

**VIRGINIA:** County of Lee, to-wit:

At the Recessed Meeting of the Lee County Board of Supervisors at the Lee County Airport on October 3, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. thereof.

MEMBERS PRESENT: D.D. Leonard, Chairman  
Josh Flanary  
Mike Kidwell  
Brian Shoemaker  
Roger Waddell

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Robby Wright, County Administrator  
Leslie Litton, EDA Director  
Cathy Wilder, Secretary  
Greg Edwards, EDA Chairman  
Ray Blair  
A.J. Hatmaker  
Chad B. Hines  
Mark Long  
Richard Sprinkle

OTHERS ABSENT: Stacy Munsey, County Attorney  
Angie Thomas, Administrative Assistant  
Billy Willis

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### **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The joint meeting with Economic Development Authority (EDA) was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

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### **EDA REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

The EDA conducted their Regular Monthly Meeting. For information concerning details of this portion of the meeting please refer to the EDA minutes dated October 3, 2024.

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### **REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

## **BUSINESS UPDATES**

Mr. Wright stated he received the deed on the property donated by Roger Adams and needs a signature to accept it. Also he met with Cumberland Partners about separating off the portion of the Headstart Building property the County wants to sell. He reported all maintenance work on non County owned vehicles are billed quarterly. He stated the metal work at the Transfer Station is complete with a few minor issues that will cost \$300.00 to repair with the Boards approval.

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Mark Long asked if the metal repairs can be done by the welding class at the Vocational School.

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### **METAL REPAIR AT TRANSFER STATION**

It was moved by Mr. Flanary, seconded by Mr. Kidwell, to have the welding class at the Vocational School look at the metal repair job at the Transfer Station and if unable to repair have Watson repair the metal at a cost of \$300.00. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

VOTING AYE: Mr. Flanary, Mr. Kidwell, Mr. Leonard, Mr. Shoemaker

ABSTAINING: Mr. Waddell

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## **BUSINESS UPDATES CONTINUED**

Mr. Wright continued with current business updates stating Thompson & Litton will be coming to the courthouse on the October 8<sup>th</sup> to give an estimate on loose windows in the judge's chambers. He stated the question was asked about the cost for bridge naming and that cost is around \$200.00. He reported that Tracy Fletcher passed his certification which will increase his pay rate by \$1.00 per hour.

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It was moved by Mr. Flanary, seconded by Mr. Shoemaker, to increase Tracy Fletcher's pay rate by \$1.00 per hour beginning October 1, 2024. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

VOTING AYE: Mr. Flanary, Mr. Kidwell, Mr. Leonard, Mr. Shoemaker, Mr. Waddell

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Mr. Wright stated he has received a bill for the Regional Jail expenditure that is over \$500,000.00.

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Mr. Shoemaker stated the state should be paying the bill for stated responsible inmates.

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Mr. Wright stated he will do the calculations and send the information to the Board.

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Mr. Wright presented the Board with a Resolution to declare a local emergency due to damage caused by Hurricane Helene.

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It was moved by Mr. Leonard, seconded by Mr. Waddell to approve the following resolution. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

VOTING AYE: Mr. Flanary, Mr. Kidwell, Mr. Leonard, Mr. Shoemaker, Mr. Waddell

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## **DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY**

### **RESOLUTION**

**24-016**

**WHEREAS,** Hurricane Helene made landfall as a Category 4 storm on September 26, 2024 moving quickly north toward Lee County; and

**WHEREAS,** Lee County experienced winds from this storm which were sustained at 20-30 miles per hour with gusts up to 50 mph; and

**WHEREAS,** Lee County experienced significant rainfall in a very short period of time; and

**WHEREAS,** Lee County experienced significant damage to infrastructure in the form of broken power poles and downed power lines causing significant numbers of citizens to be without power; and

**WHEREAS,** Lee County experienced significant damage in other areas including agriculture resources, spoiled food and water shortages;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Lee County Board of Supervisors declare a Local State of Emergency and hereby petition the Honorable Glenn Youngkin, governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, to declare a Disaster Emergency exists in Lee County, and the Governor is further petitioned to request the President of the United States, and any agency thereof, to provide relief and assistance to the extent allowable by law.

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### **DISCUSSION WITH EDA**

Mr. Kidwell asked the EDA Board to introduce themselves, what district they represent, any ideas they have for EDA and how the Board of Supervisors can help.

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EDA Board Members introduced themselves and shared ideas for future Economic Development in the County.

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There was a discussion about their ideas for future development in the County.

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### **POSSIBILITY OF MOVING SOMEONE TO THE AIRPORT**

There was a discussion about having someone at the airport during the day.

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Mr. Wright stated the airport is unmanned and is registered that way. We have a courtesy car for individuals flying in and that information is listed on the airport website. He stated the Airport Board wanted to look at funds for expansion. He has contacted the Department of Aviation and will have a meeting with them on Tuesday and suggested possibly having a joint meeting with the Airport Board in the future.

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Mr. Waddell asked if one day of the week is busier than other days.

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Mr. Wright stated no it's random.

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## **NATURAL GAS IN THE COUNTY**

Mr. Kidwell asked if there was the possibility of doing anything with the natural gas on the western end of the county.

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Mr. Leonard stated in the past the Board had meetings with the gas company to get natural gas to Lee High since the line was so close. After that it was left up to the school system to go any further than that.

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There was a discussion about natural gas lines in the county.

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## **DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTY**

Mr. Edwards stated the development on the western end of the county is around the Vet School and on the eastern end is in Pennington Gap.

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## **E-911 UPDATE**

Billie Kay Coleman, E-911 Director, gave an update on damage in the county from Hurricane Helene. She reported the majority of the damage in the county is agriculturally related at an assessed amount of \$1.9million. She stated timber is the majority of that figure and FEMA does not reimburse or assist with that and at this time the county does not qualify for individual assistance through FEMA. However we could possibly qualify for public assistance which means the nonprofits like Powell Valley Electric, Scott County Telephone, PSA, etc. Those entities that have put out extra, what supersedes a normal budget, can receive up to 75% reimbursement and it is the department's responsibility to file that claim. The link should be available around mid to late October. However, since we did not get individual assistance what we did get is a potential for the USDA to step in and help with Agricultural related catastrophes, which will be on a person to person basis. She stated she will post the link on the Facebook website and Sheriff's Facebook page.

She reported the county has received multiple skids of waster and the only community still out of water due to electricity not being restored is in the Klondike, Jasper, Stickleyleville area. She stated they have received 3 skids since Tuesday and still have water if the need arises also she has 2 skids left at Jonesville Rescue Squad.

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Mr. Flanary asked if we can hold on to the remaining skids of water and see what happens in that area.

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Ms. Coleman stated she is fine with that.

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Ms. Coleman advised she was approached with Wise County is getting a \$300 reimbursement for food loss but that has not been confirmed. She has asked and everyone except Social Services and been told no they were not doing that.

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Mr. Flanary asked if she checked with AEP Service because they are doing vouchers for hygiene products.

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Ms. Coleman read a notification from AEP Service Territory and stated she has not been told no from Social Services yet. Also she stated ODP is supplying a list of all the residence without power and we can push that to DSS but there is not a form to fill out for reimbursement for loss of power.

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Mr. Leonard asked if Powell Valley Electric is providing a list as well.

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Ms. Coleman stated they are not getting a list together yet.

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Mr. Waddell stated the linemen working in the area were impressed with how they have been treated in Lee County.

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## **CLOSED SESSION**

It was moved by Mr. Shoemaker, seconded by Mr. Kidwell, to enter Closed Session pursuant to 2.2-3711 A.1., discussion, consideration or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining

or resignation of specific public officers, appointees or employees of any public body. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

VOTING AYE: Mr. Flanary, Mr. Kidwell, Mr. Leonard, Mr. Shoemaker, Mr. Waddell

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It was moved by Mr. Leonard, seconded by Mr. Flanary, to exit Closed Session. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

VOTING AYE: Mr. Flanary, Mr. Kidwell, Mr. Leonard, Mr. Shoemaker, Mr. Waddell

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### **CERTIFICATE OF CLOSED SESSION**

It was unanimously agreed as follows.

**WHEREAS**, the Lee County Board of Supervisors has convened a Closed Meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provision of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia requires a Certification by this Lee County Board of Supervisors that such Closed Meeting was conducted within Virginia law;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Lee County Board of Supervisors hereby certified that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from Closed Meeting in 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 Lee County Board of Supervisors.

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### **ADVERTISE GENERAL LABORER POSITION FOR PUBLIC WORKS**

It was moved by Mr. Shoemaker, seconded by Mr. Flanary, to advertise to hire a full time General Laborer with a minimum of a Class B CDL license for Public Works Department. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

VOTING AYE: Mr. Flanary, Mr. Kidwell, Mr. Leonard, Mr. Shoemaker

ABSTAINING: Mr. Waddell

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### **REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BOARD**

None.

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It was moved by Mr. Shoemaker, seconded by Mr. Kidwell, to adjourn. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

VOTING AYE: Mr. Flanary, Mr. Kidwell, Mr. Leonard, Mr. Shoemaker, Mr. Waddell