

**June 13, 2017**

The Wythe County Board of Supervisors held its regularly scheduled meeting at 5 p.m., Tuesday, June 13, 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  
Martha G. Collins, Administrative Assistant  
Darlene Lang, Director of Communications

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Alan Wilder

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Reeves determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

**BUDGET WORK SESSION**

The Board reviewed and discussed proposed Fiscal Year 2018 revenue and expenditure budgets, as well as proposed tax rates for calendar year 2017.

**RECESS**

The Board recessed at 6:27 p.m.

**RECONVENE**

The Board reconvened at 7:02 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  
Scot Farthing, County Attorney  
Martha G. Collins, Administrative Assistant  
Bill Vaughan, County Engineer

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**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Andrew Davis  
John Davis  
Charles Foster  
Mickey Hilton  
John Humphrey

Sharon King  
Linda Meyer  
Berlene Shook  
Robert Shook  
Six Other Citizens

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Andrew Davis of the Fellowship Baptist 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. Tax Increases – John Humphrey of 393 Lots Gap Road in Max Meadows addressed the Board and stated the following:

“I understand this thing. I may be a little late on the tax proposed increase. Personal property and real estate. I have just come here tonight to ask you all to not raise our taxes. If you go out 21 South or Ivanhoe, or downtown Max Meadows, this County has a lot of poor people. Been a farmer ever since I was old enough to hold a pitchfork. I have been a police officer for 30 years. I have had the unique ability, opportunity to go in all of the schools. Scott, Spiller, and George Wythe, they are well staffed, clean buildings. I think more of a concern is our curriculum. The substance of what these kids are learning, not so much the structure they are in. My dad started out in school in a two room building. He turned out just fine. I just humbly ask you all to not raise our taxes. With all of my expenses as a farmer, when I pay somebody to cut, rake, and bale my hay, all of my other farm expenses, the \$2,300 a year personal property tax, I make nothing. I think that it would be a big detriment, as leaders of the community, not to have our farmers. I am seeing it every day. The older people are dying off and their place is being sold or whatever. I have empathy for the school kids. I want the best for the school kids, but I don't think in our small community that that is the best way for us to go. Thank you.”

2. Firing Range – Robert Shook of 322 Lots Gap Road in Max Meadows addressed the Board and stated the following:

“I am coming today on an issue that has just cropped up since Memorial Day. It has to do with a neighboring property where people have in essence established a firing or gun range. We have a concern in that we had no idea this was coming. We have no idea how they are operating because it is on somebody else's property. We don't know what their target is. I understand that it is long-range guns they are shooting from a very prominent point on top of a hill that overlooks my home and several others in the neighborhood. I took the time to look up

design criteria for a shooting range, which they essentially are establishing a shooting range because they have been there five or six times since Memorial Day. If this was once in a blue moon with everybody gathering on a Saturday. No big deal. I like to shoot as well as anybody. If you are coming again and again and again to the same place, in effect you are establishing a shooting range. We would like to find out if there has been any consideration given for the safety of the neighborhood where they are shooting because evidently this is a long-range situation. My home sits 600 feet from where they have their tent. There is no retaining wall. There is no nothing to abate noise. There is nothing to abate an accidental discharge. There is essentially no safety criteria been established. We would just like to have somebody to look into that to see if there is something that can be done. If they are going to have it then it needs to be made safe for the people around us. I took the time to get a 50-page document, which you are welcome to have. It is free on the internet. On one of the diagrams in the back, cutting to the chase, it shows the base line for the safety zone. Well, the safety zone has a shoulder that goes 200 meters, which is 219 yards out to either side of the main point of firing. Depending on where they are that their targets are established, my home is well within that 200-meter shoulder. I would just like to ask that the Board look into this and just ensure that it is a safe environment for us and the other neighborhood people."

Mr. Farthing inquired if the shooting range is located on the Danner property.

Mr. Shook stated, "Yes sir. I understand that the County has a shooting range established on the back end of the property, which is as far as I know, the safest place in the world. This one is more towards Danner Road and the intersection with Lots Gap Road and up high on a hill. We can see the tents from my back porch."

Chair Reeves advised that the County does not currently have any ordinance that would address a shooting range. He noted that they would investigate the issue.

3. Compression Based Salary Increases – Linda Meyer of 1118 Dry Road in Speedwell addressed the Board and stated the following:

"I only have one question. I tried to do some research. I don't know what a compressed based salary is. Is that going to be something that is different than the salary schedule that was published with the budget?"

Chair Reeves noted that the compression based salary increase is determined by the Compensation Board not the County.

Mr. Bear advised that the previously provided salary schedule does not include the compression based increases. He noted that these are State funded increases that would be provided only to the Sheriff's Office deputies.

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4. Firing Range – Mr. Humphrey readdressed the Board and stated the following:

“Like Mr. Shook said this started happening on Memorial Day with this shooting. It is just incessant. I am very familiar with the noise ordinance as we enforce that all of the time in the Town. I would encourage the County to do that. All it takes is just a reasonableness standard for an officer to go and evaluate each situation. This shooting that he is speaking of is incessant for about three hours. When I heard it, I was sleeping in my basement probably another 400 yards away from him and it sounded like cannons going off. My farm abuts the Danner Farm. No one told me anything about this. I was as alarmed as anybody else. I do have safety concerns for the wildlife. He has cattle. I have cattle. I am often time working on the fence line. There is also some case law I have read about this too. About this unapproved range. I deem it as a public nuisance. There is no public void that this is solving. Just like the last instance we had with the guy who wouldn't turn off the siren. It is the same type thing. It is a public nuisance. It is incessant. I think that the Sheriff's Department should look at it. Maybe in line with the noise ordinance. I tried to go up and record it, but like I said I am just now learning a little bit about Facebook. I couldn't get it to record. I can tell you my credibility, it is really bad. High volume rifles shooting from hill top to hill top.”

5. Shooting – Mickey Hilton of 843 Van Lue Road in Austinville addressed the Board and stated the following:

“I spoke with Coy about the problem we had. What we have is the same thing, excessive shooting all day long. They are making like bombs. They are doing something. It actually rattles the windows in the house when they do it. Almost every weekend it has been going on. We had a funeral in Ivanhoe we couldn't even hear the preacher for it going off over there. We are just across the river from Ivanhoe. It is the same thing that they are talking about. Pretty much every weekend. Maybe not the real loud bombs, but the shooting goes on just about every weekend. Just continuous. I don't know what they are doing, but it is loud. It will rattle the windows in the house.”

6. Shooting – Robert Jackson of 684 Van Lue Road in Austinville addressed the Board and stated the following:

“I just want to reiterate what Mickey has said and some of the other gentlemen who spoke about shooting. I am not opposed to shooting, but it is just too excessive, too long. It goes on too long. I mean, you probably could have heard it here in Wytheville. I don't know what they do. Whether it is legal. I talked to Coy about this. Then I talked to the Administrator about it. They said they was going to have something about this. The mushroom. When people come out of the houses up above us and then they say what in the world is this. I don't know. It is some concoction they are probably getting off of the internet, is what

I think. They got long guns. They got long guns besides pistols. Then they get in these four wheelers or side by side carts and they got trails cut all through their property. They got these things set up and by golly let me tell you when they hit them, it is on. It is really pitiful. It is really scary. It will rattle the windows in your house. It is just really too much. I called the State trooper. State trooper come and he said I will go talk to them. He come and he went over and talked to them and he said they said that they would try to cut back on it some. Since the trooper come and went over and talked to the people, it has curtailed some. I think that it helped. I think that this noise ordinance is something that is really greatly needed. He also stated that it was needed in the County. He said that they got a lot of reports on that. I think that it is something that should be really looked into. Thank you all."

Supervisor McRoberts questioned if the individuals were from the area.

Mr. Jackson stated, "They are from here in Wytheville. They are normally from West Virginia. Bluefield West Virginia. Their father built them these two big magnificent homes there on the river. They cut trails in there and they go anywhere in there. They got things set up. You can actually hear the bullet hit that thing and just at that impact, I mean Coy, it is unreal. I tell you what they do. They set off so many blasts over there at the limestone place. Right across the hill from us. They come monitor every blast. The blast that they shoot and put off is stronger than a dynamite blast at the mine, at the Austinville mine. Old mine pit out there."

Supervisor McRoberts inquired if there is a law against making bombs.

Supervisor Houseman noted that they are probably shooting tannerite. He asked if tannerite is legal to own in Virginia.

Mr. Jackson stated, "I don't know nothing about it, but I do know that they have been doing this for several weekends. Several years they have been shooting, but this past year, this spring, late fall, is the first year that they ever put off the blasting. I mean to tell you gentlemen, you have never heard a blast like that. It will shake a house. Shake your windows, shake your glasses and things. One boy that lives right above us, he come back from service and he said man they putting up mushrooms, mushroom clouds. It is scary to look at and very scary to hear, especially close to your home. I don't know what kind of guns they are shooting. I don't know if they are legal guns or what, but it is a bunch of them." Supervisor Hale recommended that they contact the Federal Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) to investigate the issue. He noted that the ATF would have more authority to address the issue than any County ordinance.

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

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**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The Board was presented with the May 23, 2017 and May 24, 2017 minutes for adoption.

Supervisor McRoberts made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Horney to approve the May 23, 2017 and May 24, 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 June 13, 2017, for the various departments of County government. The invoices were paid on General Warrants 30098276-30098414 as follows:

**EXPENDITURES BY DEPARTMENT  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
June 13, 2017**

<b>CHECK NO.</b>	<b>ISSUE DATE</b>	<b>VENDOR</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
30098276	06/02/17	APPALACHIAN POWER	\$2,010.08
30098277	06/02/17	BUSINESS CARD	\$3,363.38
30098278	06/02/17	CENTURY LINK	\$40.58
30098279	06/02/17	CENTURY LINK	\$44.43
30098280	06/02/17	CENTURY LINK	\$46.29
30098281	06/02/17	CENTURY LINK	\$52.76
30098282	06/02/17	CENTURY LINK	\$70.28
30098283	06/02/17	CENTURY LINK	\$76.63
30098284	06/02/17	CENTURY LINK	\$107.22
30098285	06/02/17	CENTURY LINK	\$114.25
30098286	06/02/17	CENTURY LINK	\$145.98
30098287	06/02/17	CENTURY LINK	\$226.76
30098288	06/02/17	CENTURY LINK	\$244.53
30098289	06/02/17	CENTURY LINK	\$322.83
30098290	06/02/17	CENTURY LINK	\$4,094.56
30098291	06/02/17	CENTURY LINK	\$4,945.11
30098292	06/02/17	DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	\$12,285.00
30098293	06/02/17	LUMOS NETWORKS	\$31.25
30098294	06/02/17	TOWN OF WYTHEVILLE	\$5,346.88

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30098295	06/02/17	VITA	\$148.41
30098296	06/02/17	VITA	\$194.22
<b>TOTAL CHECKS 06/02/17</b>			<b>\$33,911.43</b>

<b>CHECK NO.</b>	<b>ISSUE DATE</b>	<b>VENDOR</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
30098297	06/13/17	ADVANTAGE REFRIGERATION LLC	\$426.41
30098298	06/13/17	AMERICAN MINE RESEARCH INC.	\$13,608.00
30098299	06/13/17	APPALACHIAN POWER	\$1,752.40
30098300	06/13/17	APPALACHIAN POWER CIAC VA	\$8,112.03
30098301	06/13/17	APPALACHIAN POWER CIAC VA	\$13,516.70
30098302	06/13/17	AQUA AEROBIC SYSTEMS INC.	\$645.00
30098303	06/13/17	ARC3 GASES	\$36.12
30098304	06/13/17	BARREN SPRINGS VOL. FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$3,901.43
30098305	06/13/17	BEAR, STEPHEN D.	\$284.34
30098306	06/13/17	BKT UNIFORMS	\$342.92
30098307	06/13/17	BLUE RIDGE AUTO PARTS INC.	\$386.84
30098308	06/13/17	BLUE RIDGE RESCUE SUPPLIERS	\$11,216.50
30098309	06/13/17	BOONE, RONALD C.	\$16.00
30098310	06/13/17	BOWLES, TERRI M.	\$627.96
30098311	06/13/17	BRENNTAG MID-SOUTH INC.	\$1,550.50
30098312	06/13/17	BROWN EXTERMINATING CO.	\$40.00
30098313	06/13/17	BUSINESS INFORMATION SYSTEMS	\$94.50
30098314	06/13/17	BW WILSON PAPER CO.	\$3,408.30
30098315	06/13/17	C & D TRUCK SAFETY SUPPLY LLC	\$1,385.52
30098316	06/13/17	CARTER, TIMOTHY W.	\$60.00
30098317	06/13/17	CATRON, G. W.	\$30.35
30098318	06/13/17	CAVALIER SUPPLY CO.	\$756.30
30098319	06/13/17	CDW GOVERNMENT INC.	\$11,202.45
30098320	06/13/17	CENTURY LINK	\$269.13
30098321	06/13/17	CITIZENS TELEPHONE COOP	\$720.00
30098322	06/13/17	CITY OF SALEM ACADEMY	\$350.00
30098323	06/13/17	COMMUNITY ANIMAL CLINIC INC.	\$413.36
30098324	06/13/17	COMPLETE TRUCK SERVICE INC.	\$709.97
30098325	06/13/17	CORVIN AND COMPANY LC	\$1,665.00
30098326	06/13/17	CREATIVE GLASS INC.	\$4,141.50
30098327	06/13/17	CROWGEY, ERIC W.	\$19.20
30098328	06/13/17	CW WARTHEN	\$639.59
30098329	06/13/17	DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES	\$25.00
30098330	06/13/17	DISTRICT THREE GOVERNMENTAL COOP.	\$3,632.50
30098331	06/13/17	DOWDY, MARK	\$16,800.00
30098332	06/13/17	DUNAGAN, KEITH	\$326.08
30098333	06/13/17	EMS INC.	\$1,242.50
30098334	06/13/17	ESP	\$6,113.37
30098335	06/13/17	F & R ELECTRIC INC.	\$8,374.00
30098336	06/13/17	FARTHING, SCOT S.	\$1,890.00

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30098337	06/13/17	FERGUSON ENTERPRISES NO. 5	\$2,619.82
30098338	06/13/17	FIDELITY POWER SYSTEMS	\$950.00
30098339	06/13/17	FIRE RESCUE AND TACTICAL INC.	\$1,095.81
30098340	06/13/17	FOLEY COMPANY	\$110.00
30098341	06/13/17	FOOD COUNTRY	\$17.99
30098342	06/13/17	FOWLKES MACHINE CO. INC.	\$266.68
30098343	06/13/17	FRIZZELL CONSTRUCTION CO. INC.	\$3,465.60
30098344	06/13/17	GALLS	\$363.10
30098345	06/13/17	GRANT, BRUCE M.	\$4,074.25
30098346	06/13/17	HARPO'S HARDWARE AND BUILDING SUPPLY	\$44.69
30098347	06/13/17	HORNEY, HAYDEN H.	\$322.30
30098348	06/13/17	HUFF FORD	\$363.84
30098349	06/13/17	JERRY B. PETERS SALES INC.	\$2,477.69
30098350	06/13/17	JOINT PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY	\$48,449.96
30098351	06/13/17	KING-MOORE INC.	\$481.00
30098352	06/13/17	LACKEY, MEGHAN KI.	\$783.46
30098353	06/13/17	LANE GROUP, THE	\$53,750.00
30098354	06/13/17	LEXIS NEXIS	\$197.91
30098355	06/13/17	LIENHART, JEFFERY S.	\$84.00
30098356	06/13/17	LOWES	\$1,373.03
30098357	06/13/17	MABE, GERALD E. II	\$624.92
30098358	06/13/17	MANSFIELD OIL CO.	\$6,727.20
30098359	06/13/17	MIDKIFF, DAVID P.	\$60.00
30098360	06/13/17	MODERN SHOE STORE	\$299.97
30098361	06/13/17	NATIONAL POOLS	\$1,031.49
30098362	06/13/17	NEW RIVER REGIONAL WATER AUTH.	\$12,358.45
30098363	06/13/17	OWEN G. DUNN CO.	\$66.38
30098364	06/13/17	PAPER CLIP	\$535.33
30098365	06/13/17	POSTAGE BY PHONE RESERVE ACCOUNT	\$960.00
30098366	06/13/17	PROFESSIONAL COMM. SYSTEMS LLC	\$17.75
30098367	06/13/17	PROTECT YOUTH SPORTS	\$111.65
30098368	06/13/17	R & C TOWING AND REPAIR CO.	\$150.00
30098369	06/13/17	R & R SEPTIC	\$785.00
30098370	06/13/17	RENTAL HUB INC.	\$59.98
30098371	06/13/17	ROBINSON, DANIEL S.	\$683.46
30098372	06/13/17	RURAL DEVELOPMENT	\$2,282.00
30098373	06/13/17	RURAL DEVELOPMENT	\$2,514.00
30098374	06/13/17	RURAL DEVELOPMENT	\$11,572.00
30098375	06/13/17	RYAN'S GLASS TINTING	\$295.00
30098376	06/13/17	SALEM STONE	\$1,577.66
30098377	06/13/17	SIRCHIE FINGER PRINT LABORATORIES	\$251.18
30098378	06/13/17	SOUTHERN STATES	\$1,591.03
30098379	06/13/17	SOUTHWESTERN EQUIPMENT	\$271.59
30098380	06/13/17	STATE ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO.	\$78.35
30098381	06/13/17	STEVE'S AUTO SALES AND REPAIR	\$41.98



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30098382	06/13/17	SUNTRUST	\$36,881.92
30098383	06/13/17	SUPERION LLC	\$22,045.18
30098384	06/13/17	TESLA ELECTRIC SERVICE	\$350.00
30098385	06/13/17	TESSCO INC.	\$1,637.44
30098386	06/13/17	THOMPSON TIRE	\$738.00
30098387	06/13/17	THRASHER GROUP INC.	\$4,080.00
30098388	06/13/17	TRACTOR SUPPLY COMPANY	\$79.98
30098389	06/13/17	TRANSUNION RISK AND ALTERNATIVE	\$73.70
30098390	06/13/17	TYLER TECHNOLOGIES INC.	\$8,863.70
30098391	06/13/17	UNIFIRST CORP.	\$62.10
30098392	06/13/17	UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA	\$185.00
30098393	06/13/17	UPS STORE 5065	\$702.50
30098394	06/13/17	US CELLULAR	\$65.10
30098395	06/13/17	US CELLULAR	\$841.69
30098396	06/13/17	USA BLUE BOOK	\$465.55
30098397	06/13/17	V & M RECYCLING	\$60,394.94
30098398	06/13/17	VERIZON	\$13.50
30098399	06/13/17	VERIZON WIRELESS	\$50.08
30098400	06/13/17	VIRGINIA BUSINESS SYSTEMS	\$858.66
30098401	06/13/17	VIRGINIA TECH	\$11,151.26
30098402	06/13/17	W L CONSTRUCTION AND PAVING INC.	\$325.87
30098403	06/13/17	WALK, ROBERT H.	\$76.80
30098404	06/13/17	WHALEN, CALEB	\$75.00
30098405	06/13/17	WILLIAMS SUPPLY	\$344.00
30098406	06/13/17	WILLIAMS, KEVIN	\$115.91
30098407	06/13/17	WILSON BAIT AND TACKLE INC.	\$404.60
30098408	06/13/17	WILSON, DOUGLAS E.	\$45.60
30098409	06/13/17	WORDSPRINT	\$317.00
30098410	06/13/17	WYTHE COUNTY WATER/WASTEWATER	\$205.24
30098411	06/13/17	WYTHE TIRE AND MUFFLER	\$1,097.20
30098412	06/13/17	WYTHEVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE	\$19,197.75
30098413	06/13/17	WYTHEVILLE OFFICE SUPPLY	\$3,916.31
30098414	06/13/17	XEROX	\$203.12

**TOTAL CHECKS 06/13/17** **\$462,833.97**

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES APPROVED 06/13/17** **\$496,745.40**

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

**June 13, 2017**

**PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE 2017-02 WYTHE COUNTY NOISE ORDINANCE**

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 Ordinance 2017-02, Wythe County Noise Ordinance. 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 June 13, 2017, before the Board in the Boardroom of the County Administration Building, 340 South Sixth Street, Wytheville, Virginia.

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

John Humphrey of 393 Lots Gap Road in Max Meadows addressed the Board and stated the following:

"Only thing I will say on the noise ordinance, I guess that is what we are talking about. I was daydreaming for a second there. Like I have said, I have worked with a noise ordinance all throughout my career. It works great. Most of the time you go to whatever you are called on in reference to noise and you just simply tell the folks look, it is disturbing the public and you just judge it from a reasonableness standard that a rational person would. If somebody is watching TV that is not a violation of the noise ordinance. Generally speaking. Excessive barking dogs that might be a different thing or like I just said somebody shooting high velocity rifles off, that is. Most of the time you can just simply go to the people and say look, we have had complaints, and by what I have witnessed, it is validated. Can you just quell it or stop it. Most of the time you, that is it. You can leave and the people abide by it. What we do in the Town, and I am not speaking in an official capacity tonight or nothing. What we do is we have to come back to something like that. What we generally do is write them a summons. I think it is usually about a \$100 fine. Most of the time, 85, 90% of the time you don't have to do that. It is taken care of. That definitely gets it taken care of. It is also revenue. I think it is a great idea. Mainly with shooting, barking dogs, loud music, et cetera. The officers will weed the wheat from the chaff when they go there. Thank you."

Fred Brown of 262 Race Track Road in Rural Retreat addressed the Board and stated the following:

"I am interested in learning something about the noise ordinance. I don't know too much about it, but it would have a direct impact. I built Wythe Raceway and this is 47 years that we have had races. There is, I know you all will find it hard to believe, but some of the cars actually do run without mufflers and make some noise. I don't know what kind of impact this would have. We are fortunate to have, the crowds are good. We have been here so long that we actually have people drive down from Canada for specific races just here because they are entertainment. We are in the entertainment business. The racers are really serious. We walk a fine line between entertainment and taking care of the racers. Some of the things we have done, we have a youth division

that starts with kids or children from 12-16 who actually drive racecars. I think this adds a lot to safety. They don't have to drive out on the road. They can drive as fast as they want and they learn a lot. They have a lot of mechanical skills. The other thing, not only do we have cars we also have motorcycle races. In Wythe County, I think this year there are probably between eight and ten of these competition type closed course events. They draw people from probably eight to ten states. Usually they are two-day affairs and lots of people come. All of these things do bring a certain amount of revenue into the County. They also make some noise. I am also a commercial hot air balloon pilot. I didn't think about noise, but when you push the burner, it makes a certain degree of noise also. Basically, everything that I seem involved with has something to do with noise. Without knowing more about it, I would be opposed to it. From what I read, I didn't see anything, or I didn't read it close enough to see how it would affect me."

Chair Reeves advised that sporting events are exempt from the proposed noise ordinance.

Mr. Brown stated, "I read sporting events and I was never sure. Seems to me years ago, they used to have chicken fights and that was a sporting event. If you think we are alright. Thank you very much."

Sharon King of 5033 West Lee Highway in Wytheville addressed the Board and stated the following:

"We do have a nice community where we are at. It is like the property ordinance, if we nip it in the bud and take care of it, we won't have no problem. I understand from Mr. Humphrey and the other people, my my my what if we had to put up with that. If you nip that in the bud before it gets started then you are not going to have no argument, no confusion. You go and it is taken care of by the law enforcement. There is not going to be no fighting. No hard feelings with each other. We are in a community to love each other, help each other, and respect each other. We do not know who is going to move in and out and there may be somebody coming in that is a little haywire. I shouldn't say that. I am not judging nobody. That just wants to cause problems and create chaos. If we nip this in the bud right now, that can't happen. There would be nobody hurt. No hard feelings between nobody. I do wish you all would take this into consideration so that we won't have a mess like they have got. Like I said, we do have a nice community where we are at. I would like to keep it like that without radios going all night long. Partying all night long. There should be a time for everything. I do thank you all for your time and for letting me speak. Take this into consideration please. Thank you."

John Davis of 325 Mockingbird Lane in Max Meadows addressed the Board and stated the following:

"The only question that I have. I have no issue with the noise ordinance. It is a rare thing that as a pastor that I get into this. The only thing that I would ask is, is there any

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mechanism or are we relying on the officers good judgement for those cases in which, you know as well as I do there are some people on the other side of it that are unreasonable too. They hear one pop and they are ready to call the law. That would be my concern with it. I am fine with noise ordinances in general, but like if me and a buddy get out and sight in our rifles. We are in a safe place, nobodies in danger, every applicable law is being met and that kind of thing. If you are as bad a shot as I am, it takes me half an afternoon to sight my rifle in. I could easily be in violation of a proposed noise ordinance doing something completely innocent and harmless. Is the only mechanism to protect just regular folks that aren't trying to cause problems, aren't trying to stir anything up, just the good judgement of the officers would be my question. Thank you."

Chair Reeves responded that if a complaint is received, an officer would visit the scene and talk to the individuals. He explained if the individuals do not reduce the noise, then the officer could issue a summons.

Mr. Davis stated, "On the one hand, I see the value of a noise ordinance. It doesn't much apply to me because I am out in the middle of nowhere. I see the value of it. Certainly the safety issue that they are discussing and that sort of thing. My only concern is unreasonable people encroaching upon the rights of honest good people. That would be my only question. Thank you."

Berlene Shook of 322 Lots Gap Road in Max Meadows addressed the Board and stated the following:

"I have grandchildren and our pool is in the back. Where the pool is all the kids have to do is look up the hill and they can see the shooters. I have a two year old and when they were shooting the other day, she was grabbing her head running, they are shooting at me. You know that is sad. I do keep these kids a lot. They are home schooled. I will be having them probably for a while longer. They got medical thing going on in their family. This isn't good for children. There is nowhere in my yard that they want to be. When they are in the house, they kind of hunker down on the couch because the shooting is booming so loud in my house from those rifles. We even got the air conditioner on and the windows rolled up. Again, thank you guys. We are not trying to cause any trouble. We just want to live peacefully too. Thank you."

Supervisor McRoberts stated the following: "I don't know whether you all have forgotten what took place over in Ivanhoe about a month or so ago. The man decides he wants to blow a siren. He blew the siren for ten days. Day and night. Nothing the Sheriff could do. Finally had to go get the Commonwealth Attorney and get the judge to sign an order against this man to get it cut off. I also have some citizens who live down in the lower end of the County. They live on a dirt road. They have one man down there who parties. He parties all night long, turns his radio just as loud as he can get it. When the law gets close to him, he cuts it down. How he knows, I can't answer that. She said that they was drinking, cussing, nudity, anything that you are looking for, he has got it. These people are afraid to go to sleep at night. He sent a text to her. The

man who is doing this sent a text to this lady. I will read it and she said that the Sheriff's Department had a copy of this. 'I will make your life a legal living hell.' You know people shouldn't be afraid to live in their own home. Something we need to think about. Thank you."

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

**CALENDAR YEAR 2017 TAX LEVY**

The Board reviewed and discussed a memorandum from County Administrator Bear recommending adoption of the Calendar Year 2017 tax rates as follows:

Real Estate	\$0.50
Personal Property	\$2.32
Merchant's Capital	\$0.56
Machine and Tools	\$1.50

Chair Reeves advised that the reassessment value of the County increased \$0.01. He noted that the majority of the increase was on commercial property, and would not impact the individual residential property owner. Chair Reeves explained that they have proposed a \$0.01 real estate tax increase to fund the renovation of schools, reduced from the \$0.05 they had previously advertised. He stated that they have also proposed a \$0.05 personal property tax increase down from the \$0.10, which was advertised. He added that a tax increase of some type would be needed to proceed with the renovation project.

Supervisor McRoberts noted that he does not like tax increases, but is in favor of an increase to fund the renovation of George Wythe High School, which is needed.

Supervisor Hale agreed that good schools are needed, but he is opposed to buying something and not knowing what they are getting. He explained that he would prefer not to vote for a tax increase that they know would not cover the project debt service.

Supervisor Houseman explained that they have throughout Wythe County's history, increased taxes to fund school construction projects when needed. He noted that he also does not like tax increases, but the increase proposed is much smaller than was advertised. Supervisor Houseman advised that currently the only avenue available to provide the additional revenue needed for the project is a tax increase. He stated that hopefully in the future additional revenue streams would be available, and further tax increases would not be needed.

Supervisor Willis stated that he agrees that the Town of Wytheville schools need to be addressed. He noted; however, that he has an issue with funding a project when they have not been provided a clear purpose for use of the funds. Supervisor Willis added that he would vote for the tax increase, if he unequivocally believed that \$10 million would fund the project.

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Chair Reeves advised that the School Board has proposed the renovation of George Wythe High School at a cost of approximately \$14 million. He explained that they are unsure what they would be able to complete with the \$10 million that the Board had previously proposed to add to the budget. Chair Reeves noted that the amount budgeted could be adjusted, as the budget is a working document and funds cannot be expended until they are amended and appropriated. He stated that he does not like tax increases and would hope that the State would provide counties with additional tools to generate revenue as they do the cities and towns. Chair Reeves added that he is in favor of the \$0.01 tax increase to address the renovation and upgrade of George Wythe High School.

Supervisor McRoberts made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Houseman to adopt the Calendar Year 2017 tax rates as presented.

The roll call vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES: Gary M. Houseman  
Coy L. McRoberts  
Timothy A. Reeves, Sr.

NAYS: Charlie G. Lester  
Steven T. Willis  
Joe F. Hale  
B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.

### **FISCAL YEAR 2018 BUDGET/FISCAL YEAR 2018 REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS**

The Board reviewed and discussed the Wythe County Fiscal Year 18 Budget, as well as Fiscal Year 18 Revenue and Expenditure Reports.

Mr. Bear noted that the revenue and expenditure reports were calculated based on the proposed tax rates, which the Board did not adopt. He added that these would need to be revised and updated prior to adoption.

The Board agreed to delay action on the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget and Revenue and Expenditures reports until June 30. The Board also agreed to schedule a work session for further discussion of the Fiscal Year 18 Budget for June 20 at 5 p.m.

### **BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT**

1. Appalachian Regional Exposition Center Site Rock Removal – Supervisor Hale made a motion, as recommended by the Building and Grounds Committee to proceed with the Baker's Construction Services Wythe County Appalachian Regional Exposition Center Rough Grading Contract 1 modification to drill and shoot rock 2.5 feet below finished elevation within the building footprint.

Mr. Bear advised that following further investigation and discussion, the Economic Development Committee recommended that the Board not proceed with the contract modification as presented.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

1. Virginia’s Industrial Advancement Alliance – Supervisor Hale made a motion, as recommended by the Economic Development Committee to approve an increase to the Virginia’s Industrial Advancement Alliance per capita assessment from \$1.00 to \$1.25, contingent upon the Alliance’s agreement to place Progress Park at the top of the list of shovel ready sites on their website or more frequent rotation of the site 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

2. Appalachian Regional Exposition Center Architectural Services Agreement Amendment No. 2 – Supervisor Hale made a motion, as recommended by the Economic Development Committee to accept Lane Group Phase 1 Architectural Services Wythe County Exposition Center Arena Building July 26 Agreement Amendment No. 2, with removal of the requested time extension and reduction of the proposed fee to \$1,500.

The roll call vote on the motion was as follows:

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

NAYS: Gary M. Houseman

**APPALACHIAN REGIONAL EXPOSITION CENTER GRADING PROJECT**

County Engineer Bill Vaughan updated the Board on the status of the Appalachian Regional Exposition Center site grading project and presented a map depicting areas at grade, grassed in, or recently seeded and covered in straw for stabilization. He reported that the contractor is currently working primarily to grade the building pad area and the lower parking area. Mr. Vaughan explained that the contractor would next stabilize and seed these areas, as well as install the concrete ditch above the No. 1 pond and the diversion ditch. He noted that the road would then remain to be addressed. He added that the grading is approximately 75% to 80% complete.

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Supervisor Houseman requested an update on the Department of Environmental Quality issue.

Mr. Vaughan advised that the Department of Environmental Quality visited the site earlier in the day to determine the status of the Consent Order Appendix A requirements. He explained that the inspector had indicated that if the site had been where it was today during the original inspection, there would not have been an issue. Mr. Vaughan noted that the inspector visiting the site today would not make the final decision, but would provide a completed checklist to his bosses, who would then determine compliance.

Mr. Bear stated that they should receive the results of the inspection in approximately one week. He noted that Mr. Vaughan has worked diligently with the contractor to address the areas of non-compliance.

### **SHERIFF'S OFFICE COMPRESSION BASED SALARY INCREASES**

The Board reviewed and discussed a memorandum and supporting information from Robyn de Socio, Virginia Compensation Board Executive Secretary, detailing the specifics of Sheriff's Office compression based salary increases along with the steps required to implement the increases.

Mr. Bear explained that the Compensation Board has approved compression based pay increases to Sheriff's Office deputies. He noted that the increase would provide \$80 per full year of non-interrupted service for each Compensation Board funded sworn deputy with three or more years of service up to a maximum of 30 years. Mr. Bear advised that

the increase would also provide \$60 per full year of uninterrupted service for each non-sworn Compensation Board funded position.

### **APPALACHIAN POWER INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN**

The Board reviewed and discussed a letter and supporting documents from Janice Venable, Appalachian Power Regulatory Consultant, providing notice of the September 28, 2017, public hearing to receive into record testimony and evidence related to Case PUR-2017-00045 filed with the State Corporation Commission for adoption of Appalachian Power's Integrated Resource Plan.

### **VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES REGION 12 AND 13 MEETING**

Chair Reeves advised that the Virginia Association of Counties Region 12 and 13 would meet on June 29 at 6 p.m. in the Washington County Governmental Complex. He encouraged all Board members to attend.

### **ORDINANCE 2017-02 WYTHE COUNTY NOISE ORDINANCE**

Supervisor Hale made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Willis to adopt Ordinance 2017-02, Wythe County Noise Ordinance.

Supervisor Horney questioned if the noise ordinance would address the shooting issue.



Mr. Farthing questioned if the shooting is considered a sporting event.

Supervisor Horney noted that if it is not open to the public, then he does not believe that it would be considered a sporting event.

Chair Reeves stated that if it is not an advertised competition open to the public, then he also would not consider it a sporting event.

Supervisor Houseman explained that he would prefer that they not adopt an ordinance that would not help legally resolve the shooting issue. He inquired if the shooting would be covered by the section of the ordinance addressing a machine or device capable of producing sound.

Mr. Farthing advised that the ordinance would cover the noise produced by the gunfire. He added that any machine or device producing noise could be a violation of the ordinance if a neighbor complains.

Supervisor Lester inquired if an industry would be in violation of the ordinance, if the noise they produce could be heard at a nearby home.

Mr. Farthing noted that if the noise is plainly audible from a home within 50 feet of the industry, then they would be in violation.

The roll call vote on the motion was as follows:

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

NAYS: Charlie G. Lester

**RECESS**

The Board recessed at 8:23 p.m. until Tuesday, June 20, 2017, at 5 p.m.

**RECONVENE**

The Board reconvened on June 20, 2017, at 5:01 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	

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**STAFF PRESENT:**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Tonya Freeman	Millie Rothrock
Jeff Perry	One Other Citizen

**BUDGET WORK SESSION**

The Board reviewed and discussed proposed Fiscal Year 2018 revenue and expenditure budgets, as well as proposed tax rates for calendar year 2017. The Board also discussed the proposed school construction project and associated costs.

Dr. Perry spoke regarding the school capital improvement program and indicated that the School Board does intend to proceed with renovations to George Wythe High School.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business to come before the Board, Chair Reeves adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:47 p.m.

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Timothy A. Reeves, Sr., Chair