

At the regular meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors on Wednesday, January 6, 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 Chair (Eastern District)
Howard Spencer	Western District
Richard McCoy	At-Large Supervisor
Paul "Chappy" Baker	At-Large Supervisor
Chris McKlarney	County Administrator
Bryan Reed	GIS/Subdivision Agent
Susan Kidd	Board Secretary

CALL TO ORDER/INVOCATION

Mr. McCoy called the meeting to order. Mr. McKlarney offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

Mr. McKlarney, County Administrator, asked for nominations for Chairman for 2010.

Mr. Baker nominated Ms. Hobbs for the position of Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for 2010. Seconded by Mr. Gentry. There were no further nominations. Ms. Hobbs was confirmed as Chairman by 5-0 vote.

Mr. Baker nominated Mr. Gentry as Vice Chairman for the Board of Supervisors for 2010. Seconded by Ms. Hobbs. There were no other nominations. Mr. Gentry was confirmed as Vice Chairman by 5-0 vote.

Mr. Gentry moved that the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors be held on the first Wednesday of each month at 10 AM; a recess meeting will be set for the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM if necessary. Seconded by Mr. Baker. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Mr. Gentry, Mr. Baker, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Spencer, Ms. Hobbs.

Mr. McCoy moved that in the event a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Supervisors has to be cancelled due to emergency situations, weather, etc. they will reschedule on the same day of the following week with proper notification. Seconded by Mr. Gentry. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Mr. Gentry, Mr. Baker, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Spencer, Ms. Hobbs.

Mr. McCoy moved that the Board of Supervisors adopt and follow Roberts' Rules of Order. Seconded by Mr. Baker. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Mr. Gentry, Mr. Baker, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Spencer, Ms. Hobbs.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Gentry moved to approve the minutes of December 2, 2009. Seconded by Mr. Baker. A change was made on page 2 indicating that the request to VDOT was for work on Doe Creek near Carpenter Lane. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Mr. Gentry, Mr. Baker, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Spencer, Ms. Hobbs.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Sheriff Millirons: Sheriff Millirons reviewed his departmental accomplishments for 2009. There were many drug indictments through the use of the Drug Task Force. The grand jury will meet again next week. Sheriff Millirons said there will not be a large number out of this session though because they are involved in on-going investigations. There will probably be another large number in July. He felt this past year was productive; they

brought an Emergency Response Team to the county and most of the towns are involved in that as well. A new drug dog was received and RAD training was offered. They will try to implement this in the schools for all senior girls this year also. Sheriff Millirons said that Project Lifesaver program has been received. This uses a tracking device for dementia or Alzheimer's patients or for other citizens who may need the assistance. A training session was held in December and the amount of time it took to locate someone was less than 25 minutes. Several county officers participated in that training. Sheriff Millirons said they hope to implement this within a few months. Mr. Gentry asked about the cost for Project Lifesaver. Mr. Davis said it was a \$90 initial set up fee and then \$30 monthly. He was not sure if Medicaid/Medicare would cover that but will find out. Sheriff Millirons said they are also trying to get some corporate sponsorship for the program.

Sheriff Millirons reported they have hosted a volunteer program for senior citizens at the office. Several volunteers come in and do filing and make phone calls. His department is very appreciative for the assistance of those senior volunteers. The department has received a grant for equipment and enforcement through the DMV. They have also received bullet proof vests from the State Police and are waiting on rifles from them also. Sheriff Millirons reported that some of the seized vehicles have been placed on patrol at no cost to tax payers. Others will be placed with additional seized property and there will be a sale soon for all of that.

Sheriff Millirons reported that his department has held programs for citizens on safety, scamming, strangers, drugs and alcohol. Seven county officers were deputized as deputy marshals with Operation FALCON. Four will be sworn in as federal marshals.

The report for the month of December, 2009 shows that 32 cats and 31 dogs were picked up. Sheriff Millirons noted that the Animal Control Officers now do the euthanization of animals when necessary. This is a significant cost saving for the department. For December, there was 1 DUI arrest, 53 traffic summons issued, 4 felonies, 78 misdemeanors, 559 civil papers served and two burglary reports. One burglary was at a residence and the other at Palisades Restaurant. Those investigations are on-going.

Sheriff Millirons reported that there was a large snowfall in the area on December 18th. Mr. McKlarney called and offered use of the county's four-wheel drive vehicles. The Sheriff's Department did use those and is very appreciative of that offer and cooperation. Staff worked long hours but there were no serious incidents.

Sheriff Millirons reported that one of the repeater systems on Bald Knob (Mountain Lake) went down last week. There was about two feet of snow there and they were not able to get four-wheel drive vehicles in. Jay Williams took a tractor up there and pushed the snow and then pulled a county vehicle up to the repeater site. He also left the tractor there for them to use again if they needed it. The repeater did go down a second time. Sheriff Millirons said he would like to thank Mr. Williams for that assistance.

Sheriff Millirons said some of the fire departments are on low band but everyone else is on high band. With the tower going down it causes a lot of problems. There was a house fire in Pearisburg while it was down and they had to use the telephone to get help there. He had asked John Davis to talk to the board about the problems with the repeater system. Ms. Hobbs asked if Sheriff Millirons had received any calls about people without heat. He said he had not received any calls from citizens in the county.

Mr. Davis said they had an extra repeater stored in the Sheriff's office that was to be installed at the Angel's Rest tower. They were able to use that one at Mountain Lake after that repeater had failed four times. He said the radio technician wants to remove low band from all of the towers. However, two fire departments solely use low band as far as their paging equipment – Eggleston and Poplar Hill. The technician does feel they could do away with low band except for paging as most systems are using high band.

There will be a meeting today with the technician and Mr. Davis hopes to get recommendations and information on cost. He just wanted the board to be aware of the problems on mountain tops and that there will be funds required to fix this. The low band is out-dated and very difficult to get parts for. He noted that all cars in the county have mobiles for UHF that were acquired through a grant several years ago. The only thing affected is the paging for the two departments he mentioned earlier and that can be left as is.

Mr. Davis said on one of the trips to the tower site with Pro Com's technician, they had a repeater that was strictly high band. The county was adamant that they had to have service back on the mountain that day. Pro Com's repeater was put in place that night and it worked perfectly for those who had UHF radios. For the departments that could not be notified through the low band paging system, they used Code Red. Code Red was also used to notify Narrows, Pearisburg and the Rescue Squad when the tower was out. That takes a little longer than a pager, but it operated very efficiently as a back-up notification system.

Mr. Gentry asked if Mr. Davis had any idea of the number of radios that would need to be replaced by Eggleston and Poplar Hill to move them over to high band. Mr. Davis said he did not but would check on that. He thought most of the radios are UHF now, but the pagers are not. The cost is about \$400/450 for a UHF pager and each department probably has about 15-20 members.

Mr. Spencer asked how long the problem with the repeater had been going on. He noted there was a problem with the new siren in Glen Lyn. It will not work at all now. Mr. Davis said there was a problem in the programming but he was not sure who did that. It was programmed to have UHF but the tones at the Sheriff's office set it off on low band. Pro Com solved the problem but they did have to change some programming frequencies in the Sheriff's office. Mr. Spencer said he was told this past week that the alarm no longer worked. Mr. Davis said he was also recently advised of that and suggested they get Pro Com back to look at it.

Mr. Davis said the night the tower was down he received a call. He talked to Pro Com on the phone and made changes to the console that were suggested. They tried to change the paging from Mountain Lake to Flat Top, but because of frequency differences on the towers, the pagers are set to go off on that particular frequency. They were unable to do that. He has discussed with the technician about synchronizing all of that. That would mean no matter where in the county the officers are, they would not have to switch to a new frequency. Currently, they have to switch those from one tower to another (frequency) when they are travelling to different parts of the county. Ms. Hobbs asked Mr. Davis to bring the cost information back to the board after he receives it. She suggested getting costs for those UHF units also.

VDOT REPORT – DAVID CLARKE

Mr. Clarke reported that layoffs within VDOT are on-going. There will be a meeting this afternoon and he should know more after that. Those decisions on layoffs are coming from the state level. He said there are some people in this area that will be getting laid off. Ms. Hobbs said she still didn't understand how they could subsidize rail service and lay off the people who do the work. Mr. Clarke said all he knew was that it came from a completely different fund. Some of that was private money and some from the general fund.

Mr. Clarke said VDOT has taken care of the maintenance concerns at the underpass at Lurich. The work has not been done on Doe Creek yet; weather has been a factor there. He noted there has been some sort of weather problem every weekend in December. Hopefully, they will get to the other items when it warms up a bit.

Mr. Clarke said they would try to put together a short list of bidders for the Route 61 bridge project later this month. They should get the bids in February and then identify a contract in March. Construction will probably not begin until 2011; they have to do the final design work and obtain right-of-way.

Mr. Gentry said there were some problems with intersections on Route 460 during the recent snow. When the plows cleaned those, they piled snow in the turn lanes and blocked some of those areas. Mr. Gentry said he understood that during the storm they are just trying to keep the main road clear, but he asked if they could just push the snow on out of the turn lanes and intersections a little more when the storms end and they are cleaning up.

Ms. Hobbs asked if six-year plan money was allocated year by year and if not spent, did it roll over to the next year. Clendenin was placed on there and Turner taken off the year before. Where is the money going that was allocated for Turner? Mr. Clarke said it was shifted to the next project. The money does not go anywhere; it carries over. He said the funding for the projects on the six-year plan is not laid out for each project anymore since there is so little of it. Ms. Hobbs asked how they keep up with what is allocated. Mr. Clarke said he could

send the board something. There is a little bit in maintenance and the bulk of the funds will go on Clendenin with some set aside for Rural Additions. Ms. Hobbs asked if when they figured the Rural Addition money they took Mountain Fern out of it. Mountain Fern was done with Central District Revenue Sharing and was not supposed to come out of Rural Addition money. Mr. Clarke said it should not have come out of the Rural Addition fund. The only funds in that should be the 5% the board put out of the regular secondary construction allocation.

Ms. Hobbs asked if there was anything that could be done to get the swinging bridge put back at Patterson Ford. Mr. Clarke said he did not think so. It was a state funding issue, not a local one. He said any appeal on that would probably have to go to the Commissioner. There are a few swinging bridges left in the Salem District but Bristol District has even more. Ms. Hobbs said the bridge was put in for a purpose; to use when the low water bridge was flooded. That has not changed, so it should be replaced. Mr. Clarke said that was a state-wide issue and the decision would have to go to the Commissioner or Governor. Mr. Gentry noted there was a low water bridge on Wolf Creek on Morehead Road that is in poor condition and it is the only way in to that property too.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT – TERRY ARBOGAST

Dr. Arbogast informed the board that enrollment at the end of December was 2,554. That is a decrease of 31 from this time last year. He also shared copies of the activities calendar for all schools for January. Dr. Arbogast reported that the first semester ended on January 26th and the second semester will begin on January 28th. SOL testing will begin on January 11th at Narrows High School. They have received some writing scores from Narrows High for fall and they are at 76.19%. Those are results for a small group; Giles also had a small group of retests in the fall that passed.

Dr. Arbogast said a walk-through was conducted at Eastern Elementary/Middle School. They are anticipating moving over the weekend of January 15th. The staff has also worked out a way of getting kids into the trailers faster so students will have a shorter travelling time outside during this extremely cold weather. Dr. Arbogast said they are working on a punch list at the Tech Center now for the office and nursing areas. They have moved into the new server room during Christmas break. The network equipment is there and they have also tried out the generator and it worked well.

The schools are working with the Health Department to schedule the second round of H1N1 vaccines for younger students. They hope to have that scheduled by January 18th.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION REPORT – MELISSA CHASE/JAMES ATWELL

Melissa Chase updated the board on some of the activities at the Extension office. The dates for 4-H summer camp are June 14-18. Mr. Lytton will bring more information to the board later on that. The teen leaders have been meeting throughout the year to prepare for camp and they will have a weekend training at Mountain Lake soon.

Sara Burkett, who works with FCS in Giles and Pulaski, has offered programs in Giles County Schools with 2nd and 3rd graders to offer nutrition lessons. Wal-Mart has donated fruit for these lessons and she also sends information home to the families. She also offered a 16-hour food safety training in October. This training allows participants to receive certification from the National Restaurant Association.

Ms. Chase has completed financial planning classes with 12th graders at both high schools. She incorporates lessons on using credit, working with banks, etc. They hope to offer this class again in the spring. She and Ms. Burkett will be conducting a Childcare Provider Training program in April in conjunction with New River Community College. This allows childcare providers to receive recertification points. They will also offer FIT Extension again this spring. Ms. Chase said they are also planning to hold a six-hour money management and nutrition program for the community. They are planning a family field day with a gardening theme. Amanda Sarver and Ms. Chase hope to work with Giles County Housing and Development on a gardening project. That organization has 7 properties in the county and all are different – ranging from single family homes to

apartments. They were able to get the property behind Woodrum apartments in Pearisburg to do a garden last year and others did container gardens. They hope to do that again.

James Atwell, agricultural extension agent, stated that he and Ms. Chase feel fortunate to work in counties (Giles and Bland) that support them like these do. He said he recently completed the Virginia Private Pesticide Applicators course. This is for people who have the ability to spray restricted-use products. Certification is for two years and there are 25-30 people in Giles County. He said there are about 105 of these in a four county area that includes Giles.

Mr. Atwell said the VT Vet School will offer a "herd health day" on various topics and he will be working with that. He is also gearing up for the multi-flora rose program this year. He said a lot of folks have these chemicals that they have not used and they hope to get them to use them this year so other people can get involved. He said the sprayer is working okay. A lot of the people who participate have their own sprayers.

Mr. Atwell said he spoke with Larry Crane about the gypsy moth situation. The weather this year played a role in reducing that population. The numbers should be significantly less than for this year. He said that may help for a couple years before the next wave comes through.

Mr. Atwell said he will be offering an apple grafting workshop coming up in April. Mr. Lytton will be conducting a week-long youth stockman's camp this year, using local farms as destinations to expose the youth to farm operations that exist in this area.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Vernon Kelley: Mr. Kelley first asked if the board could do something about the acoustics in the room. It is difficult to hear when someone is speaking.

Mr. Kelley spoke on behalf of the Concerned Citizens of Giles County. Originally one of their members planned to speak and present a petition to the board with hundreds of signatures from Giles County residents asking them to take the proper action to reclaim the tax money loaned to the Giles County Partnership for Excellence. This was in the form of county labor and county equipment. They postponed that plan because they were informed that at the meeting on December 3 or 4, Mr. Spencer, Executive Director of the Partnership, made a presentation during the public comment section. The group does not have a copy of those minutes since they were only approved a few minutes ago. They will get a copy as soon as they are available. However, Mr. Kelley said that according to the local newspaper's December 9th edition, Mr. Spencer said "Through an agreement with the board, a county employee served as one of three instructors in the program. Spencer states that the county was paid for part of the employees time until grant funds were depleted at which time the Partnership agreed to do county projects in lieu of payment for the county employee's time as a program instructor." Mr. Kelley said he had not seen the minutes and due to limited space, the paper does not put everything that is said at these meetings. However, according to the paper Mr. Spencer did not address any reimbursement agreement with the county for the equipment that was used nor did he explain why he only paid part of the money back for the instruction supervisor before the grant funds were depleted. He said he was sure the board would answer that.

There are a few reasons that Mr. Kelley noted the Concerned Citizens were surprised at Mr. Spencer's comments. First, when you consider all of the Freedom of Information Act requests his group has sent to the county administration and all of the literally hundreds of documents, responses to letters, minutes that the county has charged them to produce, it seems logical that they would have seen some record of a vote, some record of discussion of the details of this agreement, or at least some kind of memorandum of understanding between the corporation, Partnership, and the county. Mr. Kelley said not one shred of evidence is available to substantiate Mr. Spencer's claim at that last meeting. There is also nothing to substantiate that the Board of Supervisors ever voted or approved this exchange. Mr. Kelley said this is particularly confusing because the documents obtained from the county and other sources seem to indicate that the supervisors and administration never had a clue how the Hammering in the Hills program operated. Yet, Mr. Spencer gave a report before the board making claims that this board made this agreement to supply thousands of tax dollars to the Partnership without any substantiation to verify this, and not one board member or county official questioned anything. The

only thing in the paper was that Mr. Gentry thanked him for the report. By failing to challenge any of Mr. Spencer's claims, the board has answered yes to the truth of these statements. Mr. Kelley noted that Mr. McCoy was not at that meeting and said maybe he would like to ask questions about the accuracy of that report later.

Mr. Kelley said since there seems to be a large discrepancy between Mr. Spencer's report and the documents in his groups possession, as soon as they receive the official minutes from Ms. Kidd on the December meeting, they will be submitting another FOIA – which he hated to do because it was costly and basically a waste of time at this point – for any county documents that can verify Mr. Spencer's claim that there was an agreement between Giles County Board of Supervisors and the Giles County Partnership for Excellence in the exchange of hundreds of thousands of tax dollars in the form of labor and equipment for use by the Partnership for the Hammering in the Hills program. They will also request any and all documents that pertain to the terms of that alleged agreement; for example, who supervised the program, who supervised the accounting records for the exchange. Additionally, the Concerned Citizens would like to see the proposal for this agreement that would have been submitted by the Partnership and the budget documents to verify the legitimacy of these exchanges between the county and the Partnership. They would also like to know which board members of the Partnership came before the supervisors and negotiated this agreement with the county and on what dates. They would like to have minutes of those meetings that took place between the county and the Partnership as well. Furthermore, they would like a copy of the document Mr. Spencer read into public record in December. Mr. Kelley said also he was assuming these records exist because no one challenged it. They would also like an explanation why they were never provided a copy of this alleged agreement in response to their previous FOIA requests.

Mr. Kelley said his group would also like an explanation why there is no record in the Board of Supervisors' meeting minutes of these agreements made between the county and the corporation known as the Giles County Partnership for Excellence. In addition, they would like to see the supervisor's voting records on these alleged financial arrangements. Frankly, based on the documents they have and the research done to this point, the Concern Citizens of Giles County does not have any faith that the documentation of Mr. Spencer's alleged agreement with the county exists. However, for the sake of the tax payer he hopes they are wrong. The fact they were never provided these documents if they exist, in response to their previous requests would really be a monumental oversight by the county for not producing those properly when they were asked for.

Mr. Kelley said as soon as he gets the minutes, he would immediately put together a Freedom of Information Act that he would give them and look forward to their proper response to the documents that would verify the claims that Mr. Spencer made in December.

George Link: Mr. Link said he was glad there were a few people to stand up for voters in the county. He said he wished all of the board members could use their power and get out of their seats and get out in the county and see some of the things on the back side of what is going on in the county. He said he didn't have enough time to point some of this out, but felt they could fill in the blanks. Mr. Link said this bickering back and forth on this ash thing – he was not against it one bit in the world – but there are so many things you see and hear in the paper and you don't know who to believe. Like Mr. Kelley said, this is public record and somebody ought to be putting it out where we the people can see the truth or they could either brag on him or do something else.

Mr. Link said he wanted to talk about the problems with the tax assessment the board put on a few people like him. He wanted the board to straighten it out. Ms. Hobbs asked which tax assessment he referred to. Mr. Link said the last one – the reassessment. He said he wanted this straightened out; he has not paid and is not going to until someone can show him more than what the papers say. He went to the appeal board and tried that.

Mr. McKlarney asked if the adjustment had been made. Mr. Link said it had not. He said he knew Mr. McKlarney had tried to get something done, but Mr. Link went to Ms. Chambers several times. She is always upset when he goes in and says she is going to work on it. All he got was a box of papers that cost the taxpayers. Mr. McKlarney said the board was told several months ago that there was going to be an adjustment made. He was not sure where that stood, but would find out.

Mr. Link said on another matter, there was a letter issued on his property at Hoges Store. The county bulldozed through it several years ago and the sewer line was not moved over like he was sort of promised it would be. He would like to see that issue put to rest properly. It was appraised back at that time and it wasn't worth too much, but that changed when they did the reassessment last year. That goes back to problem number one.

Ms. Hobbs noted that property values do go up when public water and sewer are added. Mr. Link said he was aware of that. Ms. Hobbs also noted that the state code of Virginia requires a reassessment every four years and the board cannot be involved in that; they have to hire someone to do that. Mr. Link said he had read that numerous times and it says "fair market" value.

Mr. McKlarney said there was an error made on Mr. Link's assessment and he spoke to Ms. Chambers. The adjustment should be made on it. Mr. Link said the according to the letter he received from the assessor, that would not get his property back down to the same as property around it. There is a cliff where he has some goats and a little business with no road frontage is one of the properties. Mr. McKlarney said if he remembered correctly the assessor has reversed the values for two properties. The county actually received a letter from the assessor saying there had been a mistake made. It should have been corrected.

Mr. Link said it was another way to look at it that they did a very poor job – they got one building on the wrong side of the road. He would just like to have those two items taken care of. This thing with the sewer line coming through his property has drug on. He said the line came by his property. Ms. Hobbs asked what Mr. Link wanted to have done about the sewer line. Mr. Link he wanted to be paid what it is properly worth. That is the only thing they can do unless they move the line – and that is what was supposed to have been done. Mr. Gentry asked if Mr. Link had already received money for that. Mr. Link said he had not. Mr. Chidester stated that there was an amount of money deposited with the court that Mr. Link is entitled to if he wants it. Mr. Link said back then it wasn't worth much but all of a sudden it's appraised for more. Mr. Chidester said he was waiting on the judge to give him a date for the condemnation hearing. He will let Mr. Link know when that date becomes available.

AMBULANCE SERVICE CONTRACT

Mr. McKlarney asked if the board wished to put out an RFP for ambulance service in the county. Ms. Hobbs asked if that would be for 24/7 coverage. Mr. McKlarney said that could be an add/alternate item for the proposal. Ms. Hobbs asked if we know the current level of coverage. Mr. McKlarney said we have that information. Carilion does cover the contracted times and often beyond that, but the issue is getting volunteers out sometimes when Carilion is not covering. There is no question 24/7 would get better coverage. Mrs. Brown told the board about one incident and unfortunately that does happen. Mr. McCoy said the county needs to put out an RFP. Carilion can propose an increase and the board has nothing to compare it to in order to see if it is fair or not.

Mr. McCoy moved to proceed with development of an Request for Proposal for ambulance service, emergency transport, and other associated services. Second by Mr. Baker.

Discussion: Mr. Spencer asked if the county was satisfied with the coverage they have or do they want to expand the RFP. Mr. McKlarney said the RFP needs to have a good bit of thought put into it. He would like to ask for assistance from the state and look at call times, heavy volumes, etc. It would probably be 30 days minimum before this could be developed. Mr. McKlarney noted the county is well satisfied with Carilion's service that is provided during the hours they are on. It is excellent. He will bring the draft RFP to the board before anything goes out.

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

THE CEDARS

Mr. Reed presented a subdivision plat on The Cedars. The reason for bringing this is the project has been on-going for some time. The original concept plan was presented about 18 months ago or more. The biggest difference in this and the original plan is a change in the number of lots. The original concept plan that was approved showed 58 lots. Since then, the developer has decided to create another lot on this property. Mr. Reed noted that Lots #40 and #41 were originally in one lot that has since been split. The original plan approved by the Planning Commission and Board had 58 lots. Since they have added this additional lot, the developer was advised to take it before the Planning Commission and Board again. The Planning Commission has unanimously recommended approval of the additional lot.

Mr. Gentry moved to approve the Planning Commission recommendation for an additional lot in The Cedars development. Second by Mr. Baker.

Discussion: Mr. McCoy asked how much common area or open space was in this development. Mr. Reed said 42.736 acres was subdivided. There is 21.629 acres of open space, which equates to 51.6%.

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

INDUSTRIAL ACCESS PROJECT RESOLUTION – WHEATLAND ECO-PARK

Mr. McKlarney said this resolution is for the entrance and turning lanes to the Wheatland Eco-Park. Generally, this is 100% funded by VDOT with 5% of the total capital outlay inside the park over five years deducted from the cost of access. Then you would settle up with VDOT at the end of the project. That has changed to 10% over 10 years, which is good for the county. This doubles the length of time you have for repayment and doubles the credit you get for the projects. The first project – Nanosonic – will take care of about 65% of that total cost.

Mr. Baker moved to approve the industrial access project resolution for Wheatland Eco-Park as presented. Second by Mr. Gentry.

Discussion: Mr. Spencer asked if this property was ever in the Enterprise Zone. Mr. McKlarney said it was in the section that was asked for, but the county was not awarded that. The county can make application again. Mr. Spencer asked if this would happen before the application could move forward. Mr. McKlarney said it would happen before. The Enterprise application really does not have anything to do with this though. The Enterprise Zone does not cover any government costs – only private investor costs.

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

NEW RIVER VALLEY COMPETITIVENESS CENTER REQUEST

Mr. McKlarney presented a request for financial assistance from the NRV Competitiveness Center. He said the IDA has declined to assist with this just as they had when it was first requested six months ago.

Mr. Gentry moved to decline the request for assistance to the NRV Competitiveness Center. Second by Mr. Baker. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Ms. Hobbs, Mr. Gentry, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker, Mr. Spencer.

SOCIAL SERVICES APPROPRIATION – VIEW PROGRAM/AUXILIARY GRANT

Ms. Hobbs noted that these are mandated programs. This request is only for upfront money. The county's portion is 20% or \$2,218.

Mr. McCoy moved to appropriate \$19,443 with state reimbursement of 80% of this amount for the VIEW and Auxiliary Grant Programs. Second by Mr. Spencer. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Ms. Hobbs, Mr. Gentry, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker, Mr. Spencer.

INCENTIVES

Mr. Gentry said he noticed several counties around us had offered incentives to businesses in exchange for promise of jobs. They have started pulling those incentives now because the jobs never materialized or the companies never met the goals. He asked if Giles County had anything that would fall into that category. Mr. McKlarney said the only one would be Jenn-Mar and so far they have met their obligations. Mr. Gentry said he just felt it was necessary to make things as air-tight as possible with any future agreements.

RIPPLEMEAD WATER CONNECTION FEE

Mr. McKlarney said staff was requesting direction from the board on whether to charge Ripplemead customers a connection fee now that the new system is in place. They were not charged anything when the old system was taken over by the county. Mr. McKlarney said staff's recommendation was not to charge a fee since these were existing customers with the county. Rural Development has always required customers be charged a connection fee, but these are existing customers with payment history. Mr. Baker said it did not make sense to charge a connection fee to customers who were already connected. Mr. McKlarney agreed, but said the board needed to make that decision. Mr. McCoy said if they had put in a new system when the county took it over, that may have been okay, but not backing up and doing it. Mr. Belcher said when he had this placed on the agenda if was before they found out the Department of Health allows the county to waive the connection fee.

Mr. Baker moved to waive the connection fee for existing county customers on the Ripplemead water system. Second by Mr. Gentry.

Discussion: Mr. Spencer asked if there would be any consequences to the county for waiving this as far as the funding agency. Mr. McKlarney said the Health Department does not require it. These are not Rural Development funds. Ms. Hobbs noted this would also save a lot in water loss. Mr. McCoy said just having working meters out there will cover anything lost on connections.

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

APPOINTMENTS

Ms. Hobbs moved to reappoint Barry Price to the Agricultural Advisory Board. Second by Mr. Baker. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Ms. Hobbs, Mr. Gentry, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker, Mr. Spencer.

Mr. Baker moved to reappoint Mr. McCoy to the Rural Transportation Technical Advisory Board. Second by Mr. Gentry. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Ms. Hobbs, Mr. Gentry, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker, Mr. Spencer.

Mr. Spencer moved to appoint Phillip Steele, contingent upon the board being the proper body to make the appointment, to the VASAP Advisory Board. Second by Mr. Gentry. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Ms. Hobbs, Mr. Gentry, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker, Mr. Spencer.

PAYMENT OF WARRANTS

Mr. McCoy moved to appropriate funds in the amount of \$739,157.48 for payment of warrants as presented. Second by Mr. Spencer. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Ms. Hobbs, Mr. Gentry, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker, Mr. Spencer.

It was noted that the handwritten checks were just to get contractors their payments prior to the regular check run.

No further business was introduced. Ms. Hobbs adjourned the meeting until the recess meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 21, 2010 at 6:30 PM in the Timberlake Building, General District Courtroom.

APPROVED:

Chairperson

ATTEST:

Clerk