

**October 24, 2017**

The Wythe County Board of Supervisors held its regularly scheduled meeting at 9 a.m., Tuesday, October 24, 2017. The location of the meeting was in the Boardroom of the County Administration Building, 340 South Sixth Street, Wytheville, Virginia.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Stephen D. Bear, County Administrator  
Scot Farthing, County Attorney  
Martha G. Collins, Administrative Assistant/Clerk  
Bill Vaughan, County Engineer

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

|                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| George Bailey   | Donna Post            |
| Terry Bass      | Rick Post             |
| Mark Boenke     | Bernie Ramirez        |
| Leysa Cox       | Millie Rothrock       |
| Roy Cox         | David Saliba          |
| Keith Dunagan   | Berlene Shook         |
| Lori Gynn       | Robert Shook          |
| Lee Johnson     | Harry Street          |
| Mike Lockaby    | Mary Thomas           |
| John Manuel     | Anthony Vaught        |
| Linda Meyer     | Brian Vaught          |
| Matthew Miller  | Alan Wilder           |
| Nate Montgomery | Twelve Other Citizens |
| Cathy Pattison  |                       |

**CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION**

Chair Reeves determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. Bernie Ramirez of St. Mary's Catholic Church provided the invocation and Chair Reeves led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 18 BUDGET AMENDMENT**

Chair Reeves announced that notice is hereby given that the Board of Supervisors of Wythe County, Virginia, in compliance with Section 15.2-2507 of the Code of Virginia and amendments thereto, will hold a public hearing to receive comments related to a proposed increase to the Fiscal Year 18 Budget in the amount of \$2,500,000 to provide additional capital project funding for the Appalachian Regional Exposition Center. This amount, which is proposed to come from County reserve funds, will be used for building construction and associated costs. The public hearing, which may be continued or

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adjourned, and at which persons may appear and present their views on the matter, will be held at 9:05 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard on October 24, 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.

Mark Boenke of 130 Eagle Drive in Wytheville addressed the Board and stated the following:

“Lee Atwater, an American politician, said perception is reality. I think that very fitting and appropriate since we are here in a political arena right now and my perception is that this project stinks worse than a pig farm. You are wanting to pull \$2.5 million out of reserve to fund a project that is already one year over budget on time. It was supposed to have been completed already. Engineer’s estimate. What was their engineer’s estimate? What was their budget? This whole thing just reeks that something is not right about it. Especially when you are willing to do \$2.5 million out of reserves for this project, but you won’t adequately fund the school project for the new schools. The perception in my mind is you guys really don’t care about your employees, the teachers, and the work environment that they live and work in. You don’t care about the students and the environment that they learn in. To better themselves. To better this community. You want to showcase farm equipment and farm animals and concerts that may or may not come with public funds and money. Originally, this project was not supposed to encompass public funds. The perception out there is just this thing is all out of whack in my mind. I don’t think it is the right thing to do. I think education is where we need to put the investment. The whole field of dreams, build it and they will come attitude has got to stop. Lot 1, Lot 24, Lot 30, and now the Ag Expo. We have built it and nothing has come yet. You are going to have a \$30,000 a month mortgage on the Ag Expo when you are done. Is that about right? You got to have \$30,000 a month in revenue plus more revenue to do operations, maintenance, other expenses. How much are you really going to need to bring in on a monthly basis? Can we actually do that? That is just what I got to say. Perception is reality. Thank you.”

Nate Montgomery of 385 East Reservoir Street in Wytheville addressed the Board on behalf of his wife, Jen Otey. Mr. Montgomery presented a letter to the Board dated October 24, 2017, submitted by Mrs. Otey, Spiller Elementary School teacher, and signed by the Spiller Elementary School principal, vice principal, and 40 other teachers stating the following:

“It has come to my attention that our County representatives desire to spend another \$2.7 million on the Expo Center that is currently under construction at the exit between Wytheville and Fort Chiswell, per a request from the building contractor. I am very concerned about this and feel that I need to make my opinion known to you. I would like to address this from a couple of different perspectives... as a Wythe County taxpayer and a Wythe County Public School educator from Spiller Elementary, here in Wytheville.

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As a taxpayer, I feel that all persons paying taxes should have some say in how our money and the money collected from all of the tax paying citizens of Wythe County is spent. I am certain that the vast majority of the people that I personally know are opposed to the construction of the expo center, as it will require a great deal of tax money, now and in the future to build and maintain it. I know that at many meetings, be they Board of Supervisors, political party affiliated, School Board or even some less formal, and in a variety of news outlets, via columns, articles, and editorials, the public has made it clear that they do not support the expo center. I think that before this large sum of money is spent, the Board of Supervisors needs to consult its constituents and find out what the public opinion overall is like. I also think that they need to look hard at what should be most important on the list of priorities of Wythe County and decide if it is best to even continue this project in its totality or to come up with another more effective plan for creating revenue.

As an aside, I also find it interesting that the meeting scheduled for the public to share their thoughts and opinions set for Tuesday, October 24, 2017, has been set for 9 o'clock in the morning. Many professional people are at work at that time, especially those of us that work for the school system. If you want to get public input from a more diverse section of the general public, I think it is important to set meeting times for the evening, when a variety of people can attend and make their opinions known.

This brings me to the second perspective... the classroom teacher. Frankly, if any person spent any time in the schools in Wytheville they would quickly see that they are not just out of date and obsolete, they are literally falling apart. They are well past their prime and have exceeded their typical lifespan. There are leaks in the roofs and windows. The plumbing in the restrooms is often problematic. Radon is an issue at Spiller (although, it is a negligible amount, it is still an issue). The HVAC is decrepit or virtually non-existent in all three of the schools in Wytheville. There are some issues with ADA compliance in the schools and there is lead and asbestos in the buildings. The classroom sizes are too small to accommodate the numbers of students at school and the number of students enrolling just keeps growing. Technologically we are behind many of the other school districts in the State and this is putting the future of our graduating students in jeopardy when it comes to the competitive nature of getting into colleges and training schools. Emphasis needs to be placed on our schools if we want to grow a healthy community. That cannot happen if another significant chunk of money is being placed into this expo center.

Our kids deserve the best education possible. The teachers deserve the best available space and equipment to make that happen. Our town and community deserve to have families and individuals with professional backgrounds move in to set up businesses and do jobs that will serve Wythe County. That won't happen if school improvement is not a priority. One of the first things people with families look at when thinking of moving to a new place is the schools in that area. I have already met at least two families in the past few months that said that they didn't even bother to enroll their children here for school due to the lack of technology and the overall state of the schools. One family opted for moving to Christiansburg. The dad commutes to work here in Wytheville, but

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they chose Christiansburg because they felt better about the schools there. This will continue to happen if things do not change and the County's priorities do not shift.

All this being said, I cannot condone another large amount of money going into the Expo Center. I am concerned that the push to give the contractor more money has come at a time just before an election and I worry that there has not been enough forethought due to the timeframe between the old Board and this newly elected Board. I strongly urge you to wait and consult with the people of this community about their thoughts and feelings around the further funding of this expo center, and trust that the newly elected Board will do the same and make the best decision with enough time to do so. Thank you for your time. Most Sincerely, Jen Otey, teacher, community member, and taxpayer of Wythe County."

Mr. Montgomery next addressed the Board on his own behalf and stated the following:

"I attended the very first public hearing regarding this exposition center and addressed the feasibility study with no renderings, no drawings whatsoever of this building, and no site analysis. At the first meeting, I stood here and I urged this Board to use caution and do your due diligence in moving forward with the project, for without any plans there is no way to know what this building may be used for or what it might cost. All of this went unheeded and a \$5 million burden was placed on the shoulders of the Wythe County taxpayer. At this time the Board finally got around to hiring a firm to drop a set of plans. Unfortunately, the reality of this project began to materialize and lo and behold, the building and site prep were going to be far more expensive than had been previously guessed at. Site work began and the lack of preparation on this Board's part once again became a financial issue when improper grade work turned into fines, but still onward you go. Bids were requested for construction and once more we find that the work being requested is not in line with the budget of the project. That brings us up to last week. With a \$2.7 million shortfall for the still not quite thought through project, the Board decided to host a public forum on a Tuesday morning when most of the men and women of this County are at work. Now I know that you have already decided what you will do and I fully understand that this meeting is little more than political theater. So, gentlemen I do not intend to disappoint you. Who do you think you are to sit in front of this community, many of you elected on conservative principles of small government and fiscal conservatism and burden this County with such a special interest good old boy feeding trough give away as this expo center. You should be ashamed of yourselves. You will sit in those chairs and tell our Sheriff's Department that they should go write tickets for badly needed body cameras that serve to make both the citizens of this community and the officers safer and then turn around and rob this reserve fund to finance this debacle. You will sit in those chairs and tell the educators and the children of Wythe County that they are not worth you investing in a state of the art facility for their education and then turn around and let taxpayer money literally wash down the culverts underneath 81 due to ignorance in construction and project management. The best thing this Board can do to benefit the taxpayers of Wythe County would be finish properly grading that lot and begin marketing it to a private developer similar to the way that Progress Park was built and is now being marketed. We do not need to continue on

this path with the ludicrous notion that simply because the work has begun this lot has to become what is surely to be another doomed expo center like the one two hours away in Lexington and two hours the other way in McMinnville, Tennessee. Cut your losses and return the rest of the bond money. I have no faith that this will be the direction that this particular Board chooses. None of the incoming candidates for East or Blacklick support this project. So I am certain that today you will go ahead and vote to continue down the same path that we have been stumbling along through the entirety of this travesty. I can only hope that the next Board of Supervisors election will bring even more young mindful candidates that truly represent all men, women, and children of Wythe County. I hope what we are seeing here today is the last dying gasp of the back room good old boy politics in Wythe County. Unfortunately, we will still be paying the bill for its memorial long after it is dead. Thank you for your time."

Alan Wilder of 2975 North Fourth Street in Wytheville addressed the Board and stated the following:

"Mr. Chairman, Mr. Bear, Board members. Thank you for leading. I appreciate that. Leading is difficult. Leading requires foresight and vision and I personally appreciate the investment and interest that you have in economic development for our citizens. While I don't fully understand how the APEX center will operate, or generate the resources for our citizens, I actually trust that you do understand how that will work. I hope that years from now we all will be able to look back and be very glad that you had the vision to create this new avenue of vitality for our County. I certainly also trust that you see our public school system as a vital component of economic development. Four thousand children, seven hundred employees, thirteen schools, and of course the hopes and dreams of so many families for a better future for their children. You know that we have already poured considerable capital improvement funds into our three attendance zones in the last 25 years. In the eastern zone, we have spent about \$32 million. In the western zone, \$23 million. In the central zone, \$8.5 million. I am proud as a Board member, representing the citizens of West Wytheville on the Wythe County School Board where our schools are academically right now. Out of 132 divisions in the State, we are ranked number 10. Just as an aside, the Superintendent reported to you several weeks ago that number and I was honestly disappointed that no one congratulated him. That was completely overlooked. Thank you to the hard work of our students, teachers, and administrators, and also your budgetary support. We couldn't do it without your support, so thank you. You know that we are currently creating plans to renovate George Wythe High School. The School Board takes the same long-term visionary approach to public education that this Board takes to economic development. We believe that these two County priorities are complimentary and essential. I am concerned that the APEX project cost overruns would diminish and delay our public school capital improvements. You have said on numerous occasions that there is a tight relationship between what the County can borrow and the reserves it must keep. For every dollar you borrow, there is a certain number of dollars that you must keep in reserve. Reducing County reserves by \$2.5 million I hope will not sour our ability to do a quality renovation project at George Wythe High School. I would be disappointed to hear next year that construction funds were unavailable because our County reserves

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could not support adequate funding. Six of our schools are already overdue for renovation by one to three decades. I trust that you will not allow the APEX center to drain needed capital reserves that could be used to accelerate the renovation and replacement of declining school conditions. Finally, I was driving up the mountain from Galax yesterday in that rainstorm. I couldn't see a thing. It was frightening and scary to try to pick out what was up ahead you know. I wanted to tap the brakes. I just wonder if this isn't a time to tap the brakes in regard to the APEX center because we are not quite sure what lies ahead. I thank you for your time."

George Bailey of 285 Dogwood Drive in Wytheville addressed the Board and stated the following:

"Good afternoon gentlemen, ma'am. Thank you for your time and opportunity to speak in front of you today. It is a bad time of day for most of the people I know that want to be here. Thank you for at least letting me have the opportunity to speak. I don't know about any of you all, but I haven't touched \$2.5 million in my lifetime. As a County, we need to be wise in what we are doing with the money that we have. Nate spoke already about how he thinks it is an unwise investment and me, myself, will agree with the fact that we have policemen in this County that are not only underpaid, but that don't have the things that they need to be efficient and do the things that they need to do. They do a wonderful job with what they have. Our fire and rescue departments also in the County have problems, whether it be vehicles, trucks, or things that aren't functional that need to be functional. Our schools need to be rebuilt. They need to be, if you are not going to rebuild them and you are going to renovate them, then they need to be renovated in the proper way. I still have kids that are in school here. I would venture to say that most of you do not have children who are in the school system anymore. Two of mine have left the school system, but I still have two that are in school here. They require those things to continue to grow in their education. My question is, is this the best way to use \$2.5 million in reserves? Is this the proper way to use \$2.5 million in reserves? I love a good soccer field. I coach soccer and I love soccer. We travel over to Bluefield to play and they have a great soccer venue and I love it, but do we need to put that kind of money in a soccer venue in this County that also puts on concerts. Like I have said before, we have had experience, or I have had experience in bringing concerts into the area. The cost that goes into that is far above the costs that we are going to make back in return in this area. I don't know how people are going to get off the exit to get to this venue. There are a lot of things. Are we going to end up having a shell building like we have at Fort Chiswell Outlet Mall? We need to figure out if this is a wise investment or do we cut our losses and do what we have right now and let it be for that. Thank you all for your time. I appreciate it."

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

### **CITIZENS' TIME**

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

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

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Board was presented with the October 10, 2017, minutes for adoption.

Supervisor McRoberts made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Horney to approve the October 10, 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 October 24, 2017, for the various departments of County government. The invoices were paid on General Warrants 30099258-30099335 as follows:

**EXPENDITURES BY DEPARTMENT  
 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
 October 24, 2017**

| <b>CHECK NO.</b> | <b>ISSUE DATE</b> | <b>VENDOR</b>                       | <b>TOTAL</b> |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| 30099258         | 10/24/17          | APPALACHIAN POWER                   | \$13,424.79  |
| 30099259         | 10/24/17          | BARREN SPRINGS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT. | \$6,480.97   |
| 30099260         | 10/24/17          | BLUE 360 MEDIA LLC                  | \$60.25      |
| 30099261         | 10/24/17          | BLUE RIDGE AUTO PARTS INC.          | \$73.45      |
| 30099262         | 10/24/17          | BMS DIRECT INC.                     | \$15,600.00  |
| 30099263         | 10/24/17          | BOYD, BRUCE W.                      | \$4,300.00   |
| 30099264         | 10/24/17          | BRENNTAG MID SOUTH INC.             | \$2,028.00   |
| 30099265         | 10/24/17          | BSN SPORTS INC.                     | \$480.22     |
| 30099266         | 10/24/17          | BUSINESS INK                        | \$1,568.26   |
| 30099267         | 10/24/17          | CARILION HEALTHCARE CORP.           | \$45.00      |
| 30099268         | 10/24/17          | CARZ R US LLC                       | \$39.00      |
| 30099269         | 10/24/17          | CENTURY LINK                        | \$39.98      |
| 30099270         | 10/24/17          | CENTURY LINK                        | \$50.08      |
| 30099271         | 10/24/17          | CENTURY LINK                        | \$56.56      |
| 30099272         | 10/24/17          | CENTURY LINK                        | \$249.72     |
| 30099273         | 10/24/17          | CENTURY LINK                        | \$277.99     |
| 30099274         | 10/24/17          | COLLINS, MARTHA                     | \$45.00      |
| 30099275         | 10/24/17          | CORRECTIONS PRODUCTS CO.            | \$150.00     |

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|          |          |                                      |             |
|----------|----------|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| 30099276 | 10/24/17 | COUNTY OF WYTHE                      | \$1,416.67  |
| 30099277 | 10/24/17 | CROWN AWARDS                         | \$785.66    |
| 30099278 | 10/24/17 | DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES         | \$420.00    |
| 30099279 | 10/24/17 | ELECTION SYSTEMS AND SOFTWARE INC.   | \$193.00    |
| 30099280 | 10/24/17 | EMS INC.                             | \$1,190.00  |
| 30099281 | 10/24/17 | FARTHING, SCOT S.                    | \$1,765.00  |
| 30099282 | 10/24/17 | FASTENAL                             | \$23.51     |
| 30099283 | 10/24/17 | FERGUSON ENTERPRISES NO. 5           | \$11.07     |
| 30099284 | 10/24/17 | FERGUSON ENTERPRISES NO. 5           | \$1,457.38  |
| 30099285 | 10/24/17 | FIRE RESCUE AND TACTICAL INC.        | \$215.94    |
| 30099286 | 10/24/17 | GALLS                                | \$144.48    |
| 30099287 | 10/24/17 | GRANT, BRUCE M.                      | \$4,074.25  |
| 30099288 | 10/24/17 | GUN SHOP                             | \$3,356.55  |
| 30099289 | 10/24/17 | MANSFIELD OIL CO.                    | \$6,191.77  |
| 30099290 | 10/24/17 | MAX MEADOWS FIRE DEPARTMENT          | \$195.00    |
| 30099291 | 10/24/17 | MCI COMMUNICATION SERVICES           | \$34.75     |
| 30099292 | 10/24/17 | MCI COMMUNICATION SERVICES           | \$83.21     |
| 30099293 | 10/24/17 | MCI COMMUNICATION SERVICES           | \$500.10    |
| 30099294 | 10/24/17 | MEREDITH, DAVID M.                   | \$134.10    |
| 30099295 | 10/24/17 | MEREDITH, DUSTIN RYAN                | \$2,250.00  |
| 30099296 | 10/24/17 | MID AMERICA SPORTS ADVANTAGE         | \$464.60    |
| 30099297 | 10/24/17 | MODERN SHOE STORE                    | \$99.00     |
| 30099298 | 10/24/17 | MOUNT ROGERS COMM. SERVICE BOARD     | \$35,955.00 |
| 30099299 | 10/24/17 | MOUNT ROGERS PDC                     | \$4,435.00  |
| 30099300 | 10/24/17 | NADA APPRAISAL GUIDES                | \$50.00     |
| 30099301 | 10/24/17 | NATIONAL PEN CO. LLC                 | \$25.00     |
| 30099302 | 10/24/17 | NRVLSA                               | \$15.00     |
| 30099303 | 10/24/17 | OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER | \$20.00     |
| 30099304 | 10/24/17 | PRINT-ELECT                          | \$2,470.16  |
| 30099305 | 10/24/17 | R & R ENTERPRISES INC.               | \$135.00    |
| 30099306 | 10/24/17 | R & R SEPTIC                         | \$60.00     |
| 30099307 | 10/24/17 | ROANOKE PUMP SALES AND SERVICE       | \$1,759.93  |
| 30099308 | 10/24/17 | RSI                                  | \$450.00    |
| 30099309 | 10/24/17 | RURAL RETREAT AUTO PARTS INC.        | \$5.00      |
| 30099310 | 10/24/17 | SAFE AIR SYSTEMS INC.                | \$681.19    |
| 30099311 | 10/24/17 | SALEM STONE                          | \$369.03    |
| 30099312 | 10/24/17 | SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CRIMINAL          | \$20,988.00 |
| 30099313 | 10/24/17 | SOUTHWESTERN EQUIPMENT               | \$923.00    |
| 30099314 | 10/24/17 | SPEEDWELL FIRE DEPARTMENT            | \$701.70    |
| 30099315 | 10/24/17 | STANLEY HUNT DUPREE AND RHINE INC.   | \$1,550.00  |
| 30099316 | 10/24/17 | STREET, HAROLD P. III                | \$225.00    |
| 30099317 | 10/24/17 | THOMPSON TIRE                        | \$1,111.92  |
| 30099318 | 10/24/17 | THRASHER GROUP INC.                  | \$1,360.00  |
| 30099319 | 10/24/17 | TRI COUNTY GLASS INC.                | \$307.06    |
| 30099320 | 10/24/17 | TYLER TECHNOLOGIES INC.              | \$57,372.41 |



|   |          |                                |                     |
|---|----------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| 30099321                                    | 10/24/17 | UNIFIRST CORP.                 | \$70.01             |
| 30099322                                    | 10/24/17 | US CELLULAR                    | \$65.10             |
| 30099323                                    | 10/24/17 | US CELLULAR                    | \$518.08            |
| 30099324                                    | 10/24/17 | US CELLULAR                    | \$667.06            |
| 30099325                                    | 10/24/17 | US CELLULAR                    | \$846.45            |
| 30099326                                    | 10/24/17 | V & M RECYCLING                | \$370.00            |
| 30099327                                    | 10/24/17 | VERIZON                        | \$13.50             |
| 30099328                                    | 10/24/17 | VIRGINIA BUSINESS SYSTEMS      | \$601.64            |
| 30099329                                    | 10/24/17 | VIRGINIA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION | \$2,007.00          |
| 30099330                                    | 10/24/17 | VIRGINIA TECH                  | \$13,417.19         |
| 30099331                                    | 10/24/17 | VUPS                           | \$76.65             |
| 30099332                                    | 10/24/17 | WYTHE TIRE AND MUFFLER         | \$90.00             |
| 30099333                                    | 10/24/17 | WYTHE GRAYSON REGIONAL LIBRARY | \$82,350.00         |
| 30099334                                    | 10/24/17 | WYTHEVILLE OFFICE SUPPLY       | \$913.77            |
| 30099335                                    | 10/24/17 | XEROX                          | \$686.96            |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES APPROVED 10/24/17</b> |          |                                | <b>\$303,638.12</b> |

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

**APPALACHIAN REGIONAL EXPOSITION CENTER PROJECT**

Supervisor Willis made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Hale to amend and appropriate \$2,500,000 from reserves for the Appalachian Regional Exposition Center project.

Supervisor Houseman expressed his opposition to the amendment of additional funds to the project. He reported that they have to date expended \$1.3 million of reserve funds for purchase of the land, they have borrowed \$5 million, and are proposing use of an additional \$2.5 million from reserves for a total of \$8.8 million. He noted that \$1 million of those funds were provided through a Tobacco Commission grant, reducing the County's total outlay for the project of taxpayer money to \$7.8 million. Supervisor Houseman advised that this amount does not include the funding needed for the barns, soccer field, paved parking, or the sign. He stated that he does not believe that the Board should take action on the amendment until a night meeting can be held to provide more citizens the opportunity to address the Board. Supervisor Houseman added that if they truly want to hear what the public has to say on the matter, then they need to have the public hearing at a time when the public can attend.

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Supervisor Horney agreed that the public hearing should be continued to a night meeting.

Chair Reeves explained that he takes offense to those who do not believe that this or past Boards support Wythe County schools. He reported that since 2000 this and previous Boards have provided over \$40 million to Wythe County public schools. Chair Reeves noted that they have increased the school budget every year and have in fact increased the budget \$100,000 this year alone. He advised that all of the real estate taxes and personal property taxes collected plus three to four million in additional funds are provided to the school system each year. Chair Reeves stated that they have and will continue to renovate County schools and have appropriated \$10 million this year for the renovation of George Wythe High School. He added that past Boards have worked to provide the necessary infrastructure needed for the County and they must continue to work to grow the County and generate revenue.

Chair Reeves reported that they organized a presentation at the recent Max Meadows Heritage Day event to promote economic development and everyone who visited the tent was in support of the Center. He noted that there are almost 30,000 individuals who reside in Wythe County, many of whom do support the project.

Supervisor Houseman noted that holding a public hearing at night would provide the opportunity to both those in support and opposition of the center to attend and present their point of view on the matter.

Supervisor Hale called for the question.

The roll call vote on the motion was as follows:

|       |                   |                        |
|-------|-------------------|------------------------|
| AYES: | Charlie G. Lester | Coy L. McRoberts       |
|       | Steven T. Willis  | Timothy A. Reeves, Sr. |
|       | Joe F. Hale       |                        |

|       |                          |
|-------|--------------------------|
| NAYS: | Gary M. Houseman         |
|       | B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr. |

The Board reviewed and discussed a report detailing Appalachian Regional Exposition Center bid deductions as proposed by low bidder RGM Erectors, Inc. and recommended by the Construction Committee.

Supervisor Hale made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Lester to award the Appalachian Regional Exposition Center project to the low bidder, RGM Erectors, Inc. with a bid of \$5,979,750.

Supervisor Hale noted that value engineering yielded a \$682,400 reduction of the contract bid, which decreased the contract amount to \$5,979,750.

Supervisor Houseman advised that the additional \$2.5 million amendment would add \$140,000 to \$160,000 to the annual debt service. He noted that they would; therefore, need to include \$450,000 to \$480,000 in the budget each year to fund this expense.

Supervisor Hale explained that continued support from the Virginia Tobacco Commission and other grants would assist with repayment of the funds.

Supervisor Houseman stated that they cannot rely upon the receipt of future grant funds. He noted that he believes that the Board has made budgetary decisions for the project without a budget or plans in place.

Supervisor Hale disagreed. He noted that the Board has had a budget in place for the project since the beginning. Supervisor Hale explained that both the County Engineer and the Architectural and Engineering firm have provided budgets for the project.

The roll call vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:            Charlie G. Lester                      Coy L. McRoberts  
                     Steven T. Willis                        Timothy A. Reeves, Sr.  
                     Joe F. Hale

NAYS:            Gary M. Houseman  
                     B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr.

**SHERIFF'S REPORT**

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

1. Debris Collection Report – Sheriff Dunagan reported that the Debris Collection crew picked up 61 miles of roads, collecting 475 bags of trash in October. He advised that since May they have picked up 510 miles of roadways, collecting 3,700 bags of trash or 110,910 pounds of debris.
2. Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Byrne/JAG Grants – Sheriff Dunagan advised that they have received a continuation of the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Byrne/JAG Body Worn Cameras Grant in the amount of \$12,056 with a 15% cash match. He noted that the \$1,808 match would be paid from the Police Activity Fund. Sheriff Dunagan reported that the Sheriff's Office has also received a Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Byrne/JAG Naloxone grant in the amount of \$10,000 with no matching funds required.
3. Wythe Bland Foundation Defibrillator Grant – Sheriff Dunagan reported that the Sheriff's Office received a Wythe Bland Foundation Grant in the amount of \$44,000 for placement of a defibrillator in each vehicle.
4. Federal Emergency Management Agency Grant – Sheriff Dunagan explained that they have for the past two years applied for a Federal Emergency Management

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Agency (FEMA) grant for the purchase of radios. He noted that FEMA awarded 66 grants in the amount of \$5.5 million, but the Sheriff's Office whose peer review score was twelfth, was not chosen to receive grant funding. Sheriff Dunagan advised that the grant had it been awarded, would have provided the \$150,000 necessary for replacement and installation of all in-car and portable radios with digital radios. He stated that he plans to submit a letter to Senator Carrico, Senator Suetterlein, and Delegate Campbell requesting that they investigate the issue. Sheriff Dunagan requested that the Board also submit a letter regarding this matter.

Chair Reeves directed Mr. Bear to work with the Sheriff to prepare a letter on behalf of the Board addressing the needed radio funding.

Supervisor Hale requested that the Sheriff's Office prepare a budget for the radio replacement for the Board's review and consideration.

## **WATER COMMITTEE REPORT**

1. Rickey Road Waterline Extension Project – Supervisor Horney made an amended motion, seconded by Supervisor Hale to amend and appropriate approved Rural Development loan funding in the amount of \$286,000 to 9050-470431 for the Rickey Road Waterline Extension project.

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. Fort Chiswell Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project – Supervisor Horney made a motion, as recommended by the Water Committee to accept the engineering services fee proposal from Hurt and Proffitt in the amount of \$17,100 for the Fort Chiswell Wastewater Treatment Plant headworks and septage receiving improvement project.

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. Max Meadows Bridge Waterline Replacement – Supervisor Horney made a motion, as recommended by the Water Committee to accept the engineering services proposal from CARDNO in the amount of \$4,990 for the Max Meadows Bridge waterline replacement project.

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

**BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT**

- 1. George Wythe High School Renovation Financing Agreement – Supervisor Willis made a motion, as recommended by the Budget Committee to proceed with the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo)/Virginia Municipal League (VML) Financing Agreement for the George Wythe High School renovation project.

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. New River Regional Water Authority Water System Improvement Financing – Supervisor Willis made a motion, as recommended by the Budget Committee to proceed with the VACo/VML Financing Agreement for refund of the Series 2005 municipal Bond for the New River Regional Water Authority water system improvement project.

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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3. 2018 Litter Prevention and Recycling Program Grant – Supervisor Willis made a motion, as recommended by the Budget Committee to accept the 2018 Litter Prevention and Recycling Program grant in the amount of \$9,280.

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

4. Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services Byrne/JAG Naloxone Grant – Supervisor Willis made a motion, as recommended by the Budget Committee to accept the Byrne/JAG Naloxone Grant in the amount of \$10,000 and to amend and appropriate the same.

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

5. Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services Byrne/JAG Body Worn Camera Grant – Supervisor Willis made a motion, as recommended by the Budget Committee to accept the Byrne/JAG Body Worn Camera Grant in the amount of \$10,247 with matching Police Activity Funds in the amount of \$1,808 and to amend and appropriate the same.

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 OR BRIEFING BY STAFF**

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 or Briefing by Staff – Keystone and Filed Litigation) of the Code of Virginia.

The motion passed unanimously.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

Upon returning to open meeting, Supervisor Willis made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Horney to adopt the following Resolution certifying the business conducted in closed meeting as follows:

**RESOLUTION  
CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING**

**WHEREAS**, the Wythe County Board of Supervisors has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and,

**WHEREAS**, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Wythe County Board of Supervisors that such meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Wythe County Board of Supervisors hereby certifies that, to the best of each member’s knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered by the Wythe County Board of Supervisors.

The roll call vote 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**

County Administrator Stephen Bear appeared before the Board and reported the following:

1. Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act – Mr. Bear reviewed with the Board a letter and supporting data from Beth Mohler Stinnett, Department of Juvenile Justice Community Crime Control Act Program Manager, reporting total budgeted and expended funds for Fiscal Year 17.
2. Virginia Association of Counties Preliminary Legislative Program – Mr. Bear reviewed with the Board Virginia Association of Counties 2018 preliminary legislative program priorities and positions. He noted that he and Chair Reeves have discussed several items for submittal to our Senators and Delegates including a cigarette tax referendum and machine and tool tax rebate interest legislation.

Chair Reeves also recommended proposal of an admissions tax for the exposition center. He questioned if the Board would consent to moving forward with proposal of these three items.

The Board agreed.

3. Electronic Meetings Policies – Mr. Bear reviewed with the Board Electronic Meetings and Electronic Meeting Automatic Approval Policies as follows:

**WYTHE COUNTY ELECTRONIC MEETINGS POLICY**

It is the policy of the Wythe County Board of Supervisors that individual Board of Supervisors members may participate in meetings of the Wythe County Board of Supervisors or a Wythe County Board of Supervisors Committee by electronic means as permitted by Virginia Code §2.2-3708.1. This policy shall apply to the entire membership and without regard to the identity of the member requesting remote participation or the matters that will be considered or voted on at the meeting.

Whenever an individual member wishes to participate from a remote location, the law requires a quorum of the Wythe County Board of Supervisors to be physically assembled at the primary or central meeting location, and there must be arrangements for the voice of the remote participant to be heard by all persons at the primary or central meeting location.

When such individual participation is due to an emergency or personal matter, such participation is limited by law to 2 meetings or 25 percent of the meetings of the public body per member each calendar year, whichever is fewer.



**WYTHE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
ELECTRONIC MEETING AUTOMATIC APPROVAL POLICY**

Individual participation from a remote location shall be approved unless such participation would violate this policy or the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. If a member's participation from a remote location is challenged, then the Wythe County Board of Supervisors shall vote whether to allow such participation. If the Wythe County Board of Supervisors votes to disapprove of the member's participation because such participation would violate this policy, such disapproval shall be recorded in the minutes with specificity.

Supervisor Houseman made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Willis to adopt the Electronic Meetings Policy 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

Supervisor Houseman made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Horney to adopt the Electronic Meeting Automatic Approval Policy 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

4. Appalachian Regional Exposition Center Groundbreaking Ceremony – Mr. Bear questioned if the Board would be interested in scheduling a groundbreaking ceremony as construction of the Appalachian Regional Exposition Center project begins.

Following discussion, the majority of the Board members agreed to schedule a groundbreaking ceremony for the project for Friday, November 17.

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**SUPERVISORS' REPORTS**

1. Board/Authority Appointments – Supervisor Houseman reported that with his term on the Board of Supervisors ending on December 31, appointments on several boards and authorities on which he currently serves would be vacant. He noted that he is on the search committee for the new Mount Rogers Community Services Board Executive Director and requested that he remain on that Board until a new director is hired.

Mr. Bear noted that he would investigate to determine if Supervisor Housman could remain on the Mount Rogers Community Services Board until a new director is hired.

2. New Board Member Orientation – Mr. Bear advised that new Board member orientation is tentatively scheduled for the first week of December.
3. Major Graham Road – Supervisor Hale noted that the first phase of the Major Graham Road pavement project has been completed. He advised that the Virginia Department of Transportation hopes to receive future high volume unpaved road funding for the improvement of the road to Carter’s Ferry Road.
4. Roads – Supervisor McRoberts explained that he had been contacted by several citizens concerning road issues.
5. Trash – Chair Reeves stated that the debris collection crew recently picked up the trash on Chapman Road. He noted that the crew is doing a great job, but would hope that citizens would realize the negative impact that littering has and stop throwing out trash.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Supervisor Horney made a motion to approve the consent calendar as presented for October 24, 2017, as follows:

**1. PAYROLL – September 2017:**

|                                     |                     |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| General County Fund                 | \$ 489,895.16       |
| Police Activity Fund                | 85,520.52           |
| Courthouse Security Fund            | 15,907.05           |
| Water Department Fund               | 16,281.35           |
| <u>Wythe County Wastewater Fund</u> | <u>21,272.36</u>    |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                        | <b>\$628,876.44</b> |

**Check Numbers:** 20000050-20000072

**Voucher Numbers:** 751-940; 942-1124

**2. STATUS REPORTS:**

- A. Animal Control – Arlan Dunford
- B. Building Inspection – Tim Spraker
- C. Engineering – Bill Vaughan
- D. Finance Department – Bruce Grant
- E. Parks and Recreation – Kevin Williams

**3. PERSONNEL:**

- A. Morris, Joyce – Resigned, Full-time Deputy Treasurer, Effective September 29, 2017.
- B. Miller, Lori – Hired, Full-time Deputy Treasurer, Annual Salary \$22,250, Effective September 18, 2017.
- C. Hudson, Doug – Salary Increase, Sheriff’s Office, Annual Salary \$59,318 (\$54,318 Compensation Board Funded), Effective September 16, 2017.
- D. Thompson, John – Salary Increase, Sheriff’s Office, Annual Salary \$46,598 (\$42,533 Compensation Board Funded), Effective September 16, 2017.
- E. Lawson, Brian – Salary Increase, Sheriff’s Office, Annual Salary \$43,087 (\$39,375 Compensation Board Funded), Effective September 16, 2017.
- F. Dixon, Stacy – Salary Increase, Sheriff’s Office, Annual Salary \$44,889 (100% Compensation Board Funded), Effective September 16, 2017.
- G. Coleman, Robert – Salary Increase, Sheriff’s Office, Annual Salary \$38,455 (\$36,555 Compensation Board Funded), Effective September 16, 2017.
- H. Musser, Jeremiah – Salary Increase, Sheriff’s Office, Annual Salary \$43,079 (\$39,238 Compensation Board Funded), Effective September 16, 2017.
- I. Kirby, Edwin – Salary Increase, Sheriff’s Office, Annual Salary \$35,695 (100% Compensation Board Funded), Effective September 16, 2017.
- J. Sadler, Jerrod – Salary Increase, Sheriff’s Office, Annual Salary \$35,695 (100% Compensation Board Funded), Effective September 16, 2017.

**4. BUDGET AMENDMENT:**

- A. \$2,292.45 (32031-461250) – Auto Claim June 05, 2017, 2012 Dodge Ram VIN 2289

Supervisor McRoberts seconded the motion.

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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

**SUNSET DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Bear advised that a Sunset Digital Communications representative had requested to meet with the Board to discuss possible establishment of a franchise agreement to provide services in Wythe County. He noted that the representative was unable to attend the meeting as planned. Mr. Bear added that he would work to reschedule.

Chair Reeves questioned if the communications company that had previously addressed the Board had moved forward with a franchise agreement. He noted that it would be beneficial to the citizens to have multiple options for these types of services.

Mr. Bear explained that they did not proceed with the franchise agreement. He recommended that the Board continue to work to improve and extend broadband service to remote areas of the County and investigate possible grant opportunities.

The Construction Committee agreed to meet following adjournment of the Board meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business to come before the Board, Chair Reeves adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:44 a.m.

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Timothy A. Reeves, Sr., Chair