the invocation and Supervisor Cook led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INTRODUCTION OF BUILDING INSPECTOR**
Mr. Kyle Taylor, County Building Official, took a moment to thank the Board for all they do and for the support they’ve shown since he’s been on board. Mr. Taylor was
pleased to introduce the new building inspector, Wes Taylor, who is joining us from Pulaski to help take the Building Inspection Department “to the next level”. Wes is excited to be joining the department and is grateful for the opportunity.

CITIZENS’ TIME

1. Personal Property Taxes – Mr. Jerry Blevins appeared before the Board and stated “My domestic terrorism report for this reporting period is slightly better than my last report delivered at the last Wythe County Board of Supervisors’ meeting. Problems still exist with such things as smart phone, copier, TV, radio and portable space heater were messed with, and a small key was stolen from my Toyota car. A much bigger problem was the huge increase in personal property taxes for this year. My personal property taxes went from $325 in 2021 to $475.19 in 2022 for the same vehicle. A 47% increase in one year. When something like this occurs, I go searching for answers as to why. I went to a comparable county in size to Wythe and adjoined to Wythe County, which in this case was Smyth County and had the lady at the Smyth County Commissioner of Revenue office calculate my personal property taxes, and she came up with $388. Smyth County also got a 39% state car tax relief amount from the State of Virginia for this year. Also, the Smyth County Board of Supervisors lowered their rate of tax for $100 of value to $2.15 per $100 of value. I contacted Grayson County Commissioner of Revenue office and had them figure my personal property taxes. I found the same amount was similar to Smyth County but the lady at Grayson Commissioner of Revenue stated the Grayson County Board of Supervisors had reduced the tax rate this year because of the huge increase in vehicle values. One must also bear in mind that Grayson County is only approximately one-half the size of Wythe County in population. Taking all the above to Kathy at the Wythe County Commissioner of Revenue office, I was told that Wythe County got only a 27.37% state car tax refund from the State of Virginia which is interesting to me when one considers the fact that Wythe and Smyth counties are close when it comes to population. The Wythe County Board of Supervisors set the personal property rate at $2.22 per $100 of value. However, when Kathy, as Commissioner of Revenue of Wythe County stated to me that the Wythe County Board of Supervisors could have done better when it comes to setting the 2022 tax rate for personal property taxes, I must agree because who better than her would know? Thank you, sir.”

2. Personal Property Taxes – Mr. Steve Canup appeared before the Board and stated “Gentlemen, ma’am, I don’t purport to fully understand how all this
works. I ran a business for 25 years in North Carolina; ran a restaurant. We did in excess of $10M per year, so I understand a little bit about business and financing and budgets and all that. As a minister with a congregation, I’m involved in setting up a budget yearly for our congregation, and we determine what monies we need and, therefore, set a budget contribution. But I’m here tonight about this little green piece of paper and I’ll admit I’m a little disappointed that the room is not full of folks with a tax bill in their hand. I wish my vehicle was worth what’s on this paper. I really do. I would take it and trade it tomorrow. My car has been appraised at what I feel is at least $2,000 possibly as much as $4,500 more than what it’s worth. I bought the car from Shelor three and a half years ago, a high-mileage vehicle; anyway, let’s cut to the chase. I called Monday and I followed the yellow sheet of paper, the instructions, and called the Revenue Office and I talked to Jesse, y’all may know who that is; sounded like a young man and he tried to assist me. I’m questioning how you arrive at this valuation of my car. He says it is done through NADA. I use NADA quite a bit. Most of us, if we buy and sell a car, we will use that. JD Powers as such has taken that over as I’ve seen, and I’ve printed it up and for my 2016 KIA Sportage in good condition, and taking into account the mileage which, it’s a high-mileage car, I bought it that way; I paid a little less to be able to do that. My car is worth, according to that, exactly $2,000 less. I went to Kelly Blue Book; you don’t want to know. It was a good, almost $5,000 less in value. So, my problem is, and that’s why I’m here tonight, I appreciate all you do and I know there’s not a ‘one size fits all’ but when someone says your car is worth this when it’s really worth that, and I’ve got to pay extra taxes; the extra $50 – I’ll pay that. My taxes went up $50. I can afford that. And I understand. I have a daughter who has taught school for 20 years now in North Carolina. Her husband is Chief of Police in Spencer, NC. I understand we have to support our teachers, our schools, and our police departments, but there’s got to be a better way. You guys are smart. You’ve been doing this for years. Surely, there’s some way to fix this to where I don’t feel like, as a citizen, that I’m paying taxes on something that’s really not valued at what you’re valuing it at. I appreciate your time and your attention on this.”

3. **Farm Bureau Handout** – Ms. Linda Meyer appeared before the Board and stated “At the last meeting, you had mentioned the loss of our local farmer that got hit on the road and so on and so forth recently, and you also had mentioned what Farm Bureau had done. I brought along the template that I made for the Farm Bureau, which I can hand out here, and a couple of the brochures that we made. Now, they were very, very reasonable to do. The printer printed me off a thousand copies. There’s three on an 8x10 page and then we had 3,000 of
these. So, we gave them to all the high schools for their Driver Ed program, and then we put them in every convenient store from Fort Chiswell all the way down, and they were very, very happy to put these on the counters. In case you want to use them next year if this is too late in the season and a have a road campaign to protect our farmers and people that are on the highway it can be done very modestly.”

4. **Water Rates** – Mr. William Robinson and Ms. Barbara Williams appeared before the Board and Mr. Robinson stated ‘I am Ms. Williams’ son-in-law and what brings Ms. Williams here tonight is increases, well, first of all, she is a retired 75-year-old lady on a fixed income who owns some very, very old mobile homes in a mobile home park. Currently, there are only four of the seven that are occupied and that’s what we’re about. We’re here with deep concerns of increases in water bills. In July, for her trailer park, the bill was $86. In August, it went to $182 and in September it went to $242. We may be ahead of ourselves because I noticed on your agenda there’s something about Water Committee; she spoke with Mr. Crisp a couple of weeks ago concerning this and he recommended that she come tonight. So, if we’re ahead of ourselves, I’m sorry but we want to make sure that these concerns are voiced. This has something to do with an increase in water rates, or meter size and meter rates, and this is just exorbitant increases when you consider quadrupling the amount that she is being expected to pay. Especially on a fixed income or for this type of situation. She has been told that it’s going to cost $700 that she is going to be responsible for exchanging out a water meter that the town or county required them to install five or six years ago because they were bringing the water line through. Previous to that, for at least 35 years that they had owned the property, they had been on well water, and they were going to have to pay to have meters installed and pay a basic rate whether they used it or not. So, we don’t understand why, at this point in time, she should have to pay more than what her social security check is for a month to have a water meter exchanged out so that it supplies the proper amount of water for her trailer park instead of this huge meter that they already have in, 2” line meter I think it is, installed now. So again, if we’re ahead of ourselves, I apologize.”

Ms. Williams stated “They told me to put a smaller meter in, there’s a 2” meter there, and that’s why it’s going to be so much. I have to pay $700 to have a smaller meter put in?”
The Chair said that this issue is on tonight’s agenda and the Board will consider action later in the meeting.

5. **Personal Property Taxes** – Mr. Robert Soly appeared before the Board and stated “I’m here with the problem of personal property taxes also. My property tax went up 33%. Inflation is up 8%. I don’t know how you guys come up with this 33% and say it’s okay. The city is also taking its lead from you guys; my city tax went up 33%. I am paying $180 more than I did last year. Now how you justify that I don’t know. I know you get – I know the mechanics of it – I understand how you arrived at it but why you let it go through I don’t understand. Somebody’s got to be watching this. It’s unfair. It’s ridiculous to tax somebody at a 33% increase. I talked to Rolland about this on the phone and I made a suggestion ‘Why don’t you guys go to a flat tax?’ Anybody that owns a vehicle in the County say from 2000-2010 pays a certain rate; from 2010-2020 a certain rate. This thing that you’re using with the NADA is very objective to whoever’s got the vehicle or whoever’s doing the evaluation or the assessment. Somehow you got to make it more fair. The person that’s paying less in city taxes on their vehicle, gets the same services as I do. Why do I have to pay more? They get the fire department service, the police service and all that, so I don’t understand why I have to pay 33% more. I talked to a person over in the city office, Mr. Friedman’s office, this person is paying no personal property tax. She drives an older vehicle and she gets to go around free using all the city services. How is that fair? So, I would like you guys to consider a flat rate based on the year of the vehicle, not the mileage, not the NADA, and if it’s registered in the County, they should have to pay a tax on it. I agree the County needs money to function but please make it fair. It’s very frustrating when I open a bill and say ‘My God, what’s going on here?’ And I understand the reason for it with the increase in used car prices, but it shouldn’t be based on that. If you made it a flat rate and then increased it every year say 5%-10% whatever the inflation rate is to keep up with it, you’d make your money. Please consider that and that’s all I have.”

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

The Chair commented that his personal property tax on every one of his vehicles went up as well. He then opened the floor for any other Board comments.

Supervisor Terry added that his taxes increased; one truck has about $3,800-$4,200 value higher than what he thinks it should be. He understands peoples’ frustrations
but he and members of this Board have to pay those same taxes. Reassessments are out of their control and he believes that use of the NADA values is mandated by the Code of Virginia.

The Chair asked if they are “required” to use NADA.

Mr. Bear said the Code provides that automobiles be valued by means of a recognized pricing guide. The Commissioner shall use either a method of determining value of each individual automobile or shall use the base value specified in the recognized pricing guide, which may be the average retail, wholesale or loan value as long as it’s uniformly applied. To the best of Mr. Bear’s knowledge, Wythe County has always used loan value which has been the most advantageous for the vehicle owner. With over 30k vehicles in Wythe County, it is not feasible to value each and every vehicle.

The Commissioner of Revenue added that they do not have the manpower to assess every individual vehicle in the County taking into consideration mileage, wear and tear, etc.

Chair Vaught asked Mr. Bear if the State Code would allow a flat tax on personal property, to which Mr. Bear asked for time to research it. The Chair also noted that while Mr. Blevins sought out the tax rates from Smyth County, he failed to mention that Smyth County’s real estate tax rate is $.74 while Wythe County’s is $.51.

Supervisor Horney asked if there’s a process for appealing the personal property tax if someone’s automobile is overvalued.

Mr. Bear responded that, per the Code, appeals can be filed but ONLY if vehicles are valued individually, which Wythe County does not have the staff to do. He hopes to work more closely with the Commissioner’s office next year to download the values sooner.

The Chair said the General Assembly has a tool to value personal vehicles separately from other personal property, unfortunately, it was provided after the fact. However, he would very much like to consider that next year.

Mr. Bear has already had discussions with both the Treasurer and Commissioner about it and will seek assistance from the County Attorney about drafting a personal property ordinance.
Supervisor Cook would like to see real estate taxes due at one time of year and personal property taxes due at another time of year, and maybe even break up personal property over a couple of dates. That would make it easier on the taxpayer.

PUBLIC HEARING – DELINQUENT COUNTY TAX AND OTHER CHARGES, ADMINISTRATIVE COST AND ATTORNEY’S FEES ORDINANCE

Mr. Bear read “In compliance with the Code of Virginia of 1950, and amendments thereto, the Wythe County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing to consider an Ordinance entitled, “Delinquent County Tax and Other Charges, Administrative Cost and Attorney’s Fees Ordinance of Wythe County, Virginia. The Board of Supervisors shall hear comments from citizens concerning the proposed Ordinance on Tuesday, October 25, 2022, at 6:05 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Wythe County Office Building, 340 South Sixth Street, Wytheville, Virginia.”

The Chair opened the comment period of the public hearing.

With no one signed up to address the Board, the Chair closed the public comment period of the hearing.

Mr. Bear said the ordinance is on the agenda later on this evening and the Board will consider action at that time.

PAYMENT OF COUNTY INVOICES

Supervisor Terry made a motion to pay the invoices for approval on October 25, 2022, for the various departments of County government. The invoices were paid on General Warrants 30113774-30113854, and two wire transfers, as follows:

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Supervisor Burnett 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 October 11, 2022 minutes for approval.

Supervisor Cook made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Smith, to approve the October 11, 2022 minutes as presented.

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

**DELIQUENT COUNTY TAX AND OTHER CHARGES, ADMINISTRATIVE COST AND ATTORNEY’S FEES ORDINANCE**
Mr. Bear said that the ordinance has been proposed and reviewed by the Treasurer and staff recommendation is to approve.

Supervisor Cook made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Smith, to approve the Delinquent County Tax and Other Charges, Administrative Cost and Attorney’s Fees Ordinance 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
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 $80,484,317 of which $40,288,047 was in the General Fund Account at the end of September.

2. Personal Property Tax Bills – The Treasurer said all personal property tax bills have been mailed out for a total of $11,622,390 (also includes mobile homes, machinery and tools, merchants’ capital, and license fees).

3. Real Estate Tax Bills – Mrs. Guynn mentioned that the Commissioner and IT Director are working on a few things and she hopes in the coming weeks more progress will be made. She hopes to have good news at the next meeting but, undoubtedly, she will be asking for an extension on the real estate tax due date.

The Treasurer also wanted to thank the Board for approving the Delinquent Tax Ordinance. This will allow her office to recoup some of the fees associated with pursuing delinquent accounts.

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

1. PAYROLL – September 2022:

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Fund</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General County Fund</td>
<td>$697,105.95</td>
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<tr>
<td>Police Activity Fund</td>
<td>67,033.03</td>
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<td>Courthouse Security Fund</td>
<td>14,772.42</td>
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<td>Water Department Fund</td>
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<td>Wythe County Wastewater Fund</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$831,305.21</strong></td>
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Check Numbers: 2001817-2001840
Voucher Numbers: 24586-24956

2. STATUS REPORTS:

A. Animal Control – Arlan Dunford
B. Building Inspections – Kyle Taylor
C. Emergency Services – Jimmy McCabe
3. **PERSONNEL:**

A. Linkous, Timothy Adam – Resigned, Deputy Commissioner of the Revenue, Effective May 19, 2022
B. McKenzie, Mary Jo – Transferred, Consolidated Dispatch Director, Annual Salary $50,685, Effective September 1, 2022
C. Mabe, Olivia – Hired, Warrants Clerk, Sheriff’s Office, Annual Salary $28,869, Effective September 1, 2022
D. Marshall, Dalton – Resigned, Deputy Sheriff, Effective September 9, 2022
E. Moux-Rodriquez, James – Resigned, Deputy Sheriff, Effective September 9, 2022
F. Bartee, Jesse – Hired, Deputy Commissioner of the Revenue, Annual Salary $29,763, Effective September 12, 2022
G. Vaught, Brian – Promoted, Sheriff’s Office, Annual Salary $55,036, Effective September 16, 2022
H. Stamper, Rebecca - Promoted, Sheriff’s Office, Annual Salary $35,162, Effective September 16, 2022
I. Brewer, Peyton - Promoted, Sheriff’s Office, Annual Salary $45,465, Effective September 16, 2022
J. Brewer, Lucas – Hired, School Resource Officer, Sheriff’s Office, Annual Salary $44,500, Effective September 16, 2022
K. Mooney, Carolyn – Resigned, Deputy Treasurer, Effective September 30, 2022
L. Atwell, Ethan – Resigned, Deputy Sheriff, Effective September 30, 2022

4. **BUDGET AMENDMENTS:**

A. $52.85 (31021-470030) – Auto Claim, 2020 Ford Explorer, 6/11/22
B. $594.10 (3202-457292) – HAZMAT Reimbursement

Vice Chair Lawson seconded the motion and the roll call vote was as follows:

**AYES:**
- Rolland R. Cook
- Ryan M. Lawson
-James D. “Jamie” Smith

**NOES:**
- Jesse R. Burnett
- B. G. “Gene” Horney, Jr.
- Stacy A. Terry
RETIRING OFFICER SURPLUS
Mr. Hankins announced that the Animal Control Officer, Arlan Dunford, is retiring after 26 years of service to Wythe County. Mr. Dunford has requested the purchase of his firearm and to retain his cell phone (phone is an older model with no real value). State Code authorizes the sale of a retiring officer’s service weapon (with at least 10 years of service) for $1.00 and declaring it as surplus.

Supervisor Smith made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Cook, to approve the declaring Mr. Dunford’s firearm as surplus and selling it to him for $1.00.

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

Chair Vaught was happy to pay for Mr. Dunford’s firearm.

ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

1. **Lead Mines Rescue Squad (“LMRS”)** – Mr. Hankins stated the rock boat is supposed to be delivered this week, and training is scheduled for Saturday in the river.

   Mr. Hankins reported that construction is nearly complete, although an extensive punch list will be provided.

   He congratulated LMRS for completing their recertification process today. They are now good for another two years.
Mr. Hankins said they are currently working on an MOA for LMRS similar to the Max Meadows agreement. While they need to add staff in that part of the County, it’s crucial LMRS maintains their non-profit status.

2. **Orion Drive** – Mr. Hankins continues to work with residents who submitted the petition regarding their options; they should be close to making a decision.

3. **Max Meadows VFD Memorandum of Agreement** – Mr. Hankins said the agreement between the County and MMVFD for daytime/part-time firefighting staff is ready for execution.

Supervisor Smith made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Terry, to authorize County Administrator to sign the Max Meadows MOA effective the date of signing.

Supervisor Cook asked about the 25-member/180-day language; if the 25 members are all night crew, would that still leave MMVFD short-staffed?

Mr. Hankins responded that with 25 members, they should be able to respond to daytime calls. If MMVFD wants out of the agreement, they would have to grow their membership (volunteers) without County support.

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 Smith asked if we’re holding final payment for LMRS construction pending completion of punch list items. Mr. Hankins said yes.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

1. **DMV Animal Friendly License Plates** – Mr. Bear requested the Board to authorize the transfer of $345 to the Wythe Bland Animal Welfare League that was received by the Department of Motor Vehicles for the County’s portion of Animal Friendly license plates.
Supervisor Horney made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, to accept $345.00 from the Department of Motor Vehicles and direct to the Wythe Bland Animal Welfare League.

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

2. **Opioid Settlement Fund Cash Balance Account** – Mr. Bear asked that the Board request the Treasurer and Finance Director to create an “Opioid Settlement Fund” Cash Balance Account to hold payments received from various companies from the opioid settlement. These funds have started to come in and must be used for specific uses in accordance with the settlement agreement.

Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Burnett, to approve the creation of an Opioid Settlement Fund Cash Balance Account.

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

3. **Staff Engineer Position** – Mr. Bear explained this new position would assist the County Engineer and Water/Wastewater Director with County development projects, erosion and sediment control review and enforcement, and the water/wastewater projects currently in process and proposed this fiscal year. The County needs more engineering assistance to handle all these projects.

The Vice Chair felt this was needed a year ago.

Chair Vaught said the last water position he voted on does not seem to be performing as anticipated so he is not keen on another new position.

Supervisor Smith asked how much time would be devoted to Water/Wastewater and how much to Engineering?
Mr. Bear believes it will be around 50/50 but it depends on any new economic development projects coming in.

As tight as the current market is, Supervisor Smith asked if we can get a qualified person for this position?

Mr. Bear said that it will be challenging but that he’d like the opportunity to see what’s in the talent pool. It will likely be more of an entry-level position allowing us to train them on our water/wastewater systems, and then advancing to a County Engineer or Water/Wastewater Director.

Supervisor Cook would like to see a basic written job description and proposed base salary before voting on another position. Mr. Bear will work on that.

4. **EM1 Truck** – Mr. Bear explained that the Emergency Management budget included funding for lighting/security for mobile command post but did not include funding for an emergency replacement vehicle. However, there is adequate funding to cover the cost of a vehicle (~$40k). Also, Mr. McCabe’s current vehicle is a 2005 so this is a critical need and it will not require any change to the budget (no new funding).

Vice Chair Lawson made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Terry, to authorize use of funding in the current budget for purchase of an EM1 Truck.

The roll call vote was as follows:

**AYES:** Brian W. Vaught  
Rolland R. Cook  
Ryan M. Lawson  
James D. “Jamie” Smith

**NAYS:** None

**WATER COMMITTEE**

1. **Committee Recommendation re Lots Gap Water System** – Supervisor Horney made a motion, as recommended by the Water Committee, to change the DeZurik stainless steel disc valves to the DeZurik ductile iron valves on the Citco bid previously approved. This change will result in a deduction of $21,612.97.
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

2. **Staff Recommendation re Commercial Meter Requests** – At the request of the Water Committee, staff reviewed the meter connections at two mobile home parks and made the following recommendations:

   a) **Sam Blevins Property** – Install a 1” meter. The existing setter can be modified to install the 1” meter at a cost of $750 for which the customer is required to pay. Provide a credit on Mr. Blevins’ account for the difference in the base fee amounts for the billing period(s) since the initial request.

   b) **Barbara Williams Property** – Install a 1” meter. The existing setter can be modified to install the 1” meter at a cost of $750 for which the customer is required to pay. The mobile home cross connected to the house should be disconnected and connected to the new 1” meter serving the remaining mobile homes. Provide a credit on Mrs. Williams’ account for the difference in the base fee amounts for the billing period(s) since the initial request.

Mr. Crisp explained the differences of flow and measurement accuracy of 2” meters versus 1”. There are also billing issues when trying to bill 1” rates on a 2” meter.

The Chair said the Board voted to increase the commercial water rate for large operations, factories and industries who use considerably more water. With respect to hotels, that’s a pass-through cost for the traveler. But when it comes to people like Ms. Williams and Mr. Blevins, they can’t pass through that cost to their tenants who are also Wythe County citizens. He feels if the County is going to replace the meters, then the County should pay for it.

After further discussion, the Board agreed not to charge either party the $750 installation fee for the 1” meter.
Supervisor Horney made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Smith, to approve changing Mr. Blevins and Ms. Williams meter to a 1” size (at no cost to the customer) and to credit both their accounts for the difference over the past three months.

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

SUPERVISORS’ REPORTS

1. Kents Lane Bridge – Vice Chair Lawson commented that there are panels hanging from the Kents Lane bridge blocking the creek if VDOT could take care of that.

2. Crosswalk Meeting with VDOT – Supervisor Smith mentioned that the meeting scheduled with VDOT has been postponed until November 10th at 11:00 a.m.

3. Jones Road – Supervisor Smith requested that Mr. Bear keep the Smart Scale for Jones Road at the forefront.

4. Ghent Lane – Supervisor Smith asked Mr. Hankins for an update. Mr. Hankins responded they are working to set up a date/location for the meeting, and that a few things need to be delineated on the map.

5. Cameras/Security – Supervisor Smith asked about security cameras at the County Administration building (internal and external). Mr. Bear said they need to get more cameras installed and he will check on the RFP for that.

6. Farm Vehicles – Chair Vaught asked if the PIO can look into the handout that Ms. Meyer provided earlier. Mr. Hankins responded that Mrs. Delp is already on it.
CLOSED MEETING
Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Horney, 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.5 Prospective New Business or Industry (Wythe County Project).

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Supervisor Cook made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Smith, 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 Horney, 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  

REGIONAL IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION  
Mr. Hankins announced that VA Lottery has made the first deposit to the Regional Improvement Commission for the gaming tax proceeds from the Bristol Casino. The money cannot be distributed until next fiscal year. However, for the first two months, proceeds of $1.6M came in and Wythe County will get 1/14th of that.

NEXT MEETING  
Mr. Bear reminded everyone that because of the Election Day holiday, the next Board of Supervisors’ meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 9th.

ADJOURNMENT  
With no other business to come before the Board, Chair Vaught adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:39 p.m.

______________________________  
Brian W. Vaught, Chair