

At the regular meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors on Wednesday, February 3, 2010, at 10:00 AM in the Giles County General District Courtroom, 120 North Main Street, Pearisburg, the following were present:

Barbara Hobbs	Chairman (Central District)
Eric Gentry	Vice Chairman (Eastern District)
Howard Spencer	Western District
Richard McCoy	At-Large Supervisor
Paul "Chappy" Baker	At-Large Supervisor
Chris McKlarney	County Administrator
Richard Chidester	County Attorney
Susan Kidd	Board Secretary

## CALL TO ORDER/INVOCATION

Ms. Hobbs called the meeting to order. Mr. Gentry offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

***Mr. McCoy moved to approve the minutes of December 17, 2009. Seconded by Mr. Baker. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Mr. Gentry, Mr. Baker, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Spencer, Ms. Hobbs.***

## CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

**Gerald Duncan, Treasurer:** Mr. Duncan presented a report with closing figures through the month of November. He said he also included a report of collections for the first six months of Transient Occupancy taxes. That total is about \$41,000.

Mr. Duncan noted that his office has identified about 3,700 PSA accounts for debt offset. For debt offset this year, they have put in 4,500 claims with the majority being for the PSA. There have been hits so far for 85 on personal property and 285 for PSA. He felt they would be able to collect a significant amount on this.

Ms. Hobbs asked if tax collections were fairly good considering the economy. Mr. Duncan said his office collected about \$3.2 million in December and January. He has not checked how many are delinquent but the debt offset should take care of a lot of that. DMV stops and notices will also be out soon. Mr. Duncan invited the board to call or email him if they had other questions after they reviewed his report.

**Sheriff Morgan Millirons:** Sheriff Millirons reported on activities for January. There were 121 arrests on warrants served, 58 traffic summons, 506 civil papers, 22 offenses (larcenies, burglary, etc.), and 3 DUI arrests. Animal Control picked up 40 cats and 29 dogs. Officers Shanks and Davis presented four safety programs. Sheriff Millirons said there were 161 total indictments last month in Grand Jury. Seven were for drugs, six for selling/manufacturing a controlled substance, and there was one possession of and one production of child pornography. There are a lot drug cases that are still being actively investigated. Mr. Gentry asked if child pornography is a big problem in the area. Sheriff Millirons said it has the potential to be a problem, but this is the first he has seen in the county.

Sheriff Millirons reported there were 60 hours of grant enforcement work last month. They have had one person sign up for Project Lifesaver – parent signed up a child, and there should be another signed up within a few weeks. He sent out a notice today about scams operating in the area – that should show up on utility bills.

Sheriff Millirons said his department appreciated the use of the county four-wheel drive vehicles again. That helps his officers a lot with getting around in the snow.

Officer King recertified last month on tracking with bloodhounds. This is Officer King's person dog and he maintains the animal on his own. Sheriff Millirons said he helps the department quite a bit with this animal. The department has also been chosen to receive new weapons from the military – six M16s. They are also working on new programs for high school seniors to help prepare them for college and what to be aware of. He felt this would be good information for students to have before they graduate. They are also trying to do the RAD program for all senior girls before graduation. There are 35 people signed up for the RAD class in a few weeks. Mr. Gentry asked if the classes were held in the evening or during school. Sheriff Millirons said he liked to do it at school so they could be sure to get everyone to participate. He said he would also like to offer a mother/daughter class at some time.

Sheriff Millirons said there was a delegation of about 250 people representing all sheriff's department in the state that meet with the Senate Finance Committee in Richmond last week. They talked about budget cuts and how those will impact law enforcement in the counties. Hopefully, that will do some good. He heard that the presentation was well received. They were not asking for anything extra; only to be able to keep what they currently have.

Mr. Baker asked if the RAD program was just for senior girls. He felt it would be beneficial for 8<sup>th</sup> grade and older. Some students get involved in things at a much younger age. Mr. Gentry asked if that could be taught in the health classes. Scott Meade was present from the School Board administration. He thought it would good to do that – especially with 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Sheriff Millirons will check with the school on that. There are five officers who can teach that, so it would be possible. Mr. Meade said the 8<sup>th</sup> graders have Physical Education and usually Family Life, so it could be incorporated into either or both of those classes.

## **RECOGNITION – CATHERINE WEBB, VIRGINIA TEACHER OF THE YEAR 2010**

Mr. McKlarney presented the following resolution from the Board of Supervisors, recognizing Catherine Webb from Narrows Elementary/Middle School as the county, district, region and state Teacher of the Year for 2010.

**RESOLUTION BY  
GILES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
IN RECONITION OF  
CATHERINE S. WEBB  
GILES COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR  
2010 VIRGINIA TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

**WHEREAS** the Giles County Board of Supervisors does hereby recognize and congratulate Catherine S. Webb on her selection as Giles County's Teacher of the Year and 2010 Virginia Teacher of the Year; and

**WHEREAS** the Giles County Board of Supervisors recognizes this selection was based on the merits of Mrs. Webb's professional accomplishment, educational philosophy, and community activity; and

**BE IT RESOLVED** that this accomplishment is acknowledged as an appropriate recognition of Mrs. Webb's continuing commitment to students of Giles County Public Schools.

Adopted at a meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors held on February 3, 2010.

***Mr. Baker moved to approve the resolution in recognition of Ms. Webb. Second by Mr. Spencer. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Ms. Hobbs, Mr. Gentry, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Baker.***

Ms. Webb thanked the board for this recognition. She said this has been an amazing journey starting at the county level and continuing to the state. Every day she has learned something new about it. Because of this recognition, Narrows Elementary/Middle School received \$18,000 in technical equipment. Last week she was in Dallas with 57 educators from throughout the United States and its territories. Each participant received a four-year scholarship to be awarded to a senior in their state from the Phoenix University. There are many positives for the county. Ms. Webb said to be able to talk to educators from Hawaii, Arizona and other parts of the country about Giles County and that is a great opportunity. Each participant also did a sound bite that will be

seen on YouTube, and Ms. Webb said she was very proud to be able to talk about her home and the state. She noted it was amazing not to hear a negative comment, and the focus was not on budgets. It was on the individual child and collaboration. She said in this meeting today, she had listened to the county, the Sheriff and the school talk about collaborative efforts and that is what is going to make things better for the children. Ms. Webb said this county gives wonderful roots to our children and now we have to give them wings also through education so they can go out in the world and succeed. Board members thanked Ms. Webb for her efforts on behalf of the county and school system and congratulated her again for this honor she has received.

Scott Meade spoke briefly with an update from the School Board Office. He reported that Eastern Elementary is entering the second phase of construction and the nursing program at the Tech Center is up and running. All SOL scores from the first testing at Narrows High were over 80% and things are looking good. Mr. Meade reported that not only did Giles County Schools have the state Teacher of the Year, but Dr. Arbogast was named Regional Superintendent of the Year, Jeff Young was recognized regionally for IT, and Forest Fowler was recognized last summer for Technical Education. That says a lot of positive things about Giles County. Mr. Meade reported that six days of school have been missed so far – five of those for weather.

## **VDOT REPORT – DAVID CLARKE**

Mr. Clarke said there was not a lot to report since VDOT has been dealing with the weather during the last month. He said they were able to do some of the patching on Doe Creek and will schedule the remainder as weather permits. VDOT is also talking with the land owner about cutting the brush on Piney Mountain Road. They did get additional “School Bus Stop Ahead” signs installed on Route 460 in Pembroke.

Mr. Clarke said he needed to talk to the Board about scheduling a hearing for the six-year plan in the next few months. Ms. Hobbs said that would be a joke. Mr. Clarke agreed it was ridiculous, but state law requires it. There is only about \$40,000 in the six-year plan budget. Unless the board wants to change anything in the current plan, there is really no funding for anything to be added. Ms. Hobbs asked if things were ready to start on the Clendenin Road work. Mr. Clarke said they are still working on right-of-way parcels and trying to see what they can do to make that project happen.

Mr. Baker asked VDOT to look at fixing large potholes on both the east and west sides of Route 460. Also, there is a stop sign down on Hillcrest that needs to be replaced. He also complimented the job they did cleaning the cross over areas on Route 460 during the last snow.

Mr. Gentry noted that Linda Hayes had submitted a letter to Mr. Clarke concerning increased traffic on Route 623 in Eggleston since the opening of The Palisades Restaurant. The request was for something to call attention to the stop sign at the intersection of Route 622 and Guinea Mountain Road, and to see if the middle line could be added to Rocky Hollow Road (Route 623). Mr. Gentry said he supported Ms. Hayes request. Mr. Clarke said getting the sign up would be no problem, but he was not sure about the stripes. Mr. Gentry also requested that the rumble strips on Route 460 near Pembroke be repaired after the winter weather is over. He asked Mr. Clarke to look at patching several large potholes near Hilltop Grocery on Route 460 West.

Mr. Spencer asked if there was any communication back from Traffic Safety concerning their visit to check the safety on the bluffs between Narrows and Rich Creek. Mr. Clarke said he has not seen anything final yet. Mr. Spencer also noted there are huge holes on the Route 219 bridge that were just recently patched, but are now worse than ever. He also asked Mr. Clarke to check on East River Mountain Road where the culverts overflow and freeze across the road. Mr. Clarke said they would do whatever they could about that.

Mr. McCoy noted there were some large potholes on Route 460 on Brush Mountain also, as well as many of the secondary roads. He asked VDOT to look at River Road near Bear Springs. There is a flooding issue on the stretch of road near Goodwin’s Ferry. Residents are using the railroad tracks to get out when it floods, and he heard the railroad was about to close that. If that happens, residents will not have any way out. He said he didn’t know if there was anything VDOT could do, but asked them to look at it. Mr. Gentry said the underpass on that road also needs some work.

Ms. Hobbs thanked VDOT for the recent efforts in snow removal. She asked if they would take a look at large ditches across the road on Prospectdale Road. There is some work that needs to take place there. Mr. Gentry noted there was a slide near Newport on Route 460 and the big rocks are still in the median. He asked if they could be removed since it could be dangerous if a car slides into that median.

**Route 639, Clover Hollow Road:** Mr. McKlarney presented a request from Joe Gabbard to relocate a .8 mile section of Route 639 (Clover Hollow Road). Mr. Gentry said the map was attached to the request and he understood this would have to be approved and built according to VDOT standards. He said he really didn't have an opinion on this yet. Mr. Clarke said that it would make sense, but he wasn't sure about the project. Mr. McCoy said the only opinion he had about the request was that the county is not paying for anything – it would be the customer's responsibility from planning to construction. Mr. Clarke said he felt all VDOT would do is maintain it after it was built. Mr. McCoy said he understood this might actually be an improvement from the existing road. Mr. Clarke said he did not need anything from the Board at this time, but might need a consensus on it at some future date. Mr. Gentry asked if he could meet with Mr. Clarke and Mr. Gabbard to look at the proposed area. Mr. Clarke said he would try to arrange something.

**Tony Pennington:** Mr. Pennington said he would like to talk about Route 725 (East River Mountain Road). He has pictures of water running across the culvert and the bus drops in it with its tires on top of the culvert. He said he had argued with VDOT to get something done on this road. It was put on the seven-year plan in 2000 and took off three years later and they haven't done anything since. He said something needs to be done on that road. Mr. Pennington said he lived at the end of the county and he needed something done on his end of the county like everyone else. VDOT said there is no money to do it, but they have emergency funds to be used when the road is deemed unsafe for kids. Mr. Spencer said he agreed that this whole road is very rough and in bad shape. He said he received a call this week and went out there; the culvert was full and a large stream of water was running down the road. Mr. Pennington said VDOT says they have put gravel on the road, but he has pictures to show there have not been any gravels put on that road and there is a ditch cut by the water down the center of the road. The state has only been up there once last summer scraping the road – they never cleaned the ditches or anything else. Ms. Hobbs said Mr. Clarke has made a note of this and they will see what can be done. Mr. Spencer said he did ask about taking the town backhoe there to clean out the ditches and one VDOT worker said they should not do that because if they damage the culvert then they would have to pay for it. Mr. Pennington said he had a backhoe but they would not let him work on it either.

## COOPERATIVE EXTENSION REPORT

Extension agents were unable to attend today's meeting and have supplied board members with a written update of activities.

## NEW RIVER VALLEY HOME CONSORTIUM

Mr. McKlarney presented a copy of a letter from Elizabeth Vogel of Blacksburg regarding the agreement Giles County has with the HOME Consortium. Mr. Gentry and Mr. Spencer are both on this committee and may have more to add. Mr. McKlarney said he felt the county would want to renew the agreement because Giles County is just getting to the time when they are going to get their portion of this funding. He commended Mr. Gentry and Mr. Spencer for their work on this. It amounts to a fairly large allocation for Giles County. Mr. Spencer said these funds will not be available until 2011.

***Mr. Gentry moved to approve extending the agreement between the Town of Blacksburg, as Lead Agency for the NRV HOME Consortium, and Giles County for a period of three-years through June 30, 2013. . Second by Mr. Baker. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Ms. Hobbs, Mr. Gentry, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Baker.***

## GLEN LYN FIRE DEPARTMENT REQUEST

The board received a request from Glen Lyn Fire Department for \$25,000 from the emergency fund money for purchase of a pumper truck. Mr. McKlarney said there was no money remaining in this fiscal year. They would

have to be added to the list as their turn came up. The rules the board previously established is that everyone must have equal opportunity for the funds before any department can request their next round of funding. The county is currently in the second round of funding for most departments.

***Mr. McCoy moved to add Glen Lyn's request for \$25,000 in matching funds for a pumper truck to the list as designated for future funding. Second by Mr. Gentry. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Ms. Hobbs, Mr. Gentry, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Baker.***

## **GILES COUNTY WELLNESS CENTER – HELEN GILLESPIE**

Ms. Gillespie reported that the Wellness Center is currently operating with about 850-875 members, and the capacity is 600. With 600 members, that would average about 90 visits daily; the current average is about 200 visits per day during peak hours. They are utilizing different facilities to try to help this situation. Kung Fu at Rich Creek is very successful; they are champions in their section. That group is ages 4 and up with the competition being about 10 and up. They have used the County Administration Building for Kindermusic and will begin gymnastics at Castle Rock next week. Last night at the Wellness Center, there was family fitness and basketball. On Sunday, there were 80 people at the gym throughout the day; normal is about 30-40 at all times during peak hours – about 3:30 to 6:30. Ms. Gillespie said they are trying to make an effort to streamline people into group exercise classes. Those classes are averaging 16-35 people per class, and that helps free up some of the equipment.

Ms. Gillespie said the facility is getting dated. They are down one treadmill but have increased the elliptical by one. They are trying to look at ways to upgrade the free weights. She reported they did paint the locker rooms and put up new shower curtains – just trying to make some cosmetic improvements. Ms. Gillespie said she was very pleased with the operation at this time.

One item that Ms. Gillespie felt could increase the efficiency of the facility for membership recordkeeping would be a new software program. Currently they use Excel and it is very easy to make mistakes in that. They are checking into some alternatives. Ms. Gillespie also noted that they were very lucky to have Adam Harman back working at the Center. He does an excellent job.

Mr. Gentry asked if there was any way to add another bench press or move things around to get a larger barbell area. Ms. Gillespie said they have looked and measured and tried to reconfigure things, but just do not see a way. She agreed more space was needed, but there is a lot involved in that with clearance around machines and walkways. She will take another look at the weight area and see if anything can be done.

Mr. McCoy asked how late the facility was open. Ms. Gillespie said until 10 on weeknights, and it is utilized right up until that time. Mr. McCoy said he just thought maybe extending hours would help free up some space but he didn't know if that would be helpful or not. Ms. Gillespie said they are currently open from 5:30 AM until 10 PM and the issues with more hours would be cost and staff. Mr. Gentry said maybe they could consider opening a half-hour earlier in the mornings --- that might be helpful with some people trying to work out before they go to work. Ms. Gillespie said she could look at that; however, mornings do not seem to be as big an issue as evenings. Mr. McCoy said more space would be nice, but he just did not see that happening. The only way to deal with things may be extending hours or something else like that. Ms. Gillespie said there may be opportunities on weekends to extend hours; she will look at that. She said the crowd – and this is true at any gym – is after work; that is the busy time. Most people do not want to go home and then come back out after dinner. They want to be able to stop on their way home.

Mr. Reed said he sees one issue that some people have training habits where they monopolize a machine for 20 minutes or more and spend a lot of that time socializing between sets. Ms. Gillespie said some of that is because of the crowding issue – there is no place to get out of the way to socialize, but that is a good point. They do ask people to allow others to work through while they are resting.

## EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION TOWERS

Mr. McKlarney commented that John Davis would be talking to the board about proposals for the emergency communication towers. He complimented Mr. Davis for the outstanding job he does for the county. If there is a problem, John is there; he is always calm and levelheaded. Mr. McKlarney said he felt the county was very fortunate to have Mr. Davis running dispatch.

Mr. Davis said he spoke at the last meeting about problems with the communication towers and the low band radios. He has been working with Jeff Newman from Professional Communications (ProComm) on these problems. Mr. Newman has a presentation to show the board. Mr. Davis said there are some costs associated with this, but these changes really need to be made to the communication towers. They have visited all the tower sites in the county and looked at the problem. They feel they have come up with the best solution to allow communication with all emergency services.

Mr. Newman said he began talking with Mr. Davis in late December when the radio system went out on Bald Mountain. That repeater was completely out and Mr. Davis activated the Code Red system for the county to guarantee emergency response and they also started some repairs to the tower. Due to the snow, they had to be pulled to the tower site by a four-wheel drive tractor – three times! Code Red worked, but it was not designed for that.

Mr. Newman said this presented five concerns for law enforcement and fire and rescue. The first was officer safety. The only means they have of securing help is the radio. If that doesn't work, it could be extremely dangerous. Officers in pursuit often exceed 100 miles per hour and if they go from Pearisburg to Rich Creek on Route 460, they have to change channels on their radios. That brings up the second concern – changing channels. Trying to do that at high speed is very dangerous. However, if the officer does not do that, they have no communication. The third item is poor county-wide communication. Officers at Mountain Lake and officers at Rich Creek cannot talk to each other. Dispatch has to relay all of that information. The fourth item is very poor intra-county communications. Dispatch has to provide relay between officers and if they are tied up with another emergency, it can leave an officer without communication. The final problem is the inaccessibility of mountain top sites. It was difficult to access the site in December. At this point, it would be almost impossible.

Mr. Newman explained how the signals currently work between the tower sites and offered a new solution to improve that communication. This would involve abandoning the Powell Mountain and Butt Mountain sites. They would establish a site at Flat Top and establish a site at Peter's Mountain to interconnect the sites. They would redesign the system so officers do not have to select certain channels in order to transmit. This would allow the signal from dispatch to go to all three sites simultaneously and also in reverse. Mr. Newman noted there would still be some areas in the county that will not receive signals. In order to reach every corner of the county, it would require a multi-million dollar system. This seems to be the most economical solution at this time.

Mr. Newman said again that one of the problems here is poor county-wide coverage; there is no redundancy for pagers. When the Bald Knob tower went down, they lost contact with about 80% of the pagers. Coverage is not good and they use at least three different frequencies. There is also a lot of frequency interference on the low band, especially with Floyd County calls being transmitted through the Giles low band system. Mr. Newman said this results in everyone talking at once and all of it is going through dispatch. They would propose to combine three sites – Powell Mountain, Mountain Lake, and Flat Top on a single frequently that would improve the coverage.

The solution proposed was to:

1. Abandon Powell Mountain site
2. Establish a site on Peter's Mountain
3. Come up with a county-wide frequency
4. Abandon low-band frequency
5. Install a new tactical repeater

The cost of all of this is a list price of \$90,688.06 or GSA contract price of \$73,750.45.

Mr. Gentry asked if this includes the upgrade for the pager units for the two departments on low band. Mr. David said they had that in there, but took it out. They cannot do away with low band completely right now. Besides Eggleston and Poplar Hill, Pearisburg has a few low band pagers and so does the rescue squad. They hope those can be phased out over the next year or so. The cost to replace units for Eggleston and Poplar Hill is about \$15,000. However, they can leave the low band up on the transmit side, but would not have the extra traffic from Floyd on there. That would work for now, but eventually they will have to phase out low band.

Mr. Davis said Monroe County is using the Peter's Mountain site now. There would be a lease cost involved with this site. Mr. McKlarney said Carilion is currently on that site. He agreed there would be a cost for this site, but was not sure what that might be. Mr. Davis said he noticed that Pocahontas Road runs within 200/300 yards of that site. Maybe a road could be cut to that – they would have to talk to the Forest Service about it. It is a possibility to consider for the future.

Mr. Spencer asked if this proposal was the best scenario or just an improvement. Mr. Davis said the best would involve a multi-million dollar project. This will be the best for the long-term and still be affordable. Basically, everything is transferred to UHF and this is a good UHF system. Mr. Newman said normally in communications there should be upgrades every five years. As far as equipment though, this should be able to get the county through 10 years. Much of the equipment out there now is at the end of its use and needs to be replaced. Mr. Newman said they might be able to get by another year, but it is at the point of going out. Mr. Spencer said he noticed an article that reported that Congressman Boucher has obtained communication funding for various counties. Mr. McKlarney said that was for broadband service; however, there is a potential grant for some of this and it is being investigated.

Mr. Davis said this is not replacing the equipment on the mountain tops. This is a good long-term fix but it is not replacing the repeaters that are already there. It is just moving the old equipment to another place and eliminating one tower site. They are trying to use what is available to start a new tower site. Ms. Hobbs asked if the \$73,000 is for access then, not for equipment. Mr. Davis said a lot of it is equipment that will provide a link from towers to tie in frequencies, but it is not for a new repeater system. Ms. Hobbs asked how long this project price quote would be good for. Mr. Newman said for 2-3 months.

Mr. Gentry said this does not cover the existing low band items at Eggleston and Poplar Hill. If they are looking seriously at this, that should be included. Mr. McKlarney said they used a grant to replace a lot of low band equipment a few years ago. All of the departments got a portion of that. Mr. Davis said he did send a request for information on equipment to all of the departments but did not get response from all of them. He said he did want to mention that it would really not be fair to other departments if the county purchases all new pagers for Eggleston and Poplar Hill. He said he would love to see the county go away from low band; that is one reason to do this project. Mr. Gentry said if the county has the money and can do this project, what is the plan to go away from low band. Mr. Davis said the county has a matching \$25,000 fund that these two departments could apply for. He said he felt it was the responsibility of those fire departments to replace their own equipment. He understood they are small departments and have other needs and it is hard to make budget, but he did not think it was fair to the other departments who have worked and earned money for their replacement costs. Mr. Gentry said that is not what he said. If there are other low band pagers he wanted to see what the cost to replace those were – not just Eggleston and Poplar Hill – for all of the low band. Sheriff Milliron asked how many are using low band. Mr. Davis said primarily Eggleston and Poplar Hill and others have a few low band pagers. Pearisburg, Newport and Giles Rescue have a few. Most departments are using UHF. Ms. Hobbs said the problem is communication, so it would not make any difference where they are. If people don't have the equipment to get coverage, the citizens are in danger. Mr. Gentry said if they are serious about the program, they need to look at it.

Mr. Baker asked if they have tried the Angel's Rest site. Mr. Davis said that has been a thorn in their side. U. S. Cellular has been very difficult to deal with. That was in progress four years before Mr. Davis came in. Mr. McKlarney and Mr. Davis have called U. S. Cellular numerous times and the last time they said it would be \$19,000 for the county to upgrade that tower site because it is at capacity. Mr. McKlarney said \$19,000 for a two-pound antenna is a bit unreasonable. Mr. Davis said the equipment had been purchased for the Angel's Rest tower; they plan to take it to the Peter's Mountain site and test it before taking Powell Mountain off line. At no time during this change should the county be completely down with no coverage. Ms. Hobbs asked what

would happen if it is put in and doesn't work like it was supposed to. Mr. Davis said he has full faith in Pro-Comm. They have looked through all the aspects of coverage from each site. This is not something they have just thrown together. It has been studied thoroughly. Mr. Gentry asked if support was included in this package price. Mr. Newman said it was not included but would be available at additional cost.

Ms. Hobbs said she felt the board needed time to study this proposal. Mr. McCoy agreed it was something that needs to be done, but asked Mr. McKlarney to find out if any grant funds were available. Eventually, something has to be done, especially moving from low band to high band. They just need to look at what is available and the total cost of it. He felt the sooner they can get this done, the better. Mr. Davis said if the tower at Mountain Lake went out today, there is no backup for about 80% of the county. Sheriff Millirons said during the recent outage, they used Code Red. That was successful but took a long time. That is not what Code Red was designed for. Mr. Davis said Ms. Franklin is checking into grant fund. Mr. McKlarney said they have received grants in the past and most of that was used for radios, but those funds have dried up now. Board members agreed to consider the information.

## **PAYMENT OF WARRANTS**

***Mr. Spencer moved to appropriate funds in the amount of \$753,084.49 for payment of warrants dated January 21, 2010. Second by Mr. McCoy.***

**Discussion:** Mr. Spencer asked if the PSA bill was higher than normal. Mr. McKlarney said he did not know if that was up, but the county has been having significant issues with water loss. They recognize it and that is one reason for doing the Hoges Chapel (Route 460) project. The water loss now on that system is about 50% and that is with constantly looking for leaks and checking the lines. Ms. Hobbs noted that the payment to West Law was still \$585 in December. Mr. Chidester said it should begin the reduced rate with the January bill.

***Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Ms. Hobbs, Mr. Gentry, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Baker.***

***Mr. Spencer moved to appropriate funds in the amount of \$1,053,203.74 for payment of warrants dated February 3, 2010. Second by Mr. McCoy. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Ms. Hobbs, Mr. Gentry, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Baker.***

## **SCHOOL BOARD APPROPRIATION**

***Mr. Gentry moved to appropriate \$3,624,129.55 for school board expenditures for February, 2010. This figure includes \$1,323,726.38 for construction. Second by Mr. McCoy. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Ms. Hobbs, Mr. Gentry, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Baker.***

## **SOCIAL SERVICES APPROPRIATION**

***Mr. McCoy moved to appropriate funds in the amount of \$155,000 for Social Services for February, 2010 and \$70,000 for CSA funding, and \$4,219 for the Independent Living Program. Second by Mr. Spencer. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Ms. Hobbs, Mr. Gentry, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Baker.***

## **APPOINTMENTS**

***Mr. Gentry moved to confirm a telephone vote to appoint Mr. Claude Wimmer to the Social Services Board from the Eastern District. Second by Mr. Baker. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Ms. Hobbs, Mr. Gentry, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Baker.***

## **HAMMERING IN THE HILLS**

Mr. Spencer gave board members a copy of the Memo of Understanding for the Partnership and Hammering in the Hills, as well as some letters of support. On the second page of this information there is a list of

management team and their responsibilities. There is also a list of supporters. Mr. Spencer would like for that to be entered in and it should answer questions raised on Hammering in the Hills.

## **GEORGE LINK - PROPERTY CONDEMNATION INFORMATION**

Mr. Link was at the last meeting and said he wanted to get the condemnation case resolved. Mr. Chidester spoke to the judge about establishing a trial date. He then received a call from Mr. Link and was told he (Mr. Link) did not want to do anything until after the middle of June. Mr. Chidester said he was not in as big a hurry as he seemed. Mr. McCoy asked if the issue with the reassessment was taken care of. Mr. McKlarney said it was.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

***Mr. Gentry moved to go into Executive Session for the purposes indicated on the attached form (disposition of property). Second by Mr. McCoy. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Ms. Hobbs, Mr. Baker, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Gentry, Mr. McCoy.***

***Mr. Gentry moved to certify that in the closed session just concluded, the Board discussed nothing except the matters specifically identified in the motion to convene and lawfully permitted to be discussed under the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act cited in that motion. Second by Mr. McCoy. Approved unanimously by roll call vote – Voting YES: Mr. Spencer, Mr. Gentry, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. Baker, Mr. McCoy.***

## **BUDGET WORKSHOP**

The board members agreed to hold a meeting to discuss the 2010-11 budget on Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 PM at the County Administration Building.

No further business was introduced. Ms. Hobbs adjourned the meeting until the budget meeting noted above. The next recess meeting is Thursday, February 18, 2010 at 6:30 PM.

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_

Clerk