

**May 9, 2017**

The Wythe County Board of Supervisors held its regularly scheduled meeting at 5 p.m., Tuesday, May 9, 2017. The location of the meeting was in the Boardroom of the County Administration Building, 340 South Sixth Street, Wytheville, Virginia.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Timothy A. Reeves, Sr., Chair	Steven T. Willis
Joe F. Hale, Vice Chair	Coy L. McRoberts
Gary M. Houseman	B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
Charlie G. Lester	

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Stephen D. Bear, County Administrator (5:10 p.m.)  
Martha G. Collins, Administrative Assistant  
Bill Vaughan, County Engineer

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Reeves determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SIX-YEAR PLAN WORK SESSION**

The Board discussed the current Secondary Road Six-Year Plan, as well as potential roads for addition to the Plan.

**RECESS**

The Board recessed at 5:54 p.m.

**RECONVENE**

The Board reconvened at 7:01 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Timothy A. Reeves, Sr., Chair	Steven T. Willis
Joe F. Hale, Vice Chair	Coy L. McRoberts
Gary M. Houseman	B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
Charlie G. Lester	

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Stephen D. Bear, County Administrator  
Martha G. Collins, Administrative Assistant  
Bill Vaughan, County Engineer

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Sherry Bailey	Paul Matthews
Donald Bowling	Linda Meyer
Ben Bubala	Ray Miller
Michael Collins	Jeff Russell

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Roy Cox  
Alice Grubb  
Jonathan Hammon

Christine Umberger  
Twelve Other Citizens

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Jonathan Hammon of the Grace Lutheran Church provided the invocation and Chair Reeves led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CITIZENS' TIME**

Chair Reeves welcomed the citizens present at the meeting and inquired if anyone wished to address the Board.

1. Salary Schedule – Linda Meyer of 1118 Dry Road in Speedwell addressed the Board. Ms. Meyer requested publication of the proposed County employee salary schedule on the website.

With no one else to address the Board, Chair Reeves closed Citizens' Time.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Board was presented with the April 25, 2017, minutes for adoption.

Supervisor McRoberts made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Lester to approve the April 25, 2017, minutes as presented.

The roll call vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES: Gary M. Houseman Coy L. McRoberts  
Charlie G. Lester B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.  
Steven T. Willis Timothy A. Reeves, Sr.  
Joe F. Hale

NAYS: None

**PAYMENT OF COUNTY INVOICES**

Supervisor Willis made a motion to pay the invoices for approval on May 9, 2017, for the various departments of County government. The invoices were paid on General Warrants 30098040-30098139 as follows:

**EXPENDITURES BY DEPARTMENT  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
May 9, 2017**

<b>CHECK NO.</b>	<b>ISSUE DATE</b>	<b>VENDOR</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
30098040	05/02/17	APPALACHIAN POWER	\$11,227.43
30098041	05/02/17	BUSINESS CARD	\$1,316.59

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30098042	05/02/17	CENTURY LINK	\$45.09
30098043	05/02/17	CENTURY LINK	\$53.56
30098044	05/02/17	CENTURY LINK	\$114.25
30098045	05/02/17	CENTURY LINK	\$244.53
30098046	05/02/17	CENTURY LINK	\$4,094.56
30098047	05/02/17	CENTURY LINK	\$4,946.94
30098048	05/02/17	CITIZENS TELEPHONE COOP	\$720.00
30098049	05/02/17	LUMOS NETWORKS	\$31.72
30098050	05/02/17	MANSFIELD OIL CO.	\$7,483.38
30098051	05/02/17	TOWN OF WYTHEVILLE	\$713.02
30098052	05/02/17	VITA	\$234.99
<b>TOTAL CHECKS 05/02/17</b>			<b>\$31,226.06</b>

<b>CHECK NO.</b>	<b>ISSUE DATE</b>	<b>VENDOR</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
30098053	05/09/17	ALLEY, RONALD LEE	\$30.00
30098054	05/09/17	AMERICAN MINE RESEARCH INC.	\$2,000.00
30098055	05/09/17	APPALACHIAN POWER	\$2,651.99
30098056	05/09/17	APPLIED INDUSTRIAL TECH	\$1,484.43
30098057	05/09/17	BLUE RIDGE AUTO PARTS INC.	\$39.99
30098058	05/09/17	BORING CONTRACTORS	\$43,637.47
30098059	05/09/17	BUSINESS INFORMATION SYSTEMS	\$33.50
30098060	05/09/17	CENTURY LINK	\$39.98
30098061	05/09/17	CENTURY LINK	\$46.29
30098062	05/09/17	CENTURY LINK	\$70.28
30098063	05/09/17	CENTURY LINK	\$75.53
30098064	05/09/17	CENTURY LINK	\$108.73
30098065	05/09/17	CENTURY LINK	\$145.98
30098066	05/09/17	CENTURY LINK	\$322.84
30098067	05/09/17	CLINE'S BODY SHOP LLC	\$1,152.54
30098068	05/09/17	COLLINS AUTO REPAIR INC.	\$122.42
30098069	05/09/17	CREATIVE GLASS INC.	\$507.97
30098070	05/09/17	DALTON, SUSAN P.	\$30.00
30098071	05/09/17	DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES	\$150.75
30098072	05/09/17	DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES	\$1,780.00
30098073	05/09/17	DUKE'S PRINTING	\$303.00
30098074	05/09/17	DUNAGAN, KEITH	\$203.00
30098075	05/09/17	EMS INC.	\$1,155.00
30098076	05/09/17	F & R ELECTRIC INC.	\$7,403.00
30098077	05/09/17	FERGUSON ENTERPRISES NO. 5	\$3,347.04
30098078	05/09/17	FORT CHISWELL GRAB N GO	\$75.00
30098079	05/09/17	FOWLKES MACHINE CO. INC.	\$397.35
30098080	05/09/17	GALLS	\$230.42
30098081	05/09/17	GRANT, BRUCE M.	\$4,074.25
30098082	05/09/17	HORNEY, HAYDEN H.	\$376.58
30098083	05/09/17	HUFF FORD	\$47.31

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30098084	05/09/17	IVANHOE FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$7,620.93
30098085	05/09/17	JASON'S AUTO SERVICE	\$32.00
30098086	05/09/17	JOINT PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY	\$39,091.52
30098087	05/09/17	KC AUTOMOTIVE	\$124.90
30098088	05/09/17	KING-MOORE INC.	\$1,417.00
30098089	05/09/17	LANE GROUP, THE	\$19,952.80
30098090	05/09/17	LEXIS NEXIS	\$384.30
30098091	05/09/17	LEXIS NEXIS	\$710.00
30098092	05/09/17	LITZ, TIM	\$30.00
30098093	05/09/17	MABE, GERALD E. II	\$372.00
30098094	05/09/17	MCROBERTS AUTO	\$482.29
30098095	05/09/17	MEADE CONTRACTING	\$51,633.75
30098096	05/09/17	MILO C. COCKERHAM INC.	\$301.19
30098097	05/09/17	MODERN SHOE STORE	\$134.94
30098098	05/09/17	MOUNT ROGERS PDC	\$4,534.25
30098099	05/09/17	NATIONAL BANK	\$299.00
30098100	05/09/17	NEW RIVER RESOURCE AUTHORITY	\$555.79
30098101	05/09/17	NEW RIVER HIGHLANDS RCD	\$2,000.00
30098102	05/09/17	NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY CO.	\$315.25
30098103	05/09/17	PEED AND BORTZ LLC.	\$17,700.00
30098104	05/09/17	POSTAGE BY PHONE RESERVE ACCOUNT	\$1,590.00
30098105	05/09/17	PROTECT YOUTH SPORTS	\$217.85
30098106	05/09/17	RENTAL HUB INC.	\$45.00
30098107	05/09/17	RURAL DEVELOPMENT	\$2,282.00
30098108	05/09/17	RURAL DEVELOPMENT	\$2,514.00
30098109	05/09/17	RURAL DEVELOPMENT	\$11,572.00
30098110	05/09/17	SENTRY SERVICES	\$571.01
30098111	05/09/17	SMYTH WYTHE AIRPORT COMMISSION	\$20,010.00
30098112	05/09/17	SOUTHWESTERN EQUIPMENT	\$312.59
30098113	05/09/17	SPEEDWELL FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$9,381.68
30098114	05/09/17	SPELLMAN TECHNOLOGIES INC.	\$24,873.00
30098115	05/09/17	STATE ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO.	\$218.99
30098116	05/09/17	SUNTRUST	\$36,881.92
30098117	05/09/17	SUPPLY WORKS	\$947.95
30098118	05/09/17	THOMAS, SAMMI	\$30.00
30098119	05/09/17	THOMPSON TIRE	\$680.99
30098120	05/09/17	THREE RIVERS MEDIA CORP.	\$330.00
30098121	05/09/17	TOWN OF WYTHEVILLE	\$4,654.65
30098122	05/09/17	TRANSUNION RISK AND ALTERNATIVE	\$40.00
30098123	05/09/17	TRI CITIES/SWVA REGIONAL	\$2,343.40
30098124	05/09/17	TYLER TECHNOLOGIES INC.	\$939.26
30098125	05/09/17	US POSTAL SERVICE	\$1,400.00
30098126	05/09/17	V & M RECYCLING	\$69,617.80
30098127	05/09/17	VERIZON WIRELESS	\$50.29
30098128	05/09/17	VIRGINIA BUSINESS SYSTEMS	\$791.01

30098129	05/09/17	VIRGINIA RESOURCES AUTHORITY	\$3,418.77
30098130	05/09/17	VITA	\$148.41
30098131	05/09/17	WILLIS, STEVEN T.	\$30.00
30098132	05/09/17	WYTHE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT	\$116.40
30098133	05/09/17	WYTHE COUNTY WATER/WASTEWATER	\$229.15
30098134	05/09/17	WYTHE CUSTOM WELDING INC.	\$40.00
30098135	05/09/17	WYTHE TIRE AND MUFFLER	\$604.63
30098136	05/09/17	WYTHE VA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION	\$3,000.00
30098137	05/09/17	WYTHEVILLE OFFICE SUPPLY	\$1,231.27
30098138	05/09/17	XEROX	\$663.85
30098139	05/09/17	YA HILL AUTO PARTS	\$25.51
<b>TOTAL CHECKS 05/09/17</b>			<b>\$421,537.93</b>

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES APPROVED 05/09/17** **\$452,763.99**

Supervisor Lester seconded the motion.

The roll call vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Gary M. Houseman	Coy L. McRoberts
	Charlie G. Lester	B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
	Steven T. Willis	Timothy A. Reeves, Sr.
	Joe F. Hale	

NAYS: None

**PUBLIC HEARING – CROCKETT’S COVE AND EAST CROCKETT’S COVE AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTAL DISTRICT**

Chair Reeves announced that notice is hereby given that the Board of Supervisors of Wythe County, Virginia, in compliance with the Code of Virginia and amendments thereto, will hold a public hearing to receive comments concerning adoption of Amendment No. 2 to Ordinance 1999-3, Crockett’s Cove and East Crockett’s Cove Agricultural and Forestal District, Wythe County, Virginia. Adoption of the Ordinance would extend the Crockett’s Cove and East Crockett’s Cove District for a period of ten years. The public hearing, which may be continued or adjourned, and at which persons may appear and present their views on the matter, will be held at 7:05 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard on May 9, 2017, before the Board in the Boardroom of the County Administration Building, 340 South Sixth Street, Wytheville, Virginia.

Mr. Bear reported that the Crockett’s Cove and East Crockett’s Cove Agricultural and Forestal District has been in existence since the late 1990s. He advised that following review and a public hearing, the Planning Commission and Agricultural and Forestal District Advisory Committee have recommended adoption of Amendment No. 2. Mr. Bear explained that the Amendment would extend the District for an additional 10 year period, with the next review in 2027.

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Chair Reeves opened the public hearing and inquired if anyone present wished to address the Board.

With no one to address the Board, Chair Reeves closed the public hearing.

Supervisor Lester made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Willis to adopt Ordinance 1999-3, Amendment No. 2, Crockett's Cove and East Crockett's Cove Agricultural and Forestal District, Wythe County, Virginia, as presented.

The roll call vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Gary M. Houseman	Coy L. McRoberts
	Charlie G. Lester	B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
	Steven T. Willis	Timothy A. Reeves, Sr.
	Joe F. Hale	

NAYS: None

**PUBLIC HEARING – SECONDARY SIX-YEAR ROAD PLAN**

Chair Reeves announced that notice is hereby given that the Board of Supervisors of Wythe County and the Virginia Department of Transportation, in accordance with Section 33.1-70.01 of the Code of Virginia, will conduct a joint public hearing. The purpose of the public hearing will be to receive comments on the proposed Secondary Six-Year Plan for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 through Fiscal Year 2022-2023 and the Secondary System Construction Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018. The public hearing, which may be continued or adjourned, and at which persons may appear and present their views on the proposed Plan, will be held at 7:10 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on May 9, 2017, in the Boardroom of the County Administration Building, 340 South Sixth Street Wytheville, Virginia.

Jeff Russell, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Residency Administrator, addressed the Board. Mr. Russell reviewed the previously approved Secondary Road Six-Year Plan with the Board and those present. He reported that the County has been allocated \$3,399,737 in projected funding for road projects throughout the six years of the Plan, which would fully fund all of the current Plan projects. Mr. Russell explained that current projects include Myrtle Lane, two sections of Sharons Drive, two sections of New Bethel Road, Crawford Road, two portions of Major Graham Road, Nixon Road, Pump Hollow Road, a portion of Millers Creek Road, Mount Airy Road, Wilkins Lane, and Pope Road. He noted that \$1,034,000 in additional funding is available for other projects, which could potentially fund improvement of approximately five miles of rural rustic eligible roads. Mr. Russell stated that the public hearing would allow VDOT to receive input from the citizens and Board to determine what projects could be added to the Plan with those additional funds.

Mr. Russell advised that the Board had submitted a list of roads for potential addition to the plan for VDOT's consideration. He reported that Kings Chapel Road, Gullion Fork Road, Millers Creek (.5 mile), Glade Road (.4 mile), Scowanda Road (1.1 miles), Back Road (1.1 miles), Jonas Town Road (.3 mile), Walters Road (.4 mile), and two sections of Walton Furnace Road are eligible as rural rustic projects. Mr. Russell explained that the section of Walton Furnace Road off of Route 630 currently has several existing cattle guards in the roadway that would have to be addressed before it could be considered for addition to the Plan. He noted that Conners Valley Road could be improved rural rustically if several issues are first resolved. Mr. Russell added that Dry Pond Road's traffic counts are lower than the rural rustic eligibility guidelines, and; therefore, may not be a top priority for improvement.

Supervisor Hale questioned if they could relocate Conners Valley Road to the first flood plain bench.

Mr. Russell noted that if relocated, the Conners Valley Road project would no longer be rural rustic eligible.

Supervisor Hale inquired if the Board would consider addition of Conners Valley Road to the Plan as a construction project. He noted that the project could be completed in phases.

Mr. Russell explained that a road could be improved as a rural rustic road with State forces for \$200,000 per mile, opposed to improvement as a construction project with a conservative estimated cost of \$2 million per mile. He added that any road can be completed as a construction project, but the cost does increase substantially.

Supervisor Houseman asked what sections of New Bethel Road are included in the current Six-Year Plan.

Mr. Russell advised that they would pave one section from the end of the pavement toward the low water bridge and a second section from the other end towards the bridge. He noted that they hope to improve the road to the majority if not all of the residences.

Chair Reeves opened the public hearing and inquired if anyone present wished to address the Board concerning the proposed Fiscal Year 2017-2018 through Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Secondary Six-Year Road Plan and construction budget.

Alvin Ray Miller of 748 Hogback Road in Wytheville addressed the Board and stated the following:

"I heard Glade Road mentioned this evening, which I think is necessary to do something with as far as settling the dust. On Hogback Road, I am not sure how many houses are along Hogback from Route 11 to Blacklick Road. There are quite a few. Now recently there is a trucking company moved in just beyond our house. Those semis going

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through there it seems like they create 10 times more dust. I would like for that to be at least considered or put on a project list or something. On the way from my house to Route 11 there is a very narrow space. The road gets very narrow and it is curvy. If you meet a semi on those curves, somebody has to get in the ditch. There is also a school bus that uses that road. Maybe something to consider. I would like for it to at least be thought about or brought to your attention. That is why I am here this evening. Thank you."

Chair Reeves inquired if the remaining section of Hogback Road would qualify as a rural rustic project.

Mr. Russell confirmed that it would qualify.

Michael Collins of 2139 Walton Furnace Road in Max Meadows addressed the Board and stated the following:

"What I want to bring to your attention is, I have lived there for 25 years and 4 years ago they moved in, Bland Bottomley bought the farm beside me and they put a big pumpkin building below me. He has all of the farms rented around there. For about eight weeks out of the year you can't even see my house for the dust. Last year we rough counted 400 tractor and trailers coming out of the dirt road. It takes four trucks to fill a tractor and trailer. They are coming off of Weavers Farm, three or four farms coming out of Ivanhoe, and the farm beside of me. You are looking at somewhere around 1,500 to 1,600 trucks. Small trucks. Hauls 12 pallets to a truck. That is non-stop. Daylight to dark. I take a five-gallon bucket every day and dump water across my wife's windshield, across mine every morning so that we can go to work. Come back out the next morning. I just had the house remodeled. You can't tell what color the roof is. You can't tell what color the trees are. I would just like to see it upgraded some. I have had it sprayed twice. I called Richmond. I called Salem. Spray it, two days you are back to the dust cloud. There is no holding it up. Like I said, they have a job to do and they have to make a living too. I would like to see it taken care of. The cattle guard is just beyond my house. I am just inside the cattle guard. It is the last two cattle guards on that road. I don't think that it is going to affect the speed because nobody seems to know that that is a dirt road. It is used as an interstate. It is a crossover so that they don't have to come through Fort Chiswell."

Chair Reeves questioned how far Mr. Collins' house is from the first cattle guard.

Mr. Collins stated, "One hundred and ten yards to the first cattle guard. Then it is a tenth to the paved road. Tommy Stone owns the cattle and the farm. My understanding is that he and Bottomley are in talks about buying the farm. I don't know how that has went. It would probably help me if they did."

Chair Reeves inquired if Mr. Stone would be willing to add a fence from Mr. Collins' house.



Mr. Collins stated, "I offered to do it, but I haven't heard back from him. I told him I would pay for the fence if you will okay the State to move the cattle guard below my house. I said I will build a fence. I will pay for it or I will build it however you want to do it."

Chair Reeves asked if there are additional cattle guards past Mr. Collins' house.

Mr. Collins stated, "One more. That is the last two on the road. Bland has bought everything. Mr. Bottomley has bought everything below it. It used to be five on there, but he has bought everything from Tommy Stone's on the lower end all the way to where it hits 619 at Austinville. It really has become in the last four years, I have lived down there for like I said 25 years, and I like the rural rustic setting being out there and I don't really mind the dirt road at times. From about the middle of September to the first of November there is no relief. There is none. From daylight to 11 p.m. to 12 a.m. they are picking pumpkins. If they are not picking pumpkins, there are 18 to 20 tractor and trailers sitting on the road, on the dirt road. You have to go up onto the bank to go around them. He actually went and had the road widened with his own money so that he could park the tractor and trailers out of the road to keep the State road open. That is what I am looking at. If it can be done, I sure would appreciate it. My wife would really surely appreciate it."

Chair Reeves noted that in order to consider improvement of the road, the landowners would have to cooperate with VDOT concerning fencing and relocation of the cattle guard.

Mr. Collins stated, "I don't have no cattle. I have a few goats. A few horses on my side of the fence. I have it fenced. There is no fence on his side from the cattle guard down past my house. I have offered. I made him an offer. I said I will build it all. It won't cost you a dime and we will move the cattle guard. I haven't heard anything back from him. I don't know if they are still trying to sell it."

Chair Reeves advised that if Mr. Collins can relocate or remove the cattle guard, the Board may consider addition of the road to the Six Year Plan.

Christine Umberger of 634 Hogback Road in Wytheville addressed the Board and stated the following:

"I am speaking today on behalf of some of the people on Glade and Hogback Road. In front of my house. Well to start with, my husband and I moved to Hogback in the 70s and in the 70s, there were four houses or five houses up there. Today, we have at least 16 plus houses. The farmland was sold and housing developments were built. We are not against that, but we do need some road improvements. Part of the road has been paved, but in front of my house there is .3 of a mile on Glade Road that still needs some kind of pavement. If we could get in the rustic road, that would be great. That would be wonderful or whatever. Also, on Hogback from where Glade hooks on to Hogback that is also in front of my house, Hogback has approximately 1.5 miles until it hits the

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Blacklick Road. I don't know whether that would be considered rustic or not. I am just concerned. We are mainly concerned. The traffic is horrendous up there now. We have a lot of the trucking companies, as Mr. Miller has stated, we have a trucking company that is running the semis through there. The road is not wide enough for them to start with, but they are coming from one side of Blacklick Road until I don't know where they are heading with their logs. I personally got on. I met one of them on the road before you get to Blacklick Road and I stopped my car and the truck barely could get passed me. They can't stop because they are loaded. I am concerned about the dust, the potholes, the washboard roads. It is just unreal. I am not condemning the State Department. They come and they do their paving, I mean their grading and their rocks on the road. I am not condemning them. You can come one day and the next day or two you still got your potholes, your ruts, your washboard, and the dust. We desperately need some help up there getting some of that done on the actually less than two miles of road."

Supervisor Houseman questioned where the trucking company is located.

Ms. Umberger stated that "it is right behind my house. The Fred Cox's property. They sold it to a company, well a family I presume, it has a company in it too. It is out of Pennsylvania. My understanding is they are building a big house up behind my house on the next hill over there. The trucks are there all the time. It is right at the road as you are coming across Hogback. It is in a curve right there where you start my line. Right there in that curve. It is just unreal. The dust is horrible. When we have rain, which we have had. Thank God for the rain, don't get me wrong. We have the potholes. The water doesn't run down the ditch lines. When it doesn't run down the ditch lines then you have those big ruts in the road. It is hard to travel. We desperately need some help. I think that that would cut down on the expense of the State having to run your motor grader out there and motor grade that road at least four or more times a year and haul gravel that has washed into the ditch. We need some help. Please. We need help. If we could be on the rustic road, that would be great. Thank you."

Roy Cox of 1262 Pope Road in Ivanhoe addressed the Board and stated the following:

"I have been here quite a few times about this. The road like I say is blacktopped on both ends. We are in the middle. I can sympathize with the two people that just got up with the dust and the potholes and the washboards. I know we are on the Six-Year Plan, but I would like to know where at. A lot of people says you ain't going get that paved in your lifetime, but I don't believe that. I believe Mr. Hale will take care of that. He did come up with a bridge. You know, we took a double hit with the bridge gone. We got to go three to seven miles out of the way to get out of there and today this is the third time I have been to town. I know it is a low traffic road, but seems to me I have to keep it hot."

Mr. Russell advised that Pope Road is scheduled to be fully funded in July 2021 with construction potentially beginning in 2020. He noted that those future funds are

projected only, and could be unallocated, as the only guaranteed funding is the current year's funding.

Mr. Cox stated "Mr. Hale had the idea about putting culverts in there so that we could get in and out before we can get the bridge. Then Mr. Russell said that was shot down through environmental people, wouldn't allow that. I am yet to understand what that would pollute the creek because culverts run into it from off the road all the time. This big rain before last, it washed my road out bad. I couldn't hardly get out of the driveway. VDOT came in there and they fixed it. They done a good job fixing the road there in front of the house. They took about a dump load of stuff out of the culverts there and on the side. I was thinking maybe we ought to put some kind of guard in there to catch that debris before it stops up the pipes. You just take your tractor or something or other and just pick it up and dump it. I don't know if they would be allowed to do that or not. That is an idea. You can sort of study about that. There are other culverts there too that are about stopped up. That is about all I can say. Just sit back and hope."

Paul Matthews of Pope Road in Ivanhoe addressed the Board and stated the following:

"My concern tonight. When you leave Powder Mill Road going on Pope Road before you get to the grade up around, it is a culvert there. They grade their ditch line in to it, but it is stopped up. It don't drain nothing. Road floods there when it rains. Going up the grade, the road is barely wide enough for two vehicles to pass slow. If you get off the surface you are in a ditch about this deep. If you have a car, you are on the bottom. Why can't we get something done about filling them ditches with coarse rock to have a shoulder on that road. I met the school bus on the turn up the grade a Friday evening and we almost had a collision because it is so narrow. That road, you can't pass going down that grade. You cannot pass a vehicle at any speed because you ain't got nowhere to go. You can't get off the surface of the road because you are in a ditch. There have been several cars that had to be towed out of the ditches because they got over too far and got in the ditch. Going down the grade from the top of the hill towards Guava Lane it is a drainpipe there that ain't been cleaned out. They ain't drained nothing for the last five, six, seven years. They run the ditch into the end of it, but it is full of dirt and rocks. It hasn't done no good and then the water just washes on down the hill and across the road and everything else. We need to get something done about them drain pipes. If they ain't going to use them why even be in there. We mentioned it to them about four or five years ago. The one from Guava Lane up the grade up there. Oh, we got a system that we can flush that pipe right out. That was five years ago. Guess what, the pipe is still stopped up. The system ain't got it flushed out. We need a curve on that hill. We need gravel in that ditch line. There are places the ditch is that deep. If you get off the surface of the road, the car is on the bottom. I believe it would bottom out one of the school buses if it got off. We need something done about the hill. Also, we need to if possible to keep gravel on that road to keep us out of the mud. Appreciate if you would get something done about it. Thank you."

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Alice Grubb of 868 New Bethel Road in Wytheville addressed the Board and stated the following:

"First of all I would like to say thank you for clarifying tonight that we are on a Six-Year Plan. Dr. Houseman asked a question we had about from the bridge to the road and that was clarified, but we do have a couple of other questions. What year can we expect our road to be taken care of? I am talking about New Bethel."

Mr. Russell stated that both portions of New Bethel Road are scheduled to be fully funded this year. He noted that they do have several projects ahead of New Bethel Road, but hope to begin work this year.

Ms. Grubb stated, "We have waited 60 years and will wait until the end of this year. If we don't have it at the end of this year, we will be back. We can rest assured that we are on the Plan and our road is going to be taken care of. All right I am going to hold you to that sir. I appreciate you all. Thank you very much. I think that the people that are with me. Do you all have anything else that you want me to ask? We have a lot of representatives on our road here tonight. If they don't live on our road, they go to church on our road. We are going to hold you to it. Thank you very much. We look forward to having a road paved."

Ben Bubala of 611 Scratch Gravel Road in Max Meadows addressed the Board and stated the following:

"I was here this past summer and Mr. Russell was here and talked about the possibility of doing Scratch Gravel Road. He said that he had looked at it. It is 1.7 miles. I am hearing tonight, car traffic and things like that. Is there other things that would keep Scratch Gravel from being put on a rural rustic list."

Mr. Russell reported that currently the roadway surface width is 13 to 14 feet and has several steep slopes. He explained that to build a rural rustic road, they must be able to build the road including slopes within the prescriptive easement, which is normally 30 feet. Mr. Russell noted that in order to widen the road from 13 to 16 feet with 2 feet of shoulder and then correct the slopes, they would most likely be outside of the 30-foot easement footprint. He stated that Scratch Gravel Road is not rural rustic eligible.

Mr. Bubala stated, "I hear a lot of stories here tonight and I appreciate everything these people have to say. Basically, we have the same problem. If it rains hard, the State has to come out grade it, rock it, and they come out probably, I have had them out three or four times. It seems like the State is spending more money coming out and rocking it, grading it, if they grade it properly. Sometimes they have to come back and grade it a second time because they don't get the washboard out for whatever reason. Over the years it would seem all of these roads if they could be put on the Plan so that the people know that something is going to happen. In the long run the State would save the money. I think everybody agrees that the problem is how do you do it."

Chair Reeves explained that they attempt to limit the Plan to roads that can feasibly be funded within the six years.

Mr. Bubala asked, "Can I put shock absorbers and a front end alignment on your budget, so that every year I can get one of those. What is the process that can maybe somewhere down the line get Scratch Gravel on this."

Chair Reeves noted that they have a public hearing every year to discuss the Plan, the amount of funding available, and roads to be added. He explained that once some of the roads are completed, they may be able to add more roads to the Plan.

Ms. Umberger readdressed the Board and stated, "I would like to know, is there any chance that we are going to be put on a Plan. My understanding is several years ago, that we got put on the rustic road for the little dab of Glade Road and for some reason we never did get it done. Do you know if we were on it or not? I was told several years ago that it was put on the rustic road. That .3 of a mile right on the Glade Road that runs into the Hogback Road. We are desperate up there. There is the three tenths on the Glade and then there is about a mile and a half on the Hogback. We desperately need that road something done about it. There is added. The people are moving in up there. They are building up there and then people travel it all the time. This trucking company. We don't know what is going to happen there. We just desperately need some help. Please help us. I am looking at you."

Mr. Russell noted that it may have been rural rustic, but that does not mean that it was on the Six-Year Plan. He explained that being rural rustic does not necessarily place the road on the Six-Year Plan project list.

Donald Bowling of 973 Grouse Ridge Road in Max Meadows addressed the Board and stated the following:

"We are here tonight to get some explanation. We should have been on the Six-Year Plan on Grouse Ridge Road according to our petition we signed with you. Can you explain some of that to us, number one."

Supervisor Hale reported that VDOT had appropriated funds through the revenue sharing program for improvement of Grouse Ridge Road, but were not able to proceed due to the issues with the right-of-way. He explained that there is no right-of-way causing the residents to be land locked. Supervisor Hale stated that they had attempted to locate another access point into the multiple subdivisions through Gunton Park, which would have provided VDOT access to the subdivision leaving only a small portion to be maintained by the residents. He noted that the residents did not sign the necessary documents or agree to provide the required funding through the revenue sharing program.

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Mr. Bowling stated, "We all agreed to that didn't we... Didn't we all sign. We signed them all with you. Then we understood from you that our money went to the expo center. I am here to try to speak for us. I think Mr. Hale could speak for us a little bit too here. We have had several situations since then with the school bus coming in there and you know we had a very serious house fire up there on that mountain this past summer. Mr. Rick Skeens from the superintendent board called me while I was in Christiansburg to ask what to do with the kids. Where to drop them at, because we got one way in there and one way out. It is a very serious situation. It is not something that needs to be overlooked. From what I understand the right-of-way, from what I have heard, you can help us here. That there was one man over there at Gunton Park that stopped it. Is that true or not."

Supervisor Hale noted that there were three individuals from Gunton Park that attended the public meeting in opposition to the project since it would split their properties. He explained that the County Attorney had investigated the right-of-way issue and determined that the right-of-ways were not valid. Supervisor Hale advised that without valid right-of-ways in place the State cannot invest funds in the project.

Mr. Bowling asked "In that case, how can the County give us deeds to property up there and give us right-of-way to 610, but never below it. We are land locked from every one of you that give us those deeds. We pay as much taxes there that you people got sidewalks on. We would have like to have a school bus pick our kids up in front of our school, houses, and not have to worry if they are trapped. Four miles from our house. Now, we put men on the moon. My heart goes to these people with dust and potholes that we have sit here and listen to. If they go, they would turn around before and you know it."

Supervisor Hale advised that the residents did sign a petition at the informational meeting, but did not sign the necessary document agreeing to fund their portion of the project. He explained that if more than fifty percent of the residents had agreed to pay additional taxes to fund the project, it may have proceeded. Supervisor Hale noted that the landowners did not sign agreements to increase their taxes to fund the project, and the allocation was therefore, returned to VDOT.

Mr. Bowling stated that "they signed a petition... You did bring up the plan that it was going to have to come in phases. You did bring up the percentage of taxes. That it was going to raise our taxes. That it was going to cost a \$0.50 on a hundred and then we signed. Then we waited on a response from you."

Sherry Harris of 884 Grouse Ridge Road in Max Meadows addressed the Board and stated the following:

"I have lived on this road for 21 years coming in August. I purchased this property July 26 of 1996. Two years after I purchased this property there was another subdivision developed as a right-of-way off of Grouse Ridge to Deerwood Heights under the assumption that Wythe County approved another exit out coming off of Deerwood

Heights into Millers Creek... I have a question for each and every one of you sitting here tonight. We as citizens, we work every day. I go out of there every day. I have raised children in that subdivision and I haul them to school every day with my tax money paying for a bus delivered. We need your all's help. Point blank I don't care who, which one of you all helps us. If is you, you, you. We need help out of there. We have not just Mr. Joe Hale. We have had Lisa Eaton come to our subdivision promising us that that six-year committee we would be on that. Not only her. She got voted out, moved on. Ms. Maggie Poole come to our subdivision promised us, put us on the committee, on the Six-Year Plan. Sir we have been on it."

Chair Reeves advised that Grouse Ridge Road cannot be added to the Six-Year Plan, as it is not a State maintained road.

Ms. Harris stated that "the only thing that has been told to us is that the County took it over, Wythe County took it over."

Mr. Bowling added that "There is also a problem that needs to be brought to your attention too. Sherry is correct with everything that she says. When she mentioned the school bus and Mr. Hale, I have had to call him on this. We have had to deal with the superintendent, when that school bus comes off the State maintained road in there, they come in the subdivision, that bus has to turn around three or four times to turn around and unload the kids in danger, open the doors in the traffic that comes off of your State road into there in danger. Haven't we discussed this. It is very dangerous. There are more reasons."

Supervisor Hale noted that when called concerning the school bus, he immediately contacted the superintendent of schools who stated that he would ride the bus to investigate the issue.

Mr. Bowling stated "No, inside, on Grouse Ridge Road. They come inside on Grouse Ridge Road. That is a different one."

Supervisor Hale explained that Mr. Milgrim, who owns the property on both sides of the road, was verbally promised that they would build a new bridge, if he allowed the parking area/turnaround. He noted that the Ruritan Club had even offered to build a shelter for the children to use while waiting for the bus. Supervisor Hale advised that Mr. Milgrim would not let them proceed with the turnaround since he did not get what he wanted. He added that a turnaround is needed there for the bus, as it is not currently a safe situation.

Chair Reeves questioned if those present are positive that 50% of the residents have agreed to the tax increase. He noted that the right-of-way issue has to be settled before they can proceed, and they will work to try to locate a solution. Chair Reeves requested that the group select a couple of individuals to meet with Mr. Bear to discuss the process needed to have the road constructed.

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The residents present confirmed that 50% of the landowners have agreed to the tax increase.

Mr. Bear requested that the landowners call his office to schedule a meeting.

Mr. Bubala asked if Scratch Gravel Road could be graded to alleviate the washboarding issue on the hill from 300 Scratch Gravel Road to 500 Scratch Gravel Road.

Mr. Russell noted that he would inform the grading crew of the issue. He explained that they do attempt to cut the washboards out, but they are not able to pack the road after grading causing vehicles on the steep hill to bounce, which then creates more problems. Mr. Russell added that they would investigate possible grading of the portion of Scratch Gravel Road as requested.

With no one else to address the Board, Chair Reeves closed the public hearing.

### **RECESS**

The Board recessed for a short break at 8:19 p.m.

### **RECONVENE**

The Board reconvened at 8:31 p.m.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

1. Real Estate Rehabilitation Incentive Program – Supervisor Hale made a motion as recommended by the Economic Development Committee to schedule a public hearing for adoption of a proposed ordinance providing a partial exemption from real estate taxation for certain rehabilitated commercial and industrial real estate properties.

Mr. Bear reported that the proposed ordinance would provide a partial real estate tax exemption to rehabilitated structures at least 40 years old located within an enterprise zone area. He explained that property owners who apply to the Commissioner of the Revenue prior to beginning the rehabilitation work could receive an exemption to taxes for the increase in property value at a rate of 100% the first year, 80% in the second year, 60% the third year, 40% in the fourth, and 20% in the fifth and final year of exemption. Mr. Bear noted that at the end of five years the property owner would begin paying taxes assessed on the full value of the newly renovated property.

Supervisor Houseman questioned if new construction would also be included in the exemption.

Mr. Bear advised that the proposed program would only apply to renovated structures at least 40 years old. He added that the program would not retroactively apply to previously renovated structures.



The motion to set the public hearing for discussion of the proposed ordinance providing a partial exemption from real estate taxation for certain rehabilitated commercial and industrial real estate properties for July 11 at 7:05 p.m. passed unanimously.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

1. Ninth District Development Financing Inc. Board of Directors – Supervisor Horney made a motion, seconded by Supervisor McRoberts to reappoint Jennifer Atwell to serve on the Ninth District Development Financing Inc. Board of Directors for an additional two-year term.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. Southwest Virginia Emergency Medical Services Council – Supervisor Houseman made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Horney to appoint Jason Busick to the Southwest Virginia Emergency Medical Services Council.

The motion passed unanimously.

## **RADIO COMMUNICATION PROJECT GRANT**

The Board reviewed and discussed a proposed letter in support of a joint grant application to be submitted by the Wythe County and Bland County Sheriff's Offices to address law enforcement radio communication equipment needs.

Mr. Bear advised that Jeremy Farley, Wythe County Grant Officer, is working with the Wythe County and Bland County Sheriff's Offices to apply jointly for grant funding for the project and has requested a letter of support from the Board. He requested that the Board review the letter, and if acceptable, make a motion to approve the letter for submittal with the grant application.

Supervisor Hale questioned the amount of the grant.

Mr. Farley explained that the grant, if awarded, would provide \$25,000 to \$30,000 to the Bland County Sheriff's Office and \$120,000 to \$130,000 to the Wythe County Sheriff's Office for a total maximum amount of \$150,000. He advised that the Wythe County Sheriff's Office would be required to provide approximately \$24,000 in matching funds, which they plan to pay from the Police Activity Fund and Federal funding.

Supervisor Horney made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Willis to approve the letter of support of the Wythe and Bland Counties radio communication project grant.

The motion passed unanimously.

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**ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING FIRM INTERVIEWS**

Supervisor McRoberts inquired when they plan to meet to interview architectural and engineering firms.

Mr. Bear advised that they could interview all firms who have submitted proposals or narrow down the selection to the top three. He explained that Chair Reeves had recommended that two Water Committee members and one Economic Development Committee member conduct the interviews.

Chair Reeves noted that Supervisor Hale had agreed to participate in the interviews as the Economic Development Committee representative.

Mr. Bear requested that Interview Committee members review the proposals and submit recommendations to County Engineer Vaughan by May 12.

**SECONDARY SIX-YEAR ROAD PLAN**

Mr. Bear explained that Mr. Russell would prepare information on the roads discussed at the public hearing for the Board's consideration at the May 23 meeting. He reported that roads submitted by the Board for inclusion were the unpaved section of Glade Road, Walters Road, Millers Creek Road from Smith Road to Heather Road, Walton Furnace Road, Back Road, and Kings Chapel Road.

Supervisor Houseman recommended the addition of Hogback Road from the paved section to Blacklick Road to the Secondary Road Six-Year Plan.

Supervisor Hale requested that they clarify to the citizens who have asked for inclusion of their road that these would be added to the end of the Plan and would not be improved, if approved, until at least Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

Following discussion, Supervisor Horney made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Hale to recommend roads for potential inclusion on the Secondary Road Six-Year Plan as follows:

- Back Road from Route 690, Slate Springs Branch to Route 690, Cripple Creek Road – 1.10 miles
- Glade Road from Route 666, Hogback Road to Route 711, King Neill Lane – .40 mile
- Gullion Fork Road from end of pavement to dead end – .17 mile
- Hogback Road from end of pavement to Blacklick Road
- Jonas Town Road from Route 619, Saint Peters Road to dead end – .30 mile
- Kings Chapel Road from end of pavement to Route 781, Butterfly Lane – .20 mile
- Millers Creek Road from Smith Road to Heather Lane – .50 mile
- Walters Road from Route 664, Glade Road to dead end – .40 mile
- Walton Furnace Road from Route 630, Sanders Mine Road to the first cattle guard – .10 mile (or further south if landowner can move cattle guard)

The roll call vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Gary M. Houseman	Coy L. McRoberts
	Charlie G. Lester	B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.
	Steven T. Willis	Timothy A. Reeves, Sr.
	Joe F. Hale	

NAYS: None

**APPALACHIAN REGIONAL EXPOSITION CENTER SITE**

Mr. Bear noted that they are continuing to work to address the Appalachian Regional Exposition Center site notice of violation stormwater management issues.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Supervisor Horney noted that he would be unable to attend the May 16 Water Committee meeting as scheduled. He requested that they either reschedule the meeting or another Board member attend in his stead.

Mr. Bear requested that they reschedule the May 18 Budget Committee meeting.

The Budget Committee members agreed to reschedule the Budget Committee meeting to Friday, May 19 at 8 a.m.

Chair Reeves asked if they could reschedule the May 17 Joint Public Service Authority meeting.

The Joint Public Service Authority members agreed to reschedule the May meeting to May 25 at 7 p.m., if acceptable with Mr. Bass.

Supervisor Houseman and Supervisor McRoberts agreed to hold the Water Committee meeting as scheduled on May 16 at 9:30 a.m. with another Board member attending in Supervisor Horney's place if possible.

Mr. Bear advised that the Economic Development Committee is scheduled to meet on May 10 at 8 a.m. to review the Exposition Center plans. He reported that the meeting with the Retail Coach would be held at the Joint Industrial Development Authority Office on May 11 at 3 p.m. with the stakeholders meeting to follow at 5 p.m.

Supervisor Houseman reported that area school graduations are scheduled as follows: Vocational School, Thursday, May 18; Rural Retreat and George Wythe, Friday, May 19; and Fort Chiswell, Saturday, May 20.

Chair Reeves noted that he, Supervisor Hale, Mr. Farley, and hopefully Matthew Miller plan to attend the Tobacco Commission sub-committee meeting on May 17 at 4 p.m. and full Commission meeting on May 18 at 8 a.m.

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Supervisor Horney questioned if they are still working to revise the convenience center regulations.

Mr. Bear advised that the Building and Grounds Committee had previously discussed the regulations. He noted that he would add the topic to an upcoming Building and Grounds Committee meeting for further discussion.

Supervisor Houseman explained that V & M Recycling had previously placed a second large box at the Apple House Convenience Center, but have now replaced it with an additional recycling box. He questioned why the large box was removed.

Mr. Bear noted that he would investigate why the box was removed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business to come before the Board, Chair Reeves adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:15 p.m.

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Timothy A. Reeves, Sr., Chair