

May 23, 2017

The Wythe County Board of Supervisors held its regularly scheduled meeting at 9 a.m., Tuesday, May 23, 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
Joe F. Hale, Vice Chair
Gary M. Houseman
Charlie G. Lester

Steven T. Willis
Coy L. McRoberts
B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.

STAFF PRESENT:

Stephen D. Bear, County Administrator
Scot Farthing, County Attorney
Martha G. Collins, Administrative Assistant (9:45 a.m.)
Bill Vaughan, County Engineer
Jennifer Druien, Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Faye Barker
Roy Cox
Keith Dunagan
Lori Guynn
Tim Irving
Josh Lewis

Linda Meyer
Jessie Moore
Jeff Russell
Alan Wilder
Two Other Citizens

CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Chair Reeves determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. Tim Irving of the Wytheville Baptist Church provided the invocation and Chair Reeves led the Pledge of Allegiance.

RESOLUTION 2017-04 – FORENSICS STATE CHAMPIONS

The Board reviewed Resolution 2017-04 in honor of Jessie Moore and Isaac Wheeler, Forensics Serious Duo Interpretation State Champions as follows:

**WYTHE COUNTY RESOLUTION 2017-04
A RESOLUTION HONORING
JESSIE MOORE AND ISAAC WHEELER
FORENSIC SERIOUS DUO INTERPRETATION
STATE CHAMPIONS**

WHEREAS, George Wythe High School freshman Jessie Moore and her Serious Duo Interpretation partner senior Isaac Wheeler completed an outstanding 2016-2017 season; and,

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WHEREAS, Ms. Moore and Mr. Wheeler surpassed teams from five other schools to win the Conference 46 Championship; and,

WHEREAS, the team competed in the Region 1A West Championship at which 25 schools were represented, defeating 6 other groups to win their category; and,

WHEREAS, the duo advanced to the 2016-2017 Virginia High School League Group 1A State Forensic Championship; and,

WHEREAS, the pair's presentation of a poignant story about a teen and his relationship with his autistic younger sister bested seven other teams, capturing the 2016-2017 Serious Duo Interpretation State Championship title; and,

WHEREAS, the Wythe County Board of Supervisors officially commend Jessie Moore and Isaac Wheeler for their dedication and hard work.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wythe County Board of Supervisors present this resolution to Jessie Moore and Isaac Wheeler, 2016-2017 Serious Duo Interpretation Forensic State Champions, in recognition of their achievements; and

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

Supervisor Houseman made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Lester to adopt Resolution 2017-04 in honor of Jessie Moore and Isaac Wheeler, Forensic Serious Duo Interpretation State Champions.

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

CITIZENS' TIME

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

1. Budget – Linda Meyer of 1118 Dry Road in Speedwell addressed the Board. Ms. Meyer requested that the Board work to reduce rising health care costs. She questioned the purpose of the hybrid disability insurance and why it is needed. Ms. Meyer noted that she believes that employees should not receive a salary

increase if the Board continues to cover their health care costs. She also inquired why the School Board administrative costs have increased by over \$155,000.

- 2. Pope Road – Roy Cox of 1262 Pope Road in Ivanhoe addressed the Board. Mr. Cox questioned if the Board could request a waiver from the Virginia Department of Transportation environmental requirements to allow placement of culverts on the Silings Road bridge site. He noted that the culverts would provide the residents an easier way out until the bridge is replaced. Mr. Cox added that pavement of the road is needed more than the bridge, as the road is in very rough condition.

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Board was presented with the May 9, 2017, minutes for adoption.

Supervisor McRoberts made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Horney to approve the May 9, 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 23, 2017, for the various departments of County government. The invoices were paid on General Warrants 30098161-30098258 as follows:

**EXPENDITURES BY DEPARTMENT
 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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CHECK NO.	ISSUE DATE	VENDOR	TOTAL
30098161	05/23/17	AAA PAVING AND SEALING INC.	\$27,000.00
30098162	05/23/17	APPALACHIAN JUVENILE COMMISSION	\$2,625.00
30098163	05/23/17	APPALACHIAN POWER	\$31,799.07
30098164	05/23/17	BAKER’S CONSTRUCTION SERVICES INC.	\$185,250.00
30098165	05/23/17	BKT UNIFORMS	\$494.89
30098166	05/23/17	BLUE RIDGE AUTO PARKS INC.	\$11.79

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30098167	05/23/17	BOXLEY	\$540.00
30098168	05/23/17	BRENNTAG MID-SOUTH INC.	\$1,690.00
30098169	05/23/17	BROWN EXTERMINATING CO.	\$40.00
30098170	05/23/17	BUSINESS INK CO.	\$1,554.75
30098171	05/23/17	CARTER BANK AND TRUST	\$625.00
30098172	05/23/17	CARTER MACHINERY CO. INC.	\$748.58
30098173	05/23/17	CAVALIER SUPPLY CO.	\$1,540.95
30098174	05/23/17	CDW GOVERNMENT INC.	\$40.00
30098175	05/23/17	CENTRAL BUILDERS INC.	\$37,331.51
30098176	05/23/17	CENTURY LINK	\$49.88
30098177	05/23/17	CENTURY LINK	\$55.28
30098178	05/23/17	CENTURY LINK	\$247.46
30098179	05/23/17	CENTURY LINK	\$266.13
30098180	05/23/17	CHARLES PORTER EXCAVATING LLC.	\$1,269.50
30098181	05/23/17	COMPLETE TRUCK SERVICE INC.	\$292.90
30098182	05/23/17	COUNTY OF WYTHE	\$2,833.34
30098183	05/23/17	CREATIVE GLASS INC.	\$75.00
30098184	05/23/17	CROWN AWARDS	\$234.02
30098185	05/23/17	DEPOT DESIGNS OF RURAL RETREAT	\$92.40
30098186	05/23/17	DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES	\$820.00
30098187	05/23/17	DUKES PRINTING	\$367.20
30098188	05/23/17	ELECTION SYSTEMS AND SOFTWARE INC.	\$2,030.02
30098189	05/23/17	FARTHING, SCOT S.	\$4,330.00
30098190	05/23/17	FASTENAL	\$10.76
30098191	05/23/17	FERGUSON ENTERPRISES NO. 5	\$955.93
30098192	05/23/17	FIRE SAFETY PRODUCTS	\$885.00
30098193	05/23/17	FOWLKES MACHINE CO. INC.	\$161.24
30098194	05/23/17	FRIZZELL CONSTRUCTION CO. INC.	\$90,295.30
30098195	05/23/17	GALLS	\$219.13
30098196	05/23/17	GRANT, BRUCE M.	\$4,074.25
30098197	05/23/17	GUN SHOP	\$1,267.14
30098198	05/23/17	HALL'S GARAGE DOORS	\$600.00
30098199	05/23/17	HARPER AND CO.	\$939.60
30098200	05/23/17	HARPO'S HARDWARE/BUILDING SUPPLY	\$34.30
30098201	05/23/17	JAROSZ, CHESTER	\$115.20
30098202	05/23/17	JOHNSON CONTROLS	\$3,133.00
30098203	05/23/17	KING GENERAL CONTRACTORS INC.	\$141,734.21
30098204	05/23/17	KIRBY'S KUTTIN EDGE	\$625.00
30098205	05/23/17	L & A EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT	\$355.84
30098206	05/23/17	LANE GROUP, THE	\$92,020.00
30098207	05/23/17	LOWES	\$836.68
30098208	05/23/17	MANSFIELD OIL CO.	\$6,466.70
30098209	05/23/17	MANSFIELD OIL CO.	\$6,617.07
30098210	05/23/17	MATTHEW BENDER AND CO. INC.	\$65.93

30098211	05/23/17	MCI COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES	\$34.22
30098212	05/23/17	MCI COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES	\$67.24
30098213	05/23/17	MCI COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES	\$498.79
30098214	05/23/17	MEREDITH'S GARAGE	\$43.00
30098215	05/23/17	MILO C. COCKERHAM INC.	\$781.70
30098216	05/23/17	MODERN SHOE STORE	\$149.99
30098217	05/23/17	NADA USED CAR GUIDE	\$3,036.62
30098218	05/23/17	NEW RIVER REGIONAL WATER AUTH.	\$12,637.39
30098219	05/23/17	NEW RIVER VALLEY JUVENILE DETENTION	\$18,330.00
30098220	05/23/17	NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL JAIL	\$95,383.85
30098221	05/23/17	PAPER CLIP	\$2,002.39
30098222	05/23/17	PEED AND BORTZ LLC	\$47,450.00
30098223	05/23/17	R & C TOWING AND REPAIR CO.	\$190.21
30098224	05/23/17	R & R ENTERPRISES INC.	\$135.00
30098225	05/23/17	RENTAL HUB INC.	\$59.98
30098226	05/23/17	ROANOKE TIMES	\$352.72
30098227	05/23/17	ROBERTS, CLETA	\$115.20
30098228	05/23/17	SALEM STONE	\$217.83
30098229	05/23/17	SENTRY SERVICES	\$2,034.38
30098230	05/23/17	SHENTEL	\$68.37
30098231	05/23/17	SOUTHERN STATES	\$1,259.41
30098232	05/23/17	SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA EMS COUNCIL	\$3,400.00
30098233	05/23/17	STATE ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO.	\$13.02
30098234	05/23/17	SUBURBAN PROPANE – 1241	\$2,193.62
30098235	05/23/17	SURE-FLO INC.	\$2,380.56
30098236	05/23/17	THOMPSON TIRE	\$309.00
30098237	05/23/17	THRASHER GROUP INC.	\$2,380.00
30098238	05/23/17	TOWN OF RURAL RETREAT	\$559.44
30098239	05/23/17	TOWN OF WYTHEVILLE	\$914.86
30098240	05/23/17	TOWN OF WYTHEVILLE	\$1,000.00
30098241	05/23/17	TRI CITIES/SWVA REGIONAL	\$206.10
30098242	05/23/17	TRI CITIES/SWVA REGIONAL	\$379.70
30098243	05/23/17	TYLER TECHNOLOGIES	\$57,545.32
30098244	05/23/17	UNIFIRST CORP.	\$62.10
30098245	05/23/17	US CELLULAR	\$65.10
30098246	05/23/17	US CELLULAR	\$511.79
30098247	05/23/17	US CELLULAR	\$637.06
30098248	05/23/17	US CELLULAR	\$841.69
30098249	05/23/17	VAMAC INC.	\$1,626.10
30098250	05/23/17	VERIZON	\$13.59
30098251	05/23/17	VISUAL IMPACT PROMOTIONS	\$775.00
30098252	05/23/17	VUPS	\$58.80
30098253	05/23/17	WILLIAMS SUPPLY	\$313.42
30098254	05/23/17	WILLIAMS, KEVIN	\$128.40

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30098255	05/23/17	WYTHE TIRE AND MUFFLER	\$150.00
30098256	05/23/17	WYTHEVILLE OFFICE SUPPLY	\$1,903.49
30098257	05/23/17	XEROX	\$265.55
30098258	05/23/17	YA HILL AUTO PARTS	\$6.78
TOTAL EXPENDITURES APPROVED 05/23/17			\$919,155.73

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

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SECONDARY SIX-YEAR ROAD PLAN

Jeff Russell, Virginia Department of Transportation Residency Administrator, addressed the Board. Mr. Russell reviewed the proposed Secondary Road Six-Year Plan with the Board and those present. He advised that based on the Board's recommendations and comments received at the public hearing, 1.1 miles of Back Road, .40 mile of Glade Road, .17 mile of Gullion Fork Road, 1.4 miles of Hogback Road, .30 mile of Jonas Town Road, .20 mile of Kings Chapel Road, .50 mile of Millers Creek Road, .40 mile of Walters Road, and .40 mile of Walton Furnace Road are proposed for addition to the Plan for future improvements. Mr. Russell noted that the proposed projects would complete hard surfacing of Gullion Fork Road, Hogback Road, and Glade Road.

Supervisor Hale asked what roads are planned for improvement this summer.

Mr. Russell advised that they hope to complete the two sections of Sharon's Drive, two portions of New Bethel Road, and the Cregger Road project this year. He noted that they are currently working on the Myrtle Lane project.

Supervisor McRoberts inquired if both crews work on the same job.

Mr. Russell explained that they have two area headquarters in Wythe County, one in Wytheville and one in Speedwell. He noted that currently the Speedwell crew is working on the Cregger Road project and the Wytheville crew is working on the Myrtle Lane project. Mr. Russell added that both crews do not work on the same project.

Supervisor Hale questioned if the short section of Major Grahams Road would be completed in the upcoming summer.

Mr. Russell noted that Major Grahams Road would be fully funded next year. He explained that they hope to receive high volume unpaved road funding for improvement of Major Grahams Road. Mr. Russell advised that if approved, they would begin the project once the funding and permits are in place. He added that he has requested treatment of the road to help with the dust issue.

Supervisor Horney requested that they check on the condition of Pope Road. He noted that with the recent heavy rains the road is in need of repair.

Mr. Bear advised that adoption of Resolution 2017-05 would be needed if the Board agrees with the Secondary Six Year Road Plan as presented. He noted that adoption of Resolutions 2017-06 through 2017-14 would be necessary to designate the roads included in the Plan as rural rustic.

RESOLUTION 2017-05 – SECONDARY SIX-YEAR ROAD PLAN

Supervisor Houseman made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Horney to adopt Resolution 2017-05, Secondary Six Year Road Plan as follows:

WYTHE COUNTY RESOLUTION 2017-05

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Wythe, held at the Wythe County Government Center on May 23, 2017, at 9 a.m.

WHEREAS, Sections 33.1-23 and 33.1-23.4 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, provide the opportunity for each county to work with the Virginia Department of Transportation in developing a Secondary Six-Year Road Plan; and

WHEREAS, this Board had previously agreed to assist in the preparation of this Plan, in accordance with the Virginia Department of Transportation policies and procedures, and participated in a public hearing on the proposed Plan (2017/18 through 2022/23), as well as the Construction Priority List (2017/18) on May 9, 2017, after duly advertised so that all citizens of the County had the opportunity to participate in said hearing and to make comments and recommendations concerning the proposed Plan and Priority List; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Russell of the Virginia Department of Transportation, appeared before the Board and recommended approval of the Six-Year Plan for Secondary Roads (2017/18 through 2022/23) and the Construction Priority List (2017/18) for Wythe County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that since said Plan appears to be in the best interest of the Secondary Road System in Wythe County and of the citizens residing on the Secondary System, said Secondary Six-Year Plan (2017/18 through 2022/23) and Construction Priority List (2017/18) are hereby approved as presented at the May 23, 2017, Board of Supervisors' meeting.

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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

RESOLUTIONS – RURAL RUSTIC DESIGNATIONS

Supervisor Horney made a motion, seconded by Supervisor McRoberts to adopt Resolutions 2017-06, 2017-07, 2017-08, 2017-09, 2017-10, 2017-11, 2017-12, 2017-13, and 2017-14 as follows:

**WYTHE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
RESOLUTION 2017-06**

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

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

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Wythe County, Virginia ("Board") desires to consider whether Route 602 (Back Road), From: Route 690 (Slate Springs Branch) mile marker 6.30 To: Route 690 (Cripple Creek Road) mile marker 7.40, should be designated a Rural Rustic Road; and

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board requests that this road be hard surfaced and, to the fullest extent prudent, be improved within the existing right-of-way and ditch-lines to preserve as much as possible the adjacent trees,

vegetation, side slopes, and rural rustic character along the road in their current state.

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

**WYTHE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
RESOLUTION 2017-07**

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

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

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Wythe County, Virginia ("Board") desires to consider whether Route 664 (Glade Road), From: Route 666 (Hogback Road) To: Route 711 (King Neill Lane) mile marker .40, should be designated a Rural Rustic Road; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**WYTHE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
RESOLUTION 2017-08**

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

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

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Wythe County, Virginia ("Board") desires to consider whether Route 686 (Gullion Fork Road), From: Dead End To: Route 686 (Gullion Fork Road) mile marker .17 – End of Pavement, should be designated a Rural Rustic Road; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

**WYTHE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
RESOLUTION 2017-09**

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

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

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Wythe County, Virginia ("Board") desires to consider whether Route 666 (Hogback Road), From: Route 664 (Glade Road) mile marker 4.00 To: .3 mile south Route 680 (Blacklick Road), should be designated a Rural Rustic Road; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

**WYTHE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
RESOLUTION 2017-10**

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

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

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Wythe County, Virginia ("Board") desires to consider whether Route 738 (Jonas Town Road), From: Dead End To: Route 619 (Saint Peters Road) mile marker .30, should be designated a Rural Rustic Road; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

**WYTHE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
RESOLUTION 2017-11**

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

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

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Wythe County, Virginia ("Board") desires to consider whether Route 755 (Kings Chapel Road), From: Route 755 (Kings Chapel Road) End of Pavement To: Route 781 (Butterfly Lane) mile marker .40, should be designated a Rural Rustic Road; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

**WYTHE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
RESOLUTION 2017-12**

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

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

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Wythe County, Virginia ("Board") desires to consider whether Route 712 (Millers Creek Road), From: Smith Road mile marker 1.20 To: Heather Lane mile marker 1.70, should be designated a Rural Rustic Road; and

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board requests that this road be hard surfaced and, to the fullest extent prudent, be improved within the existing right-of-way and ditch-lines to preserve as much as possible the adjacent trees,

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vegetation, side slopes, and rural rustic character along the road in their current state.

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

**WYTHE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
RESOLUTION 2017-13**

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

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

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Wythe County, Virginia ("Board") desires to consider whether Route 662 (Walters Road), From: Dead End To: Route 664 (Glade Road) mile marker .40, should be designated a Rural Rustic Road; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

**WYTHE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
RESOLUTION 2017-14**

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

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

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Wythe County, Virginia ("Board") desires to consider whether Route 631 (Walton Furnace Road), From: .4 miles south Route 630 (Sanders Mine Road) To: Route 630 (Sanders Mine Road) mile marker 1.90, should be designated a Rural Rustic Road; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

Supervisor Hale inquired if designation as rural rustic would restrict all future development of the nine roads.

Mr. Russell explained that the resolutions state that "the Board is unaware of pending development that would significantly affect the existing traffic on the road." He noted that the resolution would not restrict future development.

County Attorney Farthing agreed.

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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

HIGHWAY MATTERS

1. Four Seasons Road – Supervisor Houseman expressed his appreciation to the VDOT crew for the repair of the Four Seasons Road curve. He noted that the citizens are very pleased with the curve and new culvert. Supervisor Houseman added that the work has made the curve much safer.
2. Route 52 – Supervisor McRoberts questioned when Route 52 to Austinville would be paved.

Mr. Russell noted that Route 52 to Austinville should be paved next summer. He advised that they are investigating more immediate options for pavement of the curved one-mile section where several accidents have occurred.

APPOINTMENTS

1. New River Mount Rogers Workforce Development Area Consortium Board – Chair Reeves requested that Board members continue to work to locate a business representative to serve on the New River Mount Rogers Workforce Development Area Consortium Board.
2. Recreation Commission – Chair Reeves advised that Supervisor Lester is working to locate a Recreation Commission representative for the West Wytheville District.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Lori Guynn appeared before the Board and presented the Treasurer's Report as follows:

1. Revenue Statement – Ms. Guynn reported that the consolidated account is currently at \$55,831,630 with \$38,925,444 in the General Fund account.
2. Reports – Ms. Guynn noted that they are working to provide more detailed reports, which would include separate lines for tax revenues collected each year for real estate, personal property, mobile homes, machine and tools, merchants capital, and license fees. She advised that this would allow them to better understand what is collected each year.

3. Delinquent Taxes – Supervisor Willis questioned if the Treasurer’s Office is permitted to write off accounts receivable amounts that would cost more to collect than what was owed.

Ms. Guynn advised that they must retain delinquent real estate taxes on their books for 20 years. She noted that they would write off 1996 uncollected real estate amounts by the end of the current fiscal year. She explained that personal property taxes must be kept on the books for five years, allowing them to write off 2011 taxes at the end of Fiscal Year 17. Ms. Guynn added that those tax bills with outstanding judgements within Circuit Court must remain on the books.

4. Motor Vehicle License Fees – Supervisor Houseman requested an explanation of the motor vehicle license fee legacy amount included in the second report. He questioned if this amount includes all unpaid fees accumulated through 2013.

Ms. Guynn explained that previously those amounts were all combined into one account, which did not allow them to accurately track what was collected each individual tax year. She advised that they have now separated each year to allow them to more accurately view what was collected.

Supervisor Houseman noted that the stickers had been touted as a tool for the collection of taxes. He explained that the majority of the legacy amount is from when they still issued stickers. Supervisor Houseman added that the 2013, 2014, and 2015 amounts have decreased drastically. He inquired if most of the license fees were collected in 2013, as it appears in the report

Ms. Guynn advised that the beginning account balances do not accurately reflect what has been collected in the past. She explained that \$13,700 in 2013 license fees remain to be collected.

5. Lodging and Meals Tax – Supervisor Hale explained that they had projected \$65,000 in lodging tax collected and have collected \$67,000 as of the end of April. He noted that this data would indicate that travel is up and more rooms are being rented. Supervisor Hale requested an explanation of “additional lodging tax.”

Mr. Bear reported that the lodging tax is separated out into base and additional tax. He noted that the State allows the County to collect 2%, which is the base tax. Mr. Bear explained that the County adopted an ordinance that permits the collection of an additional 3%, which is to be used for tourism and tourism related industries. He added that separation of the taxes provides a tracking tool to show the additional amount collected.

Supervisor Hale noted that based on flow at the restaurants, meals tax collected should not have decreased. He questioned if a method is available to audit chain restaurants to determine that they are paying the tax due.

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Ms. Guynn advised that the amounts shown in the report are for June 2016 through March 2017. She noted that businesses have 20 days from the month's end to submit meals and lodging tax payments, for example April tax payments would not be due until May 20. Ms. Guynn added that sales increase March through December.

Supervisor Hale inquired if the State or County has any method to audit businesses to determine that they pay their taxes. He noted that he believes that there are taxes to be paid that are not being collected and questioned how they can correct this issue.

Ms. Guynn explained that they have the most difficulty collecting from the smaller mom and pop type establishments. She noted that when the Commissioner of the Revenue's Office is unable to collect from these businesses, she sends a letter outlining the consequences if they do not pay. Ms. Guynn added that the businesses often begin paying at that time.

Supervisor Hale asked when the Treasurer's Office would be able to report the total amount collected in the fiscal year.

Mr. Bear noted that they could report the total amount collected in the fiscal year on June 30.

Ms. Guynn explained that any amount collected in June would not be received until July and would be reported in the next fiscal year. She added that the meals tax collected typically spikes in the summer months due to increased travel.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT

Sheriff Keith Dunagan appeared before the Board and reported the following:

1. Budget – Sheriff Dunagan requested additional funds in the recommended Fiscal Year 18 budget to cover fuel costs and police supplies. He requested an increase to \$90,000 for fuel and \$50,000 for police supplies.
2. Debris Collection Program – Sheriff Dunagan reported that the Debris Collection crew has picked up 559 bags of trash weighing 16,770 pounds over approximately 100 miles since May 1.

Supervisor Hale requested an update on the litter education program. He noted that the program would teach students to help enforce litter laws.

Sheriff Dunagan explained that they have implemented the litter education program in conjunction with their Drug Abuse Resistance Education program. He advised that unless a deputy witnesses someone littering, the judges would not convict the individual. Sheriff Dunagan noted that the Sheriff's Office does place cameras on known dumping sites, but they are making very few arrests.

Chair Reeves noted that a bill was brought before the General Assembly in the previous year that would have allowed for the conviction of an individual based on evidence obtained from the trash dumped. He added that the bill did not pass.

Supervisor Hale questioned if it would help if they met with the judges to discuss.

Sheriff Dunagan stated that the judge does not convict on these cases because they often cannot prove that the trash was dumped by the individual to whom it belonged. He noted that they are working to monitor known dumping sites.

Supervisor Hale inquired if they could on a trial basis, issue tickets and then let the individuals face the judge. He noted that even if not convicted, the act of going to court and facing the judge may deter future littering.

Sheriff Dunagan advised that the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office is already burdened with a large number of cases. He noted that they would not try a case they cannot win.

VIRGINIA INDUSTRIAL ADVANCEMENT ALLIANCE

Josh Lewis, Virginia Industrial Advancement Alliance Executive Director, addressed the Board. Mr. Lewis reported that the Virginia Industrial Advancement Alliance serves the counties of Washington, Smyth, Wythe, Bland, Grayson, and Carroll, as well as the cities of Galax and Bristol. He noted that the Alliance is funded by its eight localities based on a dollar per capita self-assessment that was agreed upon in 1990 and has remained unchanged. Mr. Lewis discussed how the Virginia Industrial Advancement Alliance was created, its purpose, their role in the promotion of economic development, their strategic marketing plan, and future plans for the marketing of the region.

Supervisor Willis questioned why Progress Park, which is larger than all of the other shovel ready sites combined, is not listed first on their website.

Mr. Lewis noted that the sites are listed randomly. He advised that most of the sites searched for are in the 30 to 40 acre range. Mr. Lewis explained that a very small number of companies are looking for a footprint the size of Lot 24.

Supervisor Houseman asked how real estate developers and site consultants search for sites.

Mr. Lewis advised that site consultant firms or companies reach out to the State or regional groups when searching for a specific site. He explained that when contacted, he would search through the sites available and determine which site best meets the specifications desired. Mr. Lewis noted that they would then submit information to the site consultant or company.

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Supervisor Houseman questioned if they could let those firms know that they are interested in a particular type of industry or business.

Mr. Lewis explained that they do work to identify the agencies that deal with target sectors. He noted that they reach out to those agencies and submit requests for information when projects are available that meet site specifications in the region.

Mr. Bear stated that Mr. Lewis serves on our regional GO Virginia Board and is working to help develop the initiative and set their parameters. He noted that Mr. Lewis is also working with the Economic Development Partnership through their change in administration and has scheduled several visits with their CEO Stephen Moret and his staff. Mr. Bear added that these are the types of connections that they need to make and develop to market the County's assets.

Mr. Lewis noted that they rely heavily on the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, as they have resources available that he does not. He explained that they hope to increase their capital, cash flow, and staff to better serve their eight localities.

Supervisor Hale inquired why Botetourt County is landing a large number of projects.

Mr. Lewis explained that Botetourt County has a large labor market, they are a part of the Roanoke Regional Partnership, but have cheaper land than Roanoke, and are close to the interstate.

Chair Reeves requested an update on the GO Virginia initiative.

Mr. Lewis advised that GO Virginia is working to develop an economic diversification plan for each region, which would provide a data analysis of the region. He explained that the economic diversification study would allow the GO Virginia Regional Council to determine what types of projects to fund with their pool of money. Mr. Lewis noted that hopefully by next spring GO Virginia funds would be allocated to projects.

WATER COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Speedwell Phase III Water Project – Supervisor Houseman made a motion, as recommended by the Water Committee to approve the Speedwell Phase III Water Project Engineering Services Agreement Amendment with Peed and Bortz LLC.

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
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BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Rural Retreat Lake Campground and Pool – Supervisor Willis made a motion, as recommended by the Budget Committee to amend and appropriate funds received from the Town of Rural Retreat for the Rural Retreat Lake Campground and Pool as follows: \$500 to 7110-461105 and \$2,500 to 7110-461200

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

2. Virginia Association of Counties Self Insurance Risk Pool Renewal – Supervisor Willis made a motion, as recommended by the Budget Committee to accept the Virginia Association of Counties Self Insurance Risk Pool renewal proposal for Fiscal Year 2018 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

3. Fire and Rescue Volunteer Workers Compensation Insurance – Supervisor Willis made a motion, as recommended by the Budget Committee to accept the Virginia Association of Counties Self Insurance Risk Pool VACORP/VFIS fire and rescue volunteer workers compensation accident and sickness insurance basic benefit option quote 87191.

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

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COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

1. Barren Springs Division III Change Order No. 3 – Mr. Bear reviewed with the Board Barren Springs Division III Change Order No. 3. Mr. Bear advised that Change Order No. 3 would decrease the final project cost \$1,863.

Supervisor Horney made a motion, seconded by Supervisor McRoberts to accept Barren Springs Division III Water Project Change Order No. 3.

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

2. Appalachian Regional Exposition Center Project – Mr. Bear reported that they have completed review of the Appalachian Regional Exposition Center 75% plans from the Lane Group. He noted that they have returned several comments to the Lane Group and are working to move the project forward. Mr. Bear added that completed plans are expected to be received by June 20.
3. Grouse Ridge Road – Mr. Bear advised that he met with four to five residents of Grouse Ridge Road. He noted that they have submitted relevant plats and maps to the Virginia Department of Transportation for review. Mr. Bear explained that he reviewed the transportation tax district process with the landowners, to be established contingent upon the resolution of the right-of-way issue. He added that he hopes to meet with Mr. Russell at the site in the next week.
4. Tyler Technologies – Mr. Bear explained that they plan to work with representatives from our auditing firm who have worked with Tyler Technologies in the past to discuss best management practices, policies, and procedures. He noted that they are also working to schedule additional training and resolve issues.

Supervisor Houseman questioned when the Exposition Center plans would be presented to the Board. He inquired if any actions have been made that would require a vote of the full Board.

Mr. Bear advised that thus far the Committee has reviewed the design layout and determined avenues to reduce costs. He noted that the full set of plans are available for any Board member to review.

Supervisor Hale noted that the full Board should be privy to the Committee’s actions. He explained that the Committee is working to ensure the design is as desired, while working to reduce costs.

Chair Reeves stated that the Committee has not made any decisions that would require action of the full Board.

Mr. Bear explained that he would forward the comments submitted to the Lane Group to those Board members who are not on the Committee. He reviewed several of those comments and cost saving measures with the Board.

SUPERVISORS’ REPORTS

- 1. Convenience Center – Supervisor Houseman expressed his appreciation to staff for return of the second large box at the Apple House Convenience Center.
- 2. Jonas Town Road Sign – Supervisor Horney noted that the sign is down at the intersection of Jonas Town Road and Saint Peters Road.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Supervisor McRoberts made a motion to approve the consent calendar for May 23, 2017, as follows:

1. PAYROLL – April 2017:

Water Department	\$ 20,413.09
Wythe County Wastewater Fund	18,198.67
Police Activity Fund	66,009.16
Courthouse Security Fund	15,951.61
General County Fund	<u>503,353.50</u>
TOTAL	\$ 623,926.03

Check Numbers: 30095273-30095298

Voucher Numbers: V707000-V707162; V708000-V708166

2. STATUS REPORTS:

- A. Animal Control – Arlan Dunford
- B. Building Inspection – Tim Spraker
- C. Engineering – Bill Vaughan
- D. Planning Commission – Michelle Cassell

3. PERSONNEL:

- A. Erickson, Steven – Hired, Full-time Debris Collection Position, Annual Salary \$31,009, Effective May 1, 2017

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- B. Hodge, Carla – Transferred to Commonwealth Attorney, Annual Salary \$27,506, Effective May 1, 2017
- C. Beamer, Kayla – Resigned, Full-time Deputy Clerk, Commissioner of the Revenue’s Office, Effective May 12, 2017

Supervisor Horney 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

SURPLUS VEHICLE AUCTION

The Board reviewed a summary of bids received for the sale of two surplus vehicles.

Supervisor Willis made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Lester to declare the two vehicles as surplus and to accept the high bids received in the amount of \$5,901.00.

Supervisor Hale questioned when they would sell the other vehicles located in the impound lot.

Mr. Bear explained that the majority of the vehicles are involved in a court case and cannot be sold until released by the Sheriff’s Office. He noted that one Sheriff’s Office vehicle is not saleable and would be hauled away once declared as surplus. Mr. Bear advised that they are working to sell the surplus fire and rescue vehicles.

Supervisor Hale requested that they ensure that they remove all usable equipment from the fire and rescue vehicles prior to sale.

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT – SECTION 504 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

The Board reviewed and discussed the Progress Park Lot 20 Sewer Community Development Block Grant Section 504 Grievance Procedure as follows:

**GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE
SECTION 504 AND HUD REGULATIONS**

The Wythe County Board of Supervisors has adopted an internal grievance procedure providing for prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging any action prohibited by the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) (24 CFR 8.53(b)) implementing Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 USC 794). Section 504 states, in part, that "no otherwise qualified handicapped individual... shall solely by reason of his handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance..."

Complaints should be addressed to Stephen D. Bear, County Administrator, 340 South Sixth Street, Wytheville, VA 24382, sdbear@wytheco.org, 276-223-4500, who has been designated to coordinate Section 504 compliance efforts.

1. A complaint should be filed in writing or verbally and should contain the name and address of the person filing it, and briefly describe the alleged violation of the regulations.
2. A complaint should be filed within seven (7) days after the complainant becomes aware of the alleged violation. (Processing of allegations of discrimination occurring before this grievance procedure was in place will be considered on a case-by-case basis.)
3. An investigation, as may be appropriate, shall follow filing of a complaint. The investigation will be conducted by Stephen D. Bear, County Administrator. These rules contemplate informal but thorough investigations, affording all interested persons and their representatives, if any, an opportunity to submit evidence relevant to a complaint. Under 24 CFR 8.53(b), the Wythe County Board of Supervisors need not process complaints from applicants for employment or from applicants for admission to housing.
4. A written determination as to the validity of the complaint and description of resolution, if any, shall be issued by Stephen D. Bear, County Administrator, and a copy forwarded to the complainant no later than seven (7) days after its filing.
5. The Section 504 coordinator shall maintain the files and records of the Wythe County Board of Supervisors relating to the complaints filed.

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6. The complainant can request a reconsideration of the case in instances where he or she is dissatisfied with the resolution. The request for reconsideration should be made within seven (7) days to Stephen D. Bear, County Administrator.
7. The right of a person to a prompt and equitable resolution of the complaint filed hereunder shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies such as the filing of a Section 504 complaint with the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Utilization of this grievance procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies.
8. These rules shall be construed to protect the substantive rights of interested persons, to meet appropriate due process standards, and to assure that the Wythe County Board of Supervisors complies with Section 504 and the HUD regulations.

Supervisor Hale made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Horney to accept the Community Development Block Grant Section 504 Grievance Procedure 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

CLOSED MEETING – CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL

Supervisor Willis made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Lester to enter into Closed Meeting under Section 2.2-3711-A.7 (Consultation with Legal Counsel – Keystone and Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Issues) of the Code of Virginia.

The motion passed unanimously.

Supervisor Hale made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Horney to return to open meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon returning to open meeting, Supervisor Willis made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Lester 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 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

Supervisor Horney made a motion, seconded by Supervisor McRoberts authorizing the County Administrator to sign the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality consent order.

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

Supervisor McRoberts made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Horney to amend and appropriate \$1,087 to 2201-458010 and \$1,633 to 2201-458060 for reimbursement to the Commonwealth's Attorney's staff for travel expenses.

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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

VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Chair Reeves reported that he attended the Virginia Association of Counties Board of Directors meeting on Saturday, May 20 in Montgomery County. He noted that their dues, which are based on population, have decreased slightly.

TOBACCO COMMISSION GRANT

Chair Reeves advised that he and Supervisor Hale attended the Tobacco Commission Southwest Virginia Committee meeting on Wednesday, May 17. He explained that they made their case and informed the Committee that they would accept any funding they could provide. Chair Reeves noted that when the request was presented to the full Commission, it was voted down 13 to 9.

Supervisor Hale noted that the Commission had depleted their available money funding an ice cream parlor in Raven.

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL EXPOSITION CENTER

The Board reviewed and discussed the Appalachian Regional Exposition Center 75% plans.

RECESS

The Board recessed at 12:12 p.m. until 7 p.m.

RECONVENE

The Board reconvened at 7 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

OTHERS PRESENT:

James Armbrister	Jeff Lienhart
George Bailey	Linda Meyer
David Blessing	Dickie Pack
Mark Boenke	Jeff Perry
Art Davis	Linda Pollard
Chalmer Frye	Joe Reasor
Danny Gordon	Millie Rothrock
Lori Gynn	Steven Sage
Patricia Hines	Mary Thomas
Lee Johnson	Jack Weaver
Rusty Jones	Alan Wilder
David Kause	17 Other Citizens
Anita Libby	

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED WYTHE COUNTY AND WYTHE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS FISCAL YEAR 2017-18 BUDGETS AND PROPOSED CALENDAR YEAR 2017 TAX LEVY

Chair Reeves announced that, notice is hereby given that the Board of Supervisors of Wythe County, Virginia, pursuant to Section 15.2-2506 of the Code of Virginia and amendments thereto, will hold a joint public hearing to receive comments on the proposed Wythe County and Wythe County School Board Fiscal Year 2017-2018 budgets and the proposed Calendar Year 2017 tax levy. The joint public hearing, which may be continued or adjourned, and at which persons may appear and present their views on the issues, will be held at 7 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on May 23, 2017, before the Board in the Boardroom of the County Administration Building, 340 South Sixth Street, Wytheville, Virginia.

County Administrator Bear addressed the Board and reported the following:

“The total budget reflects an increase from the FY17 budget of \$7,210,896. This is a 9.07 percent increase. As you go through a couple of these items, you will see where most of these increases are coming from. At the end of fiscal year 2016, our County debt totaled \$62,723,000. No new debt has been issued this fiscal year. In the upcoming budget, there is proposed new debt, which includes \$10 million in school renovation and \$1.2 million for the Raper Ridge water tank. Major proposed capital improvements within the budget include: the school renovation project, which would be new debt; the water tank project, which is new debt for a Rural Development loan, which would be paid by the New River Regional Water Authority; the Lot 20 sewer project, which is a DHCD grant; the County Office Building project, which is a 2010 bond and reserves that are sitting aside for it; tower and communications improvements for our fire and rescue and Sheriff’s Offices, which will be funded through our reserves; and the Circuit Court renovation. The expenditure budget does show the increase previously mentioned in the total budget. General government administration costs in this budget have decreased by \$241,000. Judicial administration costs have a slight increase of \$54,000 in this year’s budget. Public safety has an increase of \$390,000 in this budget.

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The Sheriff's Office has seen an increase in their Police Activity Fund. They do have some additional items in their budget. They also have increases in corrections and detention costs within that budget. Public works is remaining relatively flat in the budget. No major changes in public works. Health and Welfare. The increase from 17 to 18 is approximately \$450,000. Unfortunately, most of that is not in local share change. It is primarily due to changes in the Department of Social Services budget. Primarily attributed to changes in funding from the State and Federal level. Education is the one that you see the largest increase in change and that is attributable to the school construction costs as put in the budget of \$10,700,000 including the construction costs and the A&E fees anticipated for the construction. Operationally, we went from \$13 million in local funding last year to \$13.1 million proposed in this year's budget. Obviously, education is the largest percent of the County's budget... Roughly, the required amount this year is approximately \$8.6 million in operating funds. Wythe County is providing \$13.1 million or approximately 152% of the State minimum. We have led our surrounding areas with our percentage of providing funds for operational towards the school system, as we have always felt school systems are critical and important for the County. Since 2011 up through Fiscal Year 2017, the amount of funds that we have been providing to the school system have exceeded the total amount collected by the real estate and personal property tax in Wythe County. This shows the dedication and support of education. It also shows that there are limited local funds to go towards other County issues, whether that is fire, rescue, the Sheriff's Office, communications, et cetera. The 2018 proposed budget with the tax increases drop this to just below the 100% level for the first time in six years. Parks, Recreation, and Cultural do show an increase this year. Most of that is due to our costs associated with our exposition center down at Exit 77. Community development has a decrease from this year. Very small amount there. County generated revenue, primary sources. Basically, there are five primary revenue sources. Anticipated increases in debt service, primarily for school construction estimated approximately the \$10.7 as discussed have led me to recommend a proposed tax increase in real estate and personal property. The first tax that you see is a public service tax. Public service is assessments that are received for electrical, telephone, natural gas, cellular providers. We have seen an increase in the last few years from improvements by the Appalachian Electric Power Company in additional lines and transformers that they have put in that have led to increases. We are expecting about a flat level from 2017 to 2018. Machinery and tools tax peaked in 2010 and we have been relatively flat for about the last five years at about \$1.7 to \$1.8 million on machinery and tools tax. Merchants Capital. We anticipate seeing about \$50,000 above what was budgeted this year in this upcoming budget year based on inventory within businesses in Wythe County. Personal property tax is the next one. As I mentioned, the proposed budget does show a \$.10 per \$100 value increase in the personal property tax... Real Estate tax proposed increase of \$.52 per \$100, which results in \$.03 from our current \$.49. As I said in my budget recommendation in April, I do not take lightly the proposal of tax increases for Wythe County. Wythe County takes pride in continuing to have low tax rates. They are beneficial not only to our citizens, but also to our recruitment of industries. Tonight I look forward to the comments, recommendations, and concerns raised by the citizens and working with the Board in the next few weeks to adopt the budget."

Superintendent of Schools Jeff Perry addressed the Board and reported the following:

"We do appreciate the support that the Board of Supervisors has demonstrated to the School Division over the years. This year we had several increases locally that we had to adopt. We had a significant increase in our insurance premiums. We also had the VRS piece that we had to do and then other expenditures that we had. We had close to \$800,000 to \$900,000 that we had to adopt. We asked the Board for that amount. We got \$100,000 in the proposed budget and then we absorbed the rest of that amount through just operational savings and some things that we did. We tried to do everything that we can in our power to ensure that we are responsible with Wythe County's money. We feel that the budget that we presented was one that was responsible, took care of the instructional needs, and would ensure that we could have good facilities and make sure that we had the instructional program protected. With just the modest increase that we had of \$100,000, we thought that was a responsible piece and we did our share in terms of trying to make the rest of the budget work. As far as the capital improvement project is concerned, we have been working on that now with the Board of Supervisors for the last several months. We are at the process that we sent Mr. Bear a copy of the resolution that we adopted this morning in terms of moving forward with the renovation of the high school project. As we presented to this Board back when we gave our budget presentation, about 72% of our budget is dedicated to salaries and benefits. The majority of our budget is going toward people. If you were to take that 72% nearly 91% of that is what we would classify as people in a classroom. Of our total operating budget, 72% is salaries and benefits, 91% of that is dedicated to teachers, guidance counselors, aides, principals, individuals within the building. We feel like our budget represents the important part of what we do, making sure that we have staff members taking care of students and taking care of the instructional program. If you have any questions, I would be happy to answer those."

Chair Reeves inquired if anyone present wished to address the Board concerning the proposed Wythe County and Wythe County School Board Fiscal Year 2017-2018 budgets and tax levy for Calendar Year 2017.

Danny Gordon of 1235 West Spiller Street in Wytheville addressed the Board and stated the following:

"Over the past 36 years, prior to my retirement from the radio station in December, I had covered this Board for 36 years. I have seen a lot of budgets come and go. Tax increases. Taxes even going down and a lot of discussions and consternation over different things. Fortunately, I have been happy to see over the years that the Board, previous Boards, and the School Board and previous School Boards have supported the schools above and beyond as Mr. Bear has shown. We need good schools in the County. The middle school/high school combination at Rural Retreat and Fort Chiswell have been great. I have heard no bad remarks about it. We have had no problems that I am aware of through my news coverage and it is a good idea, but in the process, Wytheville has been kind of overlooked. One third of the County's residents call Wytheville home, of which I am at 1235 West Spiller Street. I pay taxes on my house. I

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pay taxes on my cars and everything else. If nothing else, it is Wytheville's turn. I think the best way to handle the situation, all three schools, which are in dire need, is the middle school, high school combination. At the same time, I would ask that you would work with the School Board to not only do the minimum, but think about doing solar panels on the school. We could pay for electricity and heating with solar panels. There is money called Green Technology Schools at the State level that if you make a submission and they approve it and get your Legislators behind it. There is money out there to put solar panels in and to make everything a white roof like they did at Gatorade, make everything more cost effective. I am asking you not just to do the minimum, but to let's think about doing something that would allow our young people at all three schools to come in and learn about solar technology. Maybe even put one wind device out there. Right now solar jobs, high tech jobs are popping up everywhere. If we want to attract jobs, we need to have the skill set. I had too many people from the hospital, college, and other places, tell me that they have tried to attract people here who have children, young children, and when they saw the status of Scott Memorial Middle School and George Wythe High School, they said no way because they didn't want to send their children to private school. We have had people who have done that in Wytheville because of the condition of the school. I went there in 1963 and graduated in 1968 and basically, it is the same school other than the band, I mean the library and those few classrooms. Everything else is the same. The same urinals. They took the mirrors down. Now kids don't even have mirrors to look in the bathrooms. I don't know what happened to them, but they were there a few years ago. It is the school that needs work. This Board and previous Boards have always thought about our kids because we are all adults and some of us older than others. Right Gary. I am not making light of that, but we need to think about the future. This community with Lot 24 and all of the infrastructure you gentlemen have been so wise to do, we are going forward. To go forward our young people have to have the proper education. Why not do a green technology high school combination with the middle school. You would take care of two schools' problems and you put us at the head of the class. I am thrilled to see the SOLs scores since Dr. Perry has come here. That is fantastic. Hopefully you appreciate that as much as I do. We need to reach all areas of our school system. We have great middle schools. We don't have a great middle school here in Wytheville. Our middle school is old, been recycled and recycled. When they worked on it last time, we had the steam problem, and it really ended up worse than when it started. I was over there and took the tour with Dr. Armentrout. Before I run out of time, also I want to remind you that the rescue squads, fire departments, and the Sheriff's Office need your support. You know the Board of Supervisors previously did a tax increase specifically for the fire departments and got equipment. Great idea. I think it was very similar to what we are talking about now. I have never had a disagreement with a tax that is going directly to something else. Designated to exactly something. I want you to think about that. Rescue squads kind of got left out of the deal. As chairman of the Wythe County Rescue Squad, we have been fortunate to get an emergency grant because our equipment is falling apart, and we have a brand new vehicle that will be here June 20. We are appreciative of that. That was no County funds. That was all State funds. I want you to think about that and the Sheriff's Office as well. That you take care of your

employees there because we need strong law enforcement, strong schools, and strong rescue squads and fire departments. Thank you very much for your time.”

Jack Weaver of 7951 West Lee Highway in Rural Retreat addressed the Board and stated the following:

“It has been a while since I have had the chance to jump on you guys. I guess I would have to disagree with Mr. Gordon in many ways. From the standpoint that I don’t think you could ever raise taxes high enough to take care of all these things that have been proposed. I am very much against an increase in taxes. I am against it because you have to look at your numbers. If there is any one number that I could leave with the audience and Board today, it is 29,161. Now 29,161 is the population of Wythe County. What was the population in 2010? It was only 400 people more. We are not an increasing county. We are in a declining county. We are declining also with children. I do understand the need for schools. Let me tell you something, I am a graduate of Rural Retreat. When I was in the first and second grade, we sat in the basement peeling insulation off of pipes that had asbestos all over them. Fortunately we are all living, so I don’t think any of us are applying for asbestos assistance. I think that if you keep the buildings up. Maintenance is certainly important. When you look at this 29,161 people. You just read that you are already \$63 million in debt. You going to put another \$10 million on there. This is \$70 million that 29,000 people are basically responsible for. Now in that, you certainly have corporate citizens. I disagree with some of these numbers because it is basically projections. What you think is going to happen. That is not necessarily true. For example, corporations, they are in a constant declining situation because they are depreciating. Buildings are depreciating, equipment et cetera. That goes down, but the costs go up. We all talk about Gatorade and all being a good citizen. I am sure that they are, but what are you gaining out of them. You are basically only gaining the taxes against their building and equipment. You are gaining wages from their employees. I am going to run out of time. Let’s talk about this population I gave you. Twenty percent of this population is made up of people 18 and under. The other 20%, that is 40% now, is made up of 65 and over. Of these two groups, you are not going to get an increase in wages. They have no way to increase their incomes to keep paying for your increase in costs. So that can come out of is middle income people, but a lot of the good paying jobs are not in Wythe County. If there is any one that we need, is to get industry in here. We do need to spend money on industry. We need to really concentrate on that, because if we don’t have people that are making good wages you cannot pay taxes. I skipped a few things here, but I would argue with most of these charts you just put up because I am a numbers person. Right now, your school system is costing \$11,169 to educate each child. Are we getting that in return, I don’t think so. We are talking about wage increases for all the employees; you got eight people that are making \$750,000. That is almost \$100,000 a piece and you want to keep increasing wages. I know like with Stephen and some of these are going to get a \$1,000. That money should really go to the Board of Supervisors. If anybody here who doesn’t get paid enough, it is you guys. You put in so much time. Wish I had more time. That is what I got.”

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Linda Meyer of 1118 Dry Road in Speedwell addressed the Board and stated the following:

"Pretty much telling you what I told you this morning. We have got to do something about our health care costs for our employees, for anybody working for the County. I am hoping that you will dive into that with other organizations or co-ops in Virginia to do something about our health care costs. In the County budget on pages one, two, and three, that is only three separate departments, we are paying almost \$100,000 just in medical benefits and premiums. That is really really outrageous. Also, we really cannot afford the salary increases that you are proposing. All employees here have steady jobs, a great environment, and so on. Recently they all got benefits. They all got raises last year. We shouldn't be doing that again this year. There is no reason for it. Those eight employees who are making almost \$750,000, those employees should definitely not be on any salary increases. That is just outrageous. It is a slap in the face to the other people that are getting way way less money in the County. Please work on health care costs. That is a huge huge thing for the County. We really need to bring that down in some way. We are all straining under the weight of health care costs and we the general public cannot afford to keep picking up the employee compensation. Thank you."

James Armbrister of 2678 Fort Chiswell Road in Max Meadows addressed the Board and stated the following:

"I am here representing the Lead Mines Rescue Squad. As Mr. Gordon already said, we are always in dire need of money. We just can't seem to get enough to get by. We are getting by, but that is all we are doing. We are not putting any money ahead for equipment, or training, or anything like that that would help us to continue in the years to come. Just a few points. This is kind of the same things I told everybody at the town hall meeting last week. We just celebrated 40 years of service to our community, which I think is a great thing. To get 40 more years out of it, we are really going to have to put in some effort. We have 38 squad members, but out of 38 only 17 of those are volunteers. It is almost impossible to get volunteers these days that are qualified to do anything besides drive or perform basic first aid skills. You can't find anybody that has the time to work a full-time job and still take all of the classes and training required to be EMTs or advanced personnel. We responded to 1,281 calls last year. We traveled about 50,000 miles, which averages to 39 miles per call, which is way yonder more; I am sure than anybody else in the County. Out of all of the calls we ran, 60% of those calls were billable calls. Billable and collectable are two different things. We can bill for them, but whether we collect anything is another matter. That left 40% of our calls as non-billable, which are standbys, aid assists, or that kind of thing where people refuse service. Once we get there, they feel better. Payroll is our biggest expense. We spent over \$220,000 last year in payroll, which amounts to about 62% of our expenses. As in any other business, payroll is always the biggest expense. We spent over \$18,000 in vehicle maintenance. We need help from the County to help us get ahead, stay ahead, and try to put some money aside for equipment, the future, or whatever. If you would try to include that in your budget, we would sure appreciate it. I am sure the citizens on

our end of the County would. They deserve better service than anything we can give them. Thank you.”

Jeff Lienhart of 3119 Millers Creek Road in Max Meadows addressed the Board and stated the following:

“I would like to start out by saying you guys have a tough choice. You need to decide whether we need more revenue. There are a lot of things that point to yes we do. There are a lot of points that say maybe we don’t. To help further the toughness of your decisions here that are going to be coming on these budget issues is you have to consider all of the ramifications from your decisions here if you do raise taxes. Will that be what the County needs? If you turn it down, is that what the County needs. I would like to start on the point of if you were to turn it down. Where will the money come from for all of the other services the County provides for our citizens other than schools? I think the numbers reflect that we will be able to finance the schools with the capital improvements, but with little to nothing left over for all of the services, a lot of which are provided for the children of this County not just adults. Also, where will the revenue come from for those programs? Will we borrow it? If we do, who do we borrow it from? Ourselves, our unattached funds that we have in the County. Those funds also provide a wonderful bond rating for us. I would like for you to consider the fact, that if we do pay down our reserve funds, our credit rating will go up. Every quarter point of our reserve funds that would drop would bring on an increase in bond rating, or drop in bond rating, excuse me. That works out to about \$655,000 on our current debt load right now every year. For one quarter point. I know I am not helping you to make your decision, but I just want to make sure you are aware of the ramifications of which direction you take. Revenue does need to be increased. It always does. I think what you are asking for in the 9% in the general assessment. How is that in keeping with the other counties surrounding us? I do believe that that is well within the parameters of probably the lowest third taxed counties in the State of Virginia. We are still low. I am not advocating that you vote for a tax increase. I am also looking down the road, as to what alternatives do we have. Long term our debt load will go up whether we add to it or not just in the fact that our bond rating will go up. If we do not budget enough money every year to cover our operating expenses and not dip into our unattached funds. That is all I have to say. I wish you luck in your decisions. They are tough. Hopefully you will get at least 51% that agree with you. That is the best you can hope for. Good luck.”

Rusty Jones of 1040 Reed Creek Mill Road in Wytheville addressed the Board and stated the following:

“Like a lot of the other people, I would like to compliment both organizations, the Board of Supervisors and School Board. You have really tough jobs. I think Virginia creates a unique situation in that the School Board is tasked with coming up with wants and needs and then in the end the Board of Supervisors have to get the real fun part, figuring out how to pay for it all and what can be afforded in the balance of the overall County budget. It is not an easy task and no one should ever pretend that it is. I would say

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this; I am honestly here to speak on behalf of what I think we need to be looking at with our school programs and particularly with our buildings and the capital program. I have spoken at some public meetings, but not before you all. One thing that I have kind of come to after thinking about this is I am a little concerned that we may be looking at this from the wrong perspective. I keep hearing people talking about that this is the last step in the renovation phases and that this is Wytheville's turn and all of this kind of stuff. I would like us to consider repositioning our perspective and think about this looking forward as the beginning step to what we have got to do going forward. What we have done in the past is done. We can't sit here today and think about only Wytheville. That may come as a surprise coming from a Wytheville guy. Particularly a George Wythe alumni. I do think we need to start looking forward. In my occupation, I deal with a lot of analysis of all kinds of economics and companies and stuff. I know that there are some industry leads here tonight. The job displacement we have seen in the last 10 or 20 years is nothing compared to what is coming. Machines are building machines and machines are going to run themselves. We are in trouble if we do not adapt systems and facilities that will take care of what we need to do to train the next generation of people because the jobs are going to be very different. I guess what I would also like to say is if we spend \$10 million now, then what. I keep asking this question and I don't really get an answer. Fort Chiswell High School is up the road and just down the road from major needs of its own. We are going no sooner turn around. Well I could argue that Fort Chiswell needs it as bad now as George Wythe. I think most people down that way would agree with me. Rural Retreat is the beneficiary of a more recent renovation cycle, but inevitably that will come around too. We have three segments in our County that kind of we address. As they say, the Friday night lights are either maroon, gold, or orange. I really like that. I think that that is hallmark of our community. I think it helps all three sections of our County have a good perspective. What I would say is this, when we get to those future years, are we going to be able to afford to have all three of these school systems going. You better think about it because if we box ourselves in a corner, we may end up facing consolidation of high schools and things like that that nobody wants. I would say the one way not to have that happen is to focus and make certain you consolidate George Wythe and Scott now in a proper way. If we have all three middle school/high school combination campuses with segregation properly for the age groups, I think that will keep us from eventually having to get forced into financially possibly having to consolidate the high school system. I would say that I would really like to see us have a consensus between the School Board and the Board of Supervisors of a long range plan where we are standing here today looking forward and we predict what is going to be happening to all three segments, Wytheville area, Fort Chiswell area, and Rural Retreat area and we put it in a long range plan and then we decide if we are going to tax and how we are going to spend. That is my perspective."

Joe Reasor of 105 Chaney Branch Road in Crockett addressed the Board and stated the following:

"I was here to talk about the tax rate increases. Our land use rates have recently gone up and now it is proposed that our personal property and real estate taxes would go up.

I am a beef cattle producer. It takes a large acreage to make a living raising beef cattle. I feel that we pay a large amount in the taxes for our County. Since about 2014, our income has been cut by probably about a third and along with that, we have faced significant rises in our health insurance premiums. Most of the open land in Wythe County is grazing land. I think I speak for a lot of beef producers, cattle run on this land. The beef people have faced major drops in their income, yet we are going to be paying larger taxes. People say it is only a few cents here and there, but where does it end. Our freedoms are being eroded away a few cents at a time and our freedom to do with our income as we want not what the government dictates. I feel there has to be a stand or we are all going to be buried by a government that is taxing us to death. Thank you for your time."

David Blessing of 500 Bald Tree Road in Wytheville addressed the Board and stated the following:

"I do know that at this point in time you all are wanting to consolidate the schools. Build a new school according to what I understand. We heard Mr. Weaver talk about the decline in the population, decline in the jobs, and if you would go out through our community you see that the pay is not really that great. Our economy is not really that great. I can't understand why in the world, and you all are going to have to make these decisions, the seven of you all, whether to do what the School Board wants you to do or to maintain these buildings. Mr. Hale, I have talked to him about it. He said that these that we have got are good buildings. If you go around and look at your old houses versus your new houses, which are still standing? Most of your old houses are. They were better built. The school up there at Rural Retreat, you all just built, they tell me, the janitors, that it leaks every time it rains. I don't know if there is anything to that, but I understand that. The quality is not there as it is in these old buildings. If you go back to the track record where the School Board is coming to look to the previous county where he come from and we can see what kind of shape we are in there. We do not want Wythe County in that kind of shape. We really don't. I am a taxpayer too. I don't have a money tree to go out there and pick it off every time I want something. I think this is not a good time. In order to that, I think we need to maintain our buildings. The decline of the students for the last 13 years is declining. Like the rest of them say, we need to look out for our county and our own benefit. Board of Supervisors, you look out for my benefit and everybody else who pays these taxes. Some of these people comes and goes. We stay and we got to pay the taxes and we got to inherit that debt. As you all seven guys, you all are going to make that decision here in the next few days. I don't know when it is, but you all realize that we are going have to be the burden of the debt. I appreciate the time. I am old school. I know new stuff is nice, but how long does it last. I had a house that I live in and the wood bores got in it and about eat it up Gene. What did I do? I didn't have the money to go and buy me a new one. I went under there and I jacked it up, maintained it, got it fixed up. We are going to live in it. I think we can do the same thing to these buildings there. I appreciate the time and opportunity to come down. Thank you."

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

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RECESS

The Board recessed at 7:45 p.m. until Wednesday, May 24, 2017, at 5 p.m.

RECONVENE

The Board reconvened on May 24, 2017, at 5:04 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Timothy A. Reeves, Sr., Chair
Joe F. Hale, Vice Chair
Gary M. Houseman
Charlie G. Lester

Steven T. Willis
Coy L. McRoberts
B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.

STAFF PRESENT:

Stephen D. Bear, County Administrator
Jennifer Druien, Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Linda Meyer
Millie Rothrock

Jack Weaver
Alan Wilder

BUDGET WORK SESSION

The Board reviewed and discussed proposed Fiscal Year 18 revenue and expenditure budgets, as well as proposed tax rates for calendar year 17.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to come before the Board, Chair Reeves adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:41 p.m.

Timothy A. Reeves, Sr., Chair