

March 28, 2023

The Wythe County Board of Supervisors held its regularly scheduled meeting at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 28, 2023. 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
 Rolland R. Cook, Vice Chair
 Ryan M. Lawson
 James D. "Jamie" Smith

Jesse R. Burnett
 B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
 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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Karen Akers
 Ely Blevins & Family
 Jerry Blevins
 Earl Covey
 Charles Foster
 Caleb Gibson & Family
 Lori Guynn
 Bishop Warren Gwynn
 Gus Kincer

Zach Lester
 Mary Jo McKenzie
 Coy McRoberts
 Linda Meyer
 Dickie Morgan
 Cade Rouse
 Parker Stone & Family
 Kathy Vaught
 Mason Via & Family

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

Bishop Warren Gwynn, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, provided the invocation and Vice Chair Cook led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPORTS RESOLUTIONS – RURAL RETREAT HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

Chair Vaught congratulated and presented the following resolution to Caleb Gibson of the Rural Retreat High School Wrestling Team:

**WYTHE COUNTY RESOLUTION 2023-08
A RESOLUTION HONORING
CALEB GIBSON
OF THE RURAL RETREAT HIGH SCHOOL
WRESTLING TEAM**

WHEREAS, freshman Caleb Gibson completed an outstanding 2022-2023 wrestling season; and,

WHEREAS, Caleb advanced to the Virginia High School League Class 1A State Wrestling Championships on February 18, 2023, at the Salem Civic Center; and,

WHEREAS, Caleb defeated Alexis Deagle of Mathews High School capturing the 2023 State Championship in the 106-pound weight class; and,

WHEREAS, the Wythe County Board of Supervisors officially commends Caleb for his outstanding dedication, athletic ability, and sportsmanship.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wythe County Board of Supervisors presents this resolution to Caleb Gibson in recognition of his 2023 individual Wrestling State Championship title.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be incorporated into the official minutes of the Wythe County Board of Supervisors.

Adopted this 28th day of March 2023.

Supervisor Horney made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Lawson, to adopt Resolution 2023-08 Honoring Caleb Gibson of the Rural Retreat High School Wrestling Team.

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Chair Vaught congratulated and presented the following resolution to Parker Stone of the Rural Retreat High School Wrestling Team:

**WYTHE COUNTY RESOLUTION 2023-09
A RESOLUTION HONORING
PARKER STONE
OF THE RURAL RETREAT HIGH SCHOOL
WRESTLING TEAM**

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WHEREAS, senior Parker Stone completed an outstanding 2022-2023 wrestling season; and,

WHEREAS, Parker advanced to the Virginia High School League Class 1A State Wrestling Championships on February 18, 2023, at the Salem Civic Center; and,

WHEREAS, Parker defeated Brody Coleman of Grundy capturing the 2023 State Championship in the 120-pound weight class; and,

WHEREAS, the Wythe County Board of Supervisors officially commends Parker for his outstanding dedication, athletic ability, and sportsmanship.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wythe County Board of Supervisors presents this resolution to Parker Stone in recognition of his 2023 individual Wrestling State Championship title and wishes him the very best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be incorporated into the official minutes of the Wythe County Board of Supervisors.

Adopted this 28th day of March 2023.

Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Smith, to adopt Resolution 2023-09 Honoring Parker Stone of the Rural Retreat High School Wrestling Team.

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Chair Vaught congratulated and presented the following resolution to Ely Blevins of the Rural Retreat High School Wrestling Team:

**WYTHE COUNTY RESOLUTION 2023-10
A RESOLUTION HONORING
ELY BLEVINS
OF THE RURAL RETREAT HIGH SCHOOL
WRESTLING TEAM**

WHEREAS, senior Ely Blevins completed an outstanding 2022-2023 wrestling season; and,

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WHEREAS, Ely advanced to the Virginia High School League Class 1 State Wrestling Championships on February 18, 2023, at the Salem Civic Center; and,

WHEREAS, Ely defeated Dominic Ciolli of Grundy capturing the 2023 State Championship in the 132-pound weight class; and,

WHEREAS, the Wythe County Board of Supervisors officially commends Ely for his outstanding dedication, athletic ability, and sportsmanship.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wythe County Board of Supervisors presents this resolution to Ely Blevins in recognition of his 2023 individual Wrestling State Championship title and wishes him the very best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be incorporated into the official minutes of the Wythe County Board of Supervisors.

Adopted this 28th day of March 2023.

Supervisor Lawson made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Cook, to adopt Resolution 2023-10 Honoring Ely Blevins of the Rural Retreat High School Wrestling Team.

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Chair Vaught congratulated and presented the following resolution to Mason Via of the Rural Retreat High School Wrestling Team:

**WYTHE COUNTY RESOLUTION 2023-11
A RESOLUTION HONORING
MASON VIA
OF THE RURAL RETREAT HIGH SCHOOL
WRESTLING TEAM**

WHEREAS, senior Mason Via completed an outstanding 2022-2023 wrestling season; and,

WHEREAS, Mason advanced to the Virginia High School League Class 1A State Wrestling Championships on February 18, 2023, at the Salem Civic Center; and,

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WHEREAS, Mason defeated Jax Allebaugh of Riverheads capturing the 2023 State Championship in the 150-pound weight class; and,

WHEREAS, the Wythe County Board of Supervisors officially commends Mason for his outstanding dedication, athletic ability, and sportsmanship.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wythe County Board of Supervisors presents this resolution to Mason Via in recognition of his 2023 individual Wrestling State Championship title and wishes him the very best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be incorporated into the official minutes of the Wythe County Board of Supervisors.

Adopted this 28th day of March 2023.

Supervisor Smith made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Cook, to adopt Resolution 2023-11 Honoring Mason Via of the Rural Retreat High School Wrestling Team.

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

CITIZENS' TIME

1. Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court – Ms. Karen Akers, Clerk of Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court appeared before the Board and stated, “We would encourage you to come see our counters. After two plus years, we finally got a work station that’s suitable to the clerks and suitable to the public that we serve. We have three nice new work stations, new counters, and we’re hoping for new carpet soon. I encourage all of you to come see what the ladies and the judge of Wythe County does for the citizens of Wythe County. I would like to commend Landon Sayers, Ben and Ricky for the outstanding job they did. You couldn’t have went out and found better contractors than those three gentlemen. We are fortunate to have them; they are the best building and grounds group we have had, and I’ve seen a lot of them come and go. They are the best. I appreciate you funding that. Please come see us. We have a nice facility now. We still need some improvements but I encourage you all to come visit us. Thank you for your time.”
2. Ivanhoe Civic League – Mr. Coy McRoberts distributed a handout regarding the Jubilee Park and Horse Show Grounds. He stated, “As you can probably see why I

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am here tonight. There are pictures there (on the handout) and I want to tell you what our plans are. After we got the property back from Ivanhoe Fire Department, we decided that we needed to do something to give us money year around to pay our bills. We put in 20 camp sites on that property. We have remodeled, reconstructed the stage, and put new flooring on it. We painted the restrooms. We had more people calling us about the restrooms there but it was the fire department's business, not ours. So, we took care of that, we painted the inside and outside. We painted the concession stand. You see the stage in the third picture, our hope is that we can provide a recreation area, a playground area for the small kids of our community. We redid the ring at a cost of \$10,000. We put water on all of the places at the park. We got rid of the mud pit from the truck pull. The pink and blue doors are the bathrooms. The other one is the concession stand. The last page is our desire to have. We have run just a little short on money. I'm not a bum and I ain't here to bum you tonight. I'm asking you to help me and help my kids over there. There are probably 25 kids around that area. The majority of the park is in Carroll County, the stage is in Wythe County. We just need a little help. If you can help, we appreciate you. If you can't help, we appreciate you. Whatever you do, think of us. We are over there too. Thank you."

3. County Matters – Mr. Jerry Blevins appeared before the Board and stated, "My 'Rodney Report' for this reporting period shows no activity. After almost 20 years of problems, it's nice not to have any trespassing or damage done to my property. However, on a national and international stage, problems appear to be growing at an astonishing rate. Now when I watch the NBC evening news I don't see Richard Engel reporting from Ukraine on how Ukraine is winning the war. Instead, I see Putin riding around in a car on the island of Crimea. The news media has portrayed Russia as a nation that's aggressive and only interested in acquiring more territory and is committing war crimes. Mind you, I am not choosing sides in this conflict but it seems the Russian military is highly motivated and they have the support of the majority of the Russian people. Recently, a Russian jet damaged a drone of ours so badly it had to be ditched. That Russian pilot had to be the craziest pilot that ever flew a jet or the best pilot that ever flew a jet. Our reply was, 'it will not deter us from flying another drone in the same area.' It probably won't deter the Russians from taking it out either. With Russia strengthening its alliance with China, it makes the above events quite troubling indeed. Closer home if you attended the late September 2022 Wythe County Board of Supervisors' meeting, you heard me state at this podium that raising interest rates were unlikely to control inflation. Now that we have had

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several rate hikes, has it helped inflation? I don't know about anyone else but it sure has not for me. It has, however, brought down several banks. To end this speech on a positive note, we have had some really great weather here in southwest Virginia for the past couple of years and that, we can all be grateful for."

4. State Issues – Mr. Zach Lester appeared before the Board and stated "Thank you guys for all that you do, always. I brought a book in today. It just came out a couple months ago. It's the report on the Hunter Biden's laptop by Marco Polo. It's a non-profit organization. They have went through the laptop and the iCloud from his accounts and compiled over 400 crimes that are listed here (in the book). There's a lot of vulgar stuff, a lot of... stuff on there but they have just pushed that stuff aside and focused on the evidence. So, it's in a nice book form for you guys. I'm going to let you borrow it. I would love to have it back in a month or so but please take some time to go through it for understanding of what we're doing in the world today. The DA of New York, can't remember the name of the town, is going after Donald Trump for a misdemeanor. They don't prosecute felonies there. It's one of the highest crime areas in the United States. The politicization of our federal government and three letter agencies are becoming a pretty big concern. I just wanted to point it out to you guys, that we and the lower branches of government have to build a foundation to try to fight the current regime. They are going to school board meetings, intimidating parents, speaking out against certain policies. They are showing up at reporter's houses, the IRS just showed up at Matt Taibbi's house because he was testifying against the weaponization of the federal government. And he's doing it through the Twitter files, all of the information that's coming from the social media platforms that are showing major censorship on our side. Major misinformation and fact checking, all trying to curtail to our administration. It is a massive issue. The reason I talk about all these major issues, I know you guys aren't really able to take any action or do anything about the Hunter Biden laptop but in our county, if we're strong, and if we're united, then we can at least stand against the communist or authoritarian regime that continues to beat down on America. Our economy is in the tank, inflation is really high, we're at really one of the worst points in our country's history. What can we do to stop it though? We can involve our community. Not many people show up here to talk about real world events. I think that's an issue, that we should all be up to date on at least what's happening. I brought this for you guys to go through. Again, put the full armor of God on before you do because there's a lot of hard things to stomach, a lot of weird activities, but over 400 crimes are easily proven but we can't get anything

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to happen. The 2020 election was stolen, we can prove that but we can't get anything to happen. Mass censorship on one side of the aisle. We can prove all that but we can't get anything done. How do we move forward as nation? I know you guys are wonderful people and do a lot for our communities. If we unite, stand together, maybe we can hold onto the morals that founded this nation or we can all watch as the ship sinks. Keep up the good work guys."

With no one else signed up to address the Board, Chair Vaught closed Citizens' Time.

PUBLIC HEARING – INTENT TO APPLY FOR USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

Chair Vaught read the following "The Wythe County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing in the Board Room of the County Administration Offices located at 340 South Sixth Street, Wytheville, Virginia, at 6:00 p.m. on March 28, 2023. The purpose of this meeting is to give notice of Wythe County's intent to apply for USDA, Rural Development funds to assist with installation of a water line to serve Barrett Mill Road area. Comments regarding economic and environmental impacts, service area, alternatives to the project, and other related project issues are encouraged. All interested citizens are urged to attend. For additional information, please contact Stephen Bear at 276-223-4500."

Hearing no comments from citizens, Chair Vaught closed the public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED ISSUANCE OF BONDS BY WYTHE COUNTY, VA

Chair Vaught read the following "The Board of Supervisors of Wythe County, Virginia (the "Board") will hold a public hearing on the proposed issuance at one time or from time to time of bonds by Wythe County. The estimated maximum amount of the bonds proposed to be issued is \$465,180.31 in the aggregate. The proposed use of the bond proceeds is to pay costs of capital improvements to wastewater facilities of the County and to pay costs of issuing the bonds. The public hearing, which may be continued or adjourned, and at which persons may appear and present their views on the proposed bond issue, will be held at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on March 28, 2023, before the Board in the Board Room of the County Administration Building, located at 340 South Sixth Street in Wytheville, Virginia."

Hearing no comments from citizens, Chair Vaught closed the public hearing.

Supervisor Lawson made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Cook, to adopt the Authorizing Resolution for the Fort Chiswell Sewer project VRA financing.

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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

Supervisor Burnett made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Smith, to authorize staff to execute necessary documents for the bond issuance for wastewater improvements, not to exceed \$465,180.31.

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

PAYMENT OF COUNTY INVOICES

Supervisor Terry made a motion to pay the invoices for approval on March 28, 2023, as amended, for the various departments of County government. The invoices were paid on General Warrants 30114872-30114946 and one wire transfer as follows:

EXPENDITURES BY DEPARTMENT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS March 28, 2023

CHECK #	ISSUE DATE	VENDOR	AMOUNT
30114872	03/20/2023	APPALACHIAN POWER	\$ 45,538.74
30114873	03/20/2023	BRIGHTSPEED	4,259.79
30114874	03/20/2023	CITIZENS TELEPHONE COOP	32.93
30114875	03/20/2023	MCI COMM SERVICE	36.09
30114876	03/20/2023	MCI COMM SERVICE	757.40
30114877	03/20/2023	MCI COMM SERVICE	158.28
30114878	03/20/2023	TOWN OF WYTHEVILLE	7,755.18

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30114879	03/20/2023	VERIZON WIRELESS	160.12
TOTAL EXPENDITURES 03/20/2023			\$58,698.53

CHECK #	ISSUE DATE	VENDOR	AMOUNT
wire	03/28/2023	JP MORGAN CHASE BANK	\$ 330,294.81
30114880	03/28/2023	103 TOWING & RECOVERY LLC	125.00
30114881	03/28/2023	AGA	105.00
30114882	03/28/2023	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	1,405.10
30114883	03/28/2023	AMERICAN BUSINESS FORMS I	10,258.73
30114884	03/28/2023	APPALACHIAN JUVENILE COMM	1,400.00
30114885	03/28/2023	BKT UNIFORMS	356.93
30114886	03/28/2023	BOXLEY	1,589.00
30114887	03/28/2023	BRENTAG MID-SOUTH INC	3,119.69
30114888	03/28/2023	BRIGHTSPEED	5,291.73
30114889	03/28/2023	CINTAS CORP NO 2	247.50
30114890	03/28/2023	CLINES AUTO SERVICE AND T	70.00
30114891	03/28/2023	COMPLETE TRUCK SERVICE IN	2,522.64
30114892	03/28/2023	CREATIVE 7 CONCEPTS	366.60
30114893	03/28/2023	DC GROUP, INC	2,304.00
30114894	03/28/2023	DEPT OF MOTOR VEHICLES	2,715.00
30114895	03/28/2023	DUNCAN-PARNELL INC	1,445.00
30114896	03/28/2023	EPIC SPORTS	119.37
30114897	03/28/2023	FERGUSON ENTERPRISES #5	1,218.00
30114898	03/28/2023	GALLS	169.35
30114899	03/28/2023	GENUINE PARTS COMPANY	53.02
30114900	03/28/2023	GREATAMERICA FINANCIAL SE	156.00
30114901	03/28/2023	GUN SHOP	3,799.60
30114902	03/28/2023	INTERNATIONAL CITY/COUNTY	737.13
30114903	03/28/2023	INFOSEND, INC	1,988.14
30114904	03/28/2023	JOINT PUBLIC SERVICE AUTH	102.96
30114905	03/28/2023	LANE GROUP	2,937.50
30114906	03/28/2023	LEXISNEXIS	770.00
30114907	03/28/2023	LOWE'S	1,141.88
30114908	03/28/2023	MAGIC CITY CDJR BEDFORD,	72,646.00
30114909	03/28/2023	MANSFIELD OIL CO	7,581.78
30114910	03/28/2023	NATIONAL POOLS	47,350.00
30114911	03/28/2023	NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY	878.02
30114912	03/28/2023	OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDIC	20.00
30114913	03/28/2023	ASHLEY KING	44.01

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30114914	03/28/2023	BRENDAN COPPAGE	80.55
30114915	03/28/2023	BRENDAN COPPAGE	93.08
30114916	03/28/2023	BRENDAN COPPAGE	87.26
30114917	03/28/2023	DAVE MEREDITH	207.02
30114918	03/28/2023	GEORGE SEWELL	129.95
30114919	03/28/2023	JEREMIAH MUSSER	304.53
30114920	03/28/2023	LANDON SAYERS	379.40
30114921	03/28/2023	LUCAS BREWER	109.64
30114922	03/28/2023	MARGO MOONEY	66.00
30114923	03/28/2023	MATT HANKINS	128.31
30114924	03/28/2023	PAPER CLIP	2,225.86
30114925	03/28/2023	PARTNERSHIP SCREENING INT	14.40
30114926	03/28/2023	PITNEY BOWES INC	274.65
30114927	03/28/2023	R&R ENTERPRISES INC	503.50
30114928	03/28/2023	SALEM STONE	133.62
30114929	03/28/2023	SMOKIN' GUNS	1,363.20
30114930	03/28/2023	SOUTHWESTERN VA GAS SERVI	2,135.41
30114931	03/28/2023	SVAM	1,000.00
30114932	03/28/2023	TACS	2,022.40
30114933	03/28/2023	THC ENTERPRISES, INC	49,384.84
30114934	03/28/2023	THE C.I. THORNBURG, INC.	13,720.00
30114935	03/28/2023	TIRE DISCOUNTERS, INC	3,144.77
30114936	03/28/2023	TRANSUNION RISK & ALTERNA	75.00
30114937	03/28/2023	UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA	80.00
30114938	03/28/2023	US SPECIALTY COATINGS	1,882.64
30114939	03/28/2023	USA BLUE BOOK	4,423.12
30114940	03/28/2023	VERIZON WIRELESS	1,923.20
30114941	03/28/2023	VIRGINIA BUSINESS SYST	681.32
30114942	03/28/2023	WORDSPRINT	696.00
30114943	03/28/2023	WYTHE CO HEALTH DEPT	823.68
30114944	03/28/2023	WYTHE TIRE AND MUFFLER	70.00
30114945	03/28/2023	WYTHEVILLE METALS	1,129.26
30114946	03/28/2023	XEROX	191.59

TOTAL EXPENDITURES 03/28/2023 **\$594,813.69**

TOTAL EXPENDITURES APPROVED 03/28/2023 **\$653,813.69**

Supervisor Cook 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 March 14, 2023, minutes for approval.

Supervisor Burnett made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Lawson, to approve the March 14, 2023, minutes as presented.

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

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 \$85,440,443 of which \$42,958,158 was in the General Fund Account at the end of February. She noted National Bank has offered better interest rates so she recently moved most monies back to the bank. Her Treasurer's report shows where the funds are combined again.
2. Real Estate Tax Bills/Collections – The Treasurer commented that the real estate tax deadline is this Friday, March 31st. Her office will be open until 6:00 p.m. the next three days to accommodate the citizens.
3. Personal Property Tax Rebate – Supervisor Smith requested an update on the personal property rebate.

Mrs. Guynn reported that she is working on a batch and is close to releasing it to the AP department to process. She noted it is a slow, time-consuming process and is hoping after this week, she can better concentrate on the rebates. Her goal is to have all of the rebates out by the end of April.

Supervisor Smith asked that when a batch is ready, will she release it to Finance?

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Mrs. Guynn confirmed, that she has already discussed this with Finance. She plans to release batches on a continuous cycle, that way it's in manageable batches.

Supervisor Smith asked that she wants them all out by the end of April?

Mrs. Guynn stated yes, she is hoping by the end of April. That is her goal. She noted with the Tyler software upgrade, there are some settings and parameters that had to be reestablished. She is working on it as quickly as the process will allow.

Vice Chair Cook indicated that when discussed two weeks ago, it was said that she tried to talk the Board out of the January timeframe.

Mrs. Guynn stated that she didn't try to talk the Board out of the January time. She had commented that the Board stated the rebates would be sent out in January but with the personal property deadline and still processing mail, she knew it would be hard to get all of the rebates out in January. She understands it is now March, but it is a very time-consuming, manual process and she has tried to make that clear to Mr. Bear and the Board as we've gone through it.

Vice Chair Cook noted that when the motion was made to do the rebates in January, she was present and didn't say anything against it. He stated that the fact that people were told it was going out in January is not her fault or the Board's fault. It was a date thrown out and she didn't see a problem with it when the motion was made and neither did the Board. He stated that things have developed to where it's a problem. The January date is no one's fault.

Supervisor Lawson commented that it was her understanding that the rebates would start in January, not necessarily that they would all be mailed in January.

Mrs. Guynn had hoped to get started in January. She received the real estate information in January and it normally takes 4-5 weeks to get all of that data ready for billing, so she was trying to get real estate out as quickly as possible.

Vice Chair Cook stated that at the last meeting in January, we discussed this and Mrs. Guynn had said she would start in February. That didn't happen. He doesn't feel blame should be laid on anyone, that no one should be blamed for not getting it done.

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Mrs. Guynn said that in going back to February, yes, she was trying to get it done. Of course it's March, and she is still trying to work on it. She hates to keep saying it, but it is a very time-consuming process. She said the software doesn't allow for them to just push a button to process the adjustments, that they are manual adjustments. She reiterated that she is hoping to get them out by the end of April.

Supervisor Smith asked that after Friday, March 31st, that we make this a priority over everything else.

Mrs. Guynn agreed. She indicated that after Friday, her office hopes to focus on it. She has a new employee who is dedicated to working the mail to keep it caught up so they are not weeks behind like normal. She plans to keep her on that and get others working on the rebates.

Chair Vaught inquired how many people are working in her office currently.

Mrs. Guynn stated there are four full-time and she is working to hire the fifth. She has a part-time person that works periodically.

Chair Vaught asked how many of those four can do the rebate process?

Mrs. Guynn stated that all of her full-time people can. Her new employee is not familiar with the process but she could put her on it easily.

Chair Vaught stated that as he's mentioned before, there are some vacancy savings and if some of her employees would like to work weekends for overtime, that is an option. He did not get a response so wasn't certain anyone was interested. He stated that this needs to be a priority; it needs to happen within the next 30 days.

Mrs. Guynn stated that when the real estate bills first came out, there were days they literally stood at the front counter all day. Her employees are mentally exhausted at the end of the day. They are getting beleaguered because of the reassessments, because the bills were sent late, they are explaining the software issues through everything and trying to make people aware of the situation. There are days her staff is so mentally exhausted that asking them to stay longer is not fair to them.

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Supervisor Smith inquired if putting the part-time person at the front desk is an option.

Mrs. Guynn stated that if they are not super busy, they can use the front desk computers to process the rebates but when customers come in, they expect that person behind the window to help them.

Mr. Bear clarified that it is faster to train personnel on the rebates than the front counter. Mrs. Guynn agreed.

Chair Vaught asked if it's a possibility to waive penalties and interest for another week to allow Mrs. Guynn to close her office to the public so they can get the refunds out. He commented that he is just offering suggestions to try to help get this done.

Mr. Bear noted there would be challenges with waiving the penalties and interest in the system. Mrs. Guynn agreed and noted that it would also be hard to close to the public with just coming off a deadline.

Supervisor Smith noted that if they take the next week to get caught up on mail, that leaves 15 days to get the rebates out.

Mrs. Guynn stated it will be close but her goal is to still get them out by the end of April. She stated it may not happen but she wants to get them all out before she sends late notices. She knows people are looking for them, they are asking the Board about them, she is aware it needs to get completed.

Supervisor Smith asked if she means mailed or submitted to Finance by the end of April?

Mrs. Guynn stated that they would be submitted to Finance by the end of April. That she will submit the batch to Finance then Finance will print the checks and prepare the envelopes for mailing.

Mr. Bear stated that Finance is aware of the situation and is prepared to get the rebates out, it would be a priority.

Supervisor Lawon expressed her appreciation to the Treasurer and Finance for all they are doing. She knows a lot of people are upset and pointing fingers but she

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thinks people may be losing sight; that this is something the Board didn't have to do but they did it because they felt it was the right thing to do. She also wanted to point out that it's never been done before and is a great thing that we're doing.

Mrs. Guynn concluded that most everyone doesn't realize everything going on in her office. There are still the continuous day-to-day operations that have to take place and they are trying to manage everything the best they can.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

CONSENT CALENDAR BOARD OF SUPERVISORS March 28, 2023

1. PAYROLL – February 2023:

General County Fund	\$ 652,061.04
Police Activity Fund	49,581.68
Courthouse Security Fund	11,551.08
Water Department Fund	25,190.26
Wythe County Wastewater Fund	27,140.89
TOTAL	\$ 765,524.95

Check Numbers: 2001929-2001950

Voucher Numbers: 26453-26716; 26782-26846

2. STATUS REPORTS:

- A. Animal Control – Danny Blanchett
- B. Building Inspections – Kyle Taylor
- C. Engineering – Johnny Kincer
- D. Finance – Regina Williams
- E. Planning Commission – Lisa Shelton
- F. Water & Wastewater – Don Crisp

3. PERSONNEL:

Name	Action	Department	Salary	Effective Date
Leithan Smelser	Hired	Sheriff	\$27,494	1/16/23
Dawn Crigger	Resigned	Treasurer		1/23/23
Dalton Rose	Resigned	Sheriff		1/26/23
Sarah Justus	Hired	Sheriff	\$27,494	2/1/23
Ashlyn Wilson	Resigned	Dispatch		2/1/23
George Kincer	Resigned	Sheriff		2/3/23
Dolores Lineberry	Promoted	Water	\$33,528	2/1/23
Thomas Roach	Interim Chief Operator	Wastewater	\$44,856	2/1/23

Supervisor Horney 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
 James D. "Jamie" Smith

NAYS: None

FY23 EXPENDITURE BUDGET 4th QUARTER APPROPRIATIONS

Supervisor Horney made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Lawson, to approve the FY23 Expenditure Budget Fourth Quarter Appropriations as requested.

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

ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

1. 911 Console Updates – Mr. Hankins advised that with the radio updates this spring and summer, it is the ideal time to upgrade the 911 consoles. He noted that this is not the furniture that holds the monitors and equipment, but the paging interface for dispatchers to select the units that should respond to an

emergency. He recommended amending our agreement with ProComm to include the console changeover.

Supervisor Smith made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Terry, to authorize staff to amend the radio system agreement with ProComm to include the console changeover at State contract price.

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. Speedwell Air Pack Bids – Mr. Hankins stated that staff received proposals to upgrade Speedwell's air packs. Staff has negotiated with SureFlo to ensure the equipment meets the current standard. The revised bid price is \$161,726 which exceeds the available budget but Mr. Hankins noted that we can pay the difference of \$11,726 from the general fire department support budget.

Mr. Hankins stated that we have been waiting for word of an award from Rural Development for a grant of \$50,000 toward this project. The bid window closes Friday and the cost will go up 9% on April 1st. Mr. Hankins recommended proceeding with the award to SureFlo.

Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Horney, to approve the purchase of air packs for Speedwell Fire Department from SureFlo at a revised cost of \$161,726.

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

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3. Hockey Facility Rebid – Mr. Hankins stated that staff has received revised pricing from CJL Engineers to rebid the hockey facility renovations. This will add up to \$18,500 of additional work.

Supervisor Lawson made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Horney, to amend CJL Engineers agreement to add up to \$18,500 for the additional work needed to rebid the hockey facility renovations.

The roll call vote is as follows:

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

NAYS: Stacy A. Terry

4. Public Safety FDID – Mr. Hankins explained that the Virginia Department of Fire Programs has provided guidance on hiring part-time firefighters for Max Meadows. VDFP advises that the County should activate its county-wide fire department identification number (FDID). As the county explores establishing a countywide coordinated public safety system, this number will be essential.

Mr. Hankins recommended adoption of a resolution authoring staff to apply for the FDID.

Supervisor Cook made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Smith, to adopt the resolution authorizing application to establish a county-wide Fire Department Identification Number.

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

5. Animal Control – Mr. Hankins noted that a new sign for the Animal Shelter has been ordered. Staff is also working with the Sheriff's Office on a design to mark the animal control vehicles.
6. Emergency Management – Mr. Hankins announced that Chuck Parnell has been hired as Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator, he starts on April 1st.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

1. JIDA Budget Amendment and Appropriation for Klockner Pentaplast – Supervisor Terry made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Cook, to amend and appropriate \$31,000 to 8107-434140 in order for the JIDA to process the incentive payment to Klockner Pentaplast in compliance with their performance agreement.

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. Sheriff's Office Amend & Appropriate Request – Supervisor Cook made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Smith, to transfer \$16,417 from E-Summons Account to the General Fund, and amend and appropriate \$14,781 to 3102-461260 (Police Supplies) and \$1,636 to 3102-461250 (Vehicle Supplies).

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Brian W. Vaught

- 3. County Office Building Renovations – Change Order No. 4 – Supervisor Burnett made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Lawson, to approve KNA’s Change Order No. 4 as it relates to the County Office Building addition.

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. Staley Springs – Mr. Bear reported that representatives from the Virginia Department of Health stopped by to see him a few weeks ago to talk about potential funding for the Staley Springs at the crossroads in Rural Retreat. The Town of Rural Retreat has for years been interested in developing that spring. He discussed the potential project with the Town Manager of Rural Retreat and the County Administrator for Smyth County. One of the options discussed is to look at creating an authority, similar to NRRWA, that would be made up of the three entities to fund the creation of a water treatment plant there. Everyone would buy in according the percentage of capacity needed. It’s very preliminary but he wanted to bring it up for information.

- 5. Legal Counsel Agreement – Supervisor Horney made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Lawson, to approve the agreement to engage the services of Farthing Legal, PC, as County Attorney for Wythe County.

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

Supervisor Lawson and Chair Vaught both expressed their appreciation to Mr. Farthing for his years of service to the county.

SUPERVISORS' REPORTS

1. Staley Springs – Supervisor Cook suggested that if the Health Department is looking at water needs, they should also look at sewer.
2. Sheriff Office Signage – Supervisor Smith inquired about the Sheriff's request for better signage.

Mr. Bear reported that he will follow-up with the Sheriff.

3. Spraker Road – Chair Vaught reported that Spraker Road is in rough shape and asked staff to relay this to VDOT.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to come before the Board, Chair Vaught adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:18 p.m.

Brian W. Vaught, Chair