

VIRGINIA: County of Lee, to-wit:

At the Regular Meeting of the Lee County Board of Supervisors in the General District Courtroom of the Lee County Courthouse on November 19, 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
Angie Thomas, Administrative Assistant
Stacy Estep Munsey, County Attorney

OTHERS ABSENT: None

INVOCATION

Roy Webb, pastor of Greater Outreach Church of God of Pennington Gap, led the invocation.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Brian Shoemaker led the Pledge to the Flag.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:04p.m.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Written Departmental Reports for Solid Waste, Litter Control, Animal Control and Works Program were included in the agenda packet.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report for the month of November 2024 was submitted as follows:

Revenues	\$ 13,337,836.44
Expenditures	\$ 11,236,506.82
General Fund	\$ 2,145,399.49
Total Assets and Liabilities	\$ 13,337,836.44

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

The Chairman opened the floor for public comment and advised that each speaker would be limited to a three-minute time-period for individuals, and five-minute time-period for a group.

There was no public comment.

The Chairman closed the floor for public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Shoemaker, seconded by Mr. Kidwell, to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2024 Recessed Meeting and October 15, 2024 Regular Meeting. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

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

PAYROLL

The County Administrator reports that payroll warrants have been issued.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

It was moved by Mr. Flanary, seconded by Mr. Kidwell, to approve the disbursements for the month of October in the amount of \$417,082.96. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

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

DELEGATIONS

FEMA

Carly Janiszewski, Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist, stated the deadline for individual assistance applications is December 2nd and Disaster Survivor Assistant (DSA) has wrapped up but in person opportunities are available such as Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) with one being in Scott County. Affected persons can call, go to disasterassistance.gov or download the app to get updates on their application status.

Mr. Waddell asked how many claims were submitted from Lee County.

Mr. Wright stated to date 76 claims for individual assistance was reported from Lee County residence.

There was a discussion about the effects of Hurricane Helene in the County.

DISASTER AND RECOVERY RELIEF

Jim Accurso, Public Affairs Specialist with the Small Business Administration Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience, has been present in the County as a result of Hurricane Helene. He stated they are in the FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers offering a long term low interest Disaster Loan Program for home owners, renters and businesses with a December 2nd deadline to apply. He stated they also offer Economic Injury Disaster Loans for businesses that had a setback due to the storm with a deadline of July 1, 2025. He encouraged people to come into the recovery centers with the nearest one being in Duffield or apply online.

VDOT UPDATE

Allan Sumpter, Residency Administrator for the Virginia Department of Transportation Wise Residency, provided handouts and gave a quarterly update on current projects. He reported that VDOT has been involved with clean-up from Hurricane Helene. Out of the 2 headquarters in Lee County, Ewing and Dryden, the Dryden area was hit the hardest. The Ewing area had about 200 trees down, around 1,200 down in the Dryden area and about 23,000 cubic yards of debris was removed from the County. VDOT crews from the eastern part of the state assisted with the clean-up.

Mr. Sumpter reported on the roads stating that routes 625,766,661 and the patchwork on 606 have been completed along with the entrance at Thomas Walker and the Klondike project. Future projects include 603 Backvalley and 604 Blackwater that will begin in the spring and summer.

Mr. Waddell asked if 603 will be taken to the Tennessee line.

Mr. Sumpter stated he doesn't have that information with him but thinks that is the case.

Mr. Kidwell asked about the speed limit change in front of Thomas Walker.

Mr. Sumpter stated the traffic engineers were not able to do that due to not meeting the criteria for reduction of the speed limit.

Mr. Kidwell asked what the criteria entail.

Mr. Sumpter stated the primary criteria is based on the 85 percentile speed and the accident ratio that has occurred and if by reducing the speed it would reduce the number of accidents.

Mr. Kidwell stated there have been several accidents there and asked if the concerns of the community matter.

Mr. Sumpter stated this is all an engineering matter.

Mr. Kidwell stated the school, the business across the road and everyone that lives in front of the school is requesting it be lowered.

Mr. Sumpter explained possible legal matters with changing the speed limit without meeting requirements.

There was further discussion about changing the speed limit.

Mr. Kidwell asked what the speed limit is for a non posted road.

Mr. Sumpter stated a non posted road is a statutory 55mph; however, all rural rustic roads being built such as the Klondike road are posted as a statutory 35mph due to the code of Virginia. He stated in the code of Virginia towns and municipalities have the authority to set speed limits.

Mr. Kidwell asked where the people of the community can call to complain.

Mr. Sumpter stated they can call 1-800-367-ROAD and his staff will explain this to them.

Mr. Sumpter referred to the report that was handed out to the Board and explained the 2024 pavement schedule work that was performed such as re-sealed and repaved roads. He stated superintendents have submitted the scheduled work requests for next year from the Ewing and Dryden offices for roads they feel need to be resurfaced. Those road requests will be evaluated and scored and based on that score, if it falls below 60, it meets the criteria to be resurfaced. He asked if the Board has any requests for him to check on.

Mr. Leonard asked if they can fill in the hole between Appalachia and Keokee where the road has fell in.

Mr. Waddell stated he would like to see the bush hog run 24/7 if VDOT has the man power; also at Hurricane Bridge someone has been dumping brush and asked if the County cleans it up can they put a guardrail up.

Mr. Sumpter stated he will ask but at least they can put no dumping signs up.

Mr. Waddell asked how much time VDOT spends in the County picking up animal carcasses.

Mr. Sumpter stated if they are in a travel lane they try to pick them up upon becoming aware of it and if they are on the side of the road they are trying to make a weekly run.

Mr. Waddell stated he would like to schedule a hearing with the public and present something to the game commission to try to reduce the amount of deer and sex of deer to try to alleviate the deer problem.

Mr. Wright stated he would like for VDOT to look at the intersection by the courthouse. He advised we have had 3 incidents with tractor trailers getting hung up this past week with one truck turning over.

Mr. Sumpter stated they will look at this matter.

Mr. Flanary asked if the road in the Dryden Heights area off of Cherry Tree that turns down into Eden's Drive is state maintained down to the gravel area.

Mr. Sumpter stated he doesn't think the gravel part is state maintained he will have to check on this.

Mr. Flanary stated VDOT has just completed some asphalt on that road and some citizens that live there want to know when that will be completed.

Mr. Sumpter stated there is a section on that road he doesn't think is state maintained but he will check on this.

He spoke with Ms. Haley and she has a couple of roads she would like to bring into the state system. He sent her a link and will follow back up with her on the new edition process. Guidelines for this process include usage, must be over 20 years old and must be constructed to state standards. He stated the majority of our available funding goes to the rural rustic roads that are already in the system. There are different alternatives that other counties use for funding such as coal severance, which is a dollar for dollar match, revenue sharing or create a special tax district and apply for the matching revenue sharing.

LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

Nan Carmack, Library of Virginia Director, provided handouts and discussed the benefits of Regional Libraries. She stated operating in a Regional Library offers more materials than a County can provide on its own, more user access and offers a broad spectrum of benefits.

The Regional Library Code section 42.1-42 refers to the withdrawal from the Regional Library System. She stated the contract with the other localities states; no county or cities participating in the Regional Library System will withdrawal here from without 2 years notice to other participating counties and cities. She advised the letter sent to Ms. Steffy does not meet the requirement for withdrawal therefore the other Regional Library participants need to be informed. She explained the code section for State Aid Allocation 42.1-48 that articulates the State Aid formula along with the Virginia Administrative Code that dictates how the state operates in certain ways and how state aid is allocated. She stated the Regional Library is at the highest level of funding since the year 2000 at 91% of full funding and the General Assembly has committed to full funding by next year. The state recognizes that counties go through tough times and in the Administrative Code state aid can be retained if cuts are made across the board but if only the library is cut the state aid is at risk of being cut.

She stated on the Federal Funds side Lee County is in the target district for the Virginia State Broadband Equity Access Employment Grant (BEAG) in which the Library of Virginia would be hosting putting digital navigators in the community and that could be at risk if state aid is lost.

She gave a breakdown of the 2023 Lonesome Pine Regional Library Analysis stating the total expenditures are \$1,708,652 which serves a population of 101,922 people and Lonesome Pine receives \$613,182+/- in state aid in which \$70,000+/- is allocated to Lee County Libraries. This makes Lonesome Pine Regional Libraries median expenditure \$16.76 which is above the established median of \$14.48. She stated if Lee County went to an Independent Library the median would fall to \$9.10 below the required median and have 5 years to achieve median expenditure or would lose state aid until median could be met. She gave calculations for Independent State Aid for Lee County and the impact of withdrawal from Lonesome Pine Regional Library.

Mr. Kidwell asked about Rose Hill Library not being open full time and the pay rate for a full time Library Director.

Ms. Carmack deferred the question about the hours at Rose Hill Library to Ms. Steffy and stated a full time director depends on the locality and the salary would range between \$60,000-\$70,000 and upwards.

Ms. Steffy stated the library has 2 full time and 3 part time employees and 94% of the county money goes to salaries and the other 6% goes to run the building. She added they do not have the money to hire anyone; therefore Rose Hill Library has 1 worker.

Mr. Kidwell asked if the Rose Hill employee can't work full time.

Ms. Steffy stated a full time employee has to have health insurance and retirement therefore it would cost salary plus \$13,000 and they don't have it in the budget.

Mr. Kidwell stated when the house in Rose Hill was donated to the County it was in the agreement to have a full time library.

Ms. Steffy stated for 2 years the library was to be open 40 hours a week but after that there weren't required to be open 40 hours per week.

Mr. Kidwell asked what happens if the library doesn't exist anymore.

Ms. Steffy stated everything in the house goes away and the County keeps the house.

Mr. Kidwell asked if the hours at Rose Hill Library are 4 hours a day.

Ms. Steffy stated yes 4 days a week, they took Sunday's from Pennington and gave those hours to Rose Hill.

Mr. Kidwell asked what the hours are.

Ms. Steffy stated they are open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 12:00-4:30. She added she would love to have it open full time but 94% of what the county gives the library goes for salaries.

Mr. Waddell stated the county gives \$237,000 and they asked for \$1,000 more this year.

Mr. Kidwell stated so around \$240,000 and we can't get full time at Rose Hill.

Ms. Steffy stated not unless you want to close Pennington more and that's where all the programs are.

Mr. Kidwell stated he lives 8 miles from Middlesboro and isn't going to drive to Pennington to go to the library. He believes it would help everyone if Rose Hill would have a full time employee.

Ms. Steffy stated personnel takes 94.38% of the budget and the remainder is used for electric, water bills, office supplies, etc.

Mr. Waddell asked if the County owns the library building.

Ms Steffy stated yes both buildings.

Mr. Waddell asked if the County is liable for maintaining the buildings.

Mr. Wright stated yes.

Mr. Kidwell asked if Lee County Schools help fund any programs at the library.

Ms. Steffy stated no.

Mr. Kidwell asked if they have asked the School Board to help fund some programs at the Pennington Library.

Ms. Stacy stated the library actually bought Tumble Books and ABC Mouse for the schools.

Ms. Carmack stated it is typical for the counties to own and maintain the library buildings.

Mr. Kidwell stated the school system uses the library more than the county does and you would think they could mesh a little.

Ms. Carmack stated the State Department of Education pulled out of a verbal agreement to split the cost for the Homework Help Now Live Tutoring Database. She stated the Library of Virginia bought it and paid the first 2 years and the Department of Education paid the following year and the subsequent years they agreed to split the cost and the Department of Education reneged. She stated the only reason they still have it was due to the relationship with the vendor. She stated the Department of Education isn't interested in helping libraries on both the state level and the public level.

Mr. Kidwell stated the school is using the library building and they should ask for compensation.

Ms. Carmack stated it is allowable to charge for outside groups.

Mr. Kidwell stated there are huge grants to help pay for this type of service.

Ms. Carmack stated salaries are expensive.

Mr. Leonard stated most people don't understand the Board is faced with that also due to having so many employees. He stated Mr. Kidwell brought up a good point and certainly something to look at is people are not looking at all the resources that are available to help out and the library apparently is one of them.

Ms. Steffy agreed.

Mr. Kidwell stated Mountain Empire is using Thomas Walker at night for adult classes and there's no reason they can't use the library at Rose Hill and they are willing to pay a little bit.

Ms. Carmack stated she wanted to make sure the Board has adequate information to base their decisions on.

HIGHER GROUND WOMEN'S RECOVERY

Joey Montgomery Barber stated they wanted to introduce themselves and inform the Board about a Recovery House for women they plan on opening in December. The Recovery House is a sober living environment for women and is basically a landing pad to help women get back on their feet. She stated we have no resources in Lee County the closest Women's Shelter is in Norton. She stated it's hard a lot of women have nowhere else to go so they get out of jail and rehab and go right back to where they came from. This will be a 100% zero tolerance program. They have paired with Mountain Empire for the GED program and the opportunity to get an associate's degree also. She stated they have partnered with the Extension Office to offer practical skills such as budgeting and cooking and also reached out to Lee Works Program and hope to partner with them in the future. She stated they have partnered with the Family Crisis Center in Norton and hope to open a small business for the lady's of the house to work at.

Joey Cantrell stated they will be signing the lease Friday and opening a business in Pennington for the women of Higher Ground to get work experience. They they are excited for the women and stated they are purchasing as many items as they can here in the County to give back as much as they can.

Mr. Waddell asked what type of business will be opened up in Pennington.

Ms. Cantrell stated selling thrift and second hand shop with a little bit of everything.

Ms. Munsey asked if the home will be open to just Lee County residence.

Ms. Cantrell stated the Recovery House is for Southwest Virginia and will not be just Lee County Residents but Lee County Residents will take precedence over other Counties.

Mr. Leonard asked how many they can house at one time.

Ms. Cantrell stated they will be VAR Certified and they have specifications as to how many people per square feet of sleeping area and bathrooms. She stated possibly ten but they plan to start out with 3-5 and grow from there. They have hired a director and she will be starting December 16th.

Ms. Munsey asked if a staff member will be in the home 24/7.

Ms. Cantrell stated someone will work 8-4 or 9-5 Monday-Friday and if need be she will adjust her schedule and after hours most facilities are run by someone long term or stable in recovery who receives incentives such as a private room or living there at no cost.

Mr. Waddell asked if surveillance cameras will be used to monitor what is being brought in and out of the house.

Ms. Cantrell stated yes there will be surveillance cameras on each entrance into the house and in common areas. Also there will be a sheet to sign in and out, curfew, drug tests upon admission, random drug screening and drug screening for cause.

Mr. Waddell asked about the consequences of a failed drug screening.

Ms. Cantrell stated they will be transferred to an inpatient facility if they choose and once completed they have the option to return again. Sometimes the courts require people to be in this type of facility if that situation arose their parole officer would be notified. The individuals will be screened carefully regarding their ability and want to be there also there is a good neighbor clause that requires the residents to perform a certain amount of public service.

Mr. Leonard stated there is certainly a need.

Mr. Kidwell asked if the facility is faith based.

Ms. Cantrell stated it is not but is not discouraged. She stated some people are not ready for that but are ready for a change. A lot of churches have reached out to provide assistance such as provide meals or decorate a room the faith based community is welcome and encouraged but not required.

Mr. Waddell stated the key is to keep them away from their old friends.

Ms. Cantrell stated yes and as far as visitation family will have to be approved before coming into the residence.

Ms. Barber stated they are here to introduce themselves and hopes in the future the Board can contribute to Higher Ground Women's Recovery.

Mr. Flanary asked if they have spoken to the Pennington Gap Town Council.

Ms. Cantrell stated they are next.

Mr. Leonard stated the Board appreciates them and wishes them luck and encouraged them to get in line early for funding.

Mr. Wright stated there may be some Opioid Abatement funds we haven't tapped into and taken advantage of in previous years and at the appropriate time we can look into that.

Hannah Crouse, Higher Ground Recovery Housing, serving as the Outpatient Senior Vice President of Frontier Health, stated she is here partnering with these services that are needed. She stated Frontier Health will be offering services to the women living in the residence such as transportation, case management, retaining driver's license, employment, delivering therapy services and help support them as they grow and become self supporting.

FINANCE

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

CIRCUIT COURT CLERK

It was moved by Mr. Shoemaker, seconded by Mr. Flanary, to approve the following Supplemental Appropriation in the amount of \$2,010.00. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

Revenue Source:		
3-001-18030-0006	Reimbursements	\$ 2,010.00

Expenditure:		
4-001-21600-1350	Part-Time Salaries	\$ 2,010.00

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

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

It was moved by Mr. Shoemaker, seconded by Mr. Flanary, to approve the following Supplemental Appropriation in the amount of \$7,708.00. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

Revenue Source:		
3-001-18990-0002	Donations-Sheriff	\$ 7,708.00

Expenditure:		
4-001-32100-5899	Donations-Sheriff	\$ 7,708.00

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

E-911

It was moved by Mr. Shoemaker, seconded by Mr. Flanary, to approve the following Supplemental Appropriation in the amount of \$500.00. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

Revenue Source:			
3-009-12010-0019	E-911 Donations	\$	500.00

Expenditure:			
4-009-31400-5560	Education Training	\$	500.00

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

OLD BUSINESS

REGIONAL JAIL

Mr. Wright stated the Regional Jail sent a letter requesting the balance of the 2nd quarter bill that is just over \$61,000 and he needs approval from the Board if they wish to pay the remaining balance.

Mr. Leonard asked if we received answers from the other localities.

Mr. Wright stated emails were sent to the localities and they are willing to discuss it but are not interested going too far with complaining to the state. Upon attending a VACO Conference one of the breakout sessions was on public health and safety followed by EMS meetings however, the state's focus is on education and public health. He stated the problem is their priorities do not marry with a lot of localities such as ours and they do not want to discuss the state taking financial responsible for their own inmates. In one EMS session a state representative said EMS is not a state issue it is a local issue. He recommended getting a joint letter together to present to the state expressing our displeasure but stated the other localities do not seem to want to go any further than that.

Mr. Leonard asked about the answer to Wise County and Scott County having over half of their population being pulled out from April to September verses ours.

Mr. Wright stated the answer he received from the Director of the Regional Jail, Mr. Osborne, was that the way the numbers worked out and they are a little misleading. He stated he has a meeting scheduled with Mr. Osborne for next week to get more detail on this matter.

Mr. Leonard stated yes they are very misleading.

Mr. Wright stated what Mr. Osborne was saying is the length of the sentencing Lee County is getting through their court system is a lot different than what we are seeing in adjacent counties. He stated he should be getting more information on this next week.

Mr. Leonard stated we should be able to get all of that information on the length of time and the ones taken out of Scott County and Wise County from April-July that's available to us and added each County has a list.

Mr. Wright stated they didn't give him specifics on the length of time and isn't sure how that works.

Mr. Leonard stated the list has their sentence time on it.

Mr. Wright stated he has the meeting scheduled and they are working on some detail.

Mr. Waddell asked if the other counties we okay with paying this money.

Mr. Wright stated no they are not okay with it but they do not have the stomach to do anything and it's not a priority for the state. He stated if you annualize the \$61,000 that is a lot of money that could be used for EMS.

Mr. Waddell asked what the period of time the \$61,000 is for.

Mr. Wright stated it's for the 2nd quarter.

Mr. Leonard stated that amount is for two-year inmates it doesn't include one-year inmates.

Mr. Wright stated in the past one-year state inmates were state responsible and they decided to move it to two-year.

Mr. Leonard stated apparently it doesn't matter how many years they have. He asked Mr. Wright for his recommendation on the \$61,000 2nd quarter bill.

Mr. Wright stated he is requesting the Board pay the \$61,000 2nd quarter bill.

It was moved by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Shoemaker, to approve the balance of the 2nd quarter Region Jail invoice in the amount of \$61,067.76. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

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

Mr. Kidwell requested this information be made public that the County is paying \$61,067.76 per quarter of Lee County tax payer money that we should not have to pay, on state responsible inmates per the contract.

There was a discussion about the County paying the bill for state responsible inmates.

Mr. Wright reported he was able to get CSA reports in the Board packet and he is continuing to work with DSS on getting financials and these are reconciled numbers. He stated DSS and CSA are separate programs and he discovered that CSA does not fund any type of budget for administration for that program and they only get \$17,286 per year, therefore DSS funds have to manage the CSA program. The DSS has 7 people that complete duties for CSA but these duties are not their full time position and is split between the 2 entities. The CSA cost for the month of October was \$554,000 but the county's liability for these expenses is only \$106,000.

NEW BUSINESS

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

BUILDING CODE APPEALS

It was moved by Mr. Leonard, seconded by Mr. Kidwell, to table this appointment. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

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

HEART OF APPALACHIA

It was moved by Mr. Shoemaker, seconded by Mr. Waddell, to appoint Leslie Litton to the unfulfilled term on the Heart of Appalachia. Ms. Litton's term will expire on December 31, 2025. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

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

PLANNING COMMISSION

It was moved by Mr. Flanary, seconded by Mr. Kidwell, to re-appoint Ron Bailey to a four-year term on the Planning Commission. Mr. Bailey's term will expire on November 30, 2028. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

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

UPPER TN RIVER ROUNDTABLE

It was moved by Mr. Waddell to eliminate the Upper TN River Roundtable Board Appointment.

Prior to the vote there was a discussion.

The motion died due to lack of a second.

UPPER TN RIVER ROUNDTABLE

It was moved by Mr. Flanary, seconded by Mr. Leonard, to table this appointment. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

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

RESIGNATION FOR TOURISM BOARD

Mr. Wright stated he did receive a resignation for the Tourism Board so the Board will be aware that it will be on the December Board Appointments.

The Chairman amended the agenda to take up Reports and Recommendations of the County Attorney.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

None.

SUPPORT OF VIRGINIA AMERICA 250 COMMISSION

Mr. Wright stated the Lee County Board of Supervisors has been requested to pass a resolution in support of the Virginia American 250 Commission initiative to plan and coordinate events with localities such as Lee County to celebrate this milestone. This resolution will support

the Lee County Tourism Committee in their efforts to hold programs designed to commemorate this historic 250th anniversary while working with the Virginia American 250 Commission created by the General Assembly.

It was moved by Mr. Leonard, seconded by Mr. Waddell, to adopt 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

RESOLUTION

SUPPORT OF VIRGINIA AMERICA 250 COMMISSION 24-017

WHEREAS, The Lee County Board of Supervisors is dedicated to the furtherance of economic development and tourism in Lee County; and

WHEREAS, The Virginia America 250 Commission (VA250) was created in 2020 by the General Assembly for the purpose of preparing for and commemorating the 250th anniversary of Virginia's participation in American independence; and

WHEREAS, VA250 has requested that each locality form a committee to aid in planning for the commemoration period.;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Lee County Board of Supervisors hereby desires to support the Virginia America 250 Commission and their efforts to commemorate this historic 250th anniversary of Virginia's participation in American independence by instructing the Lee County Tourism Committee to form a local VA250 committee to plan and coordinate programs occurring within the locality and communicate regularly with VA250 to coordinate all events for the commemoration period.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

UPDATE ON VACO MEETING AND COUNTY REASSESSMENTS

Mr. Wright stated he attended the VACO meeting and encouraged the Board to attend next year's meeting, stating the budget session alone was worth the trip. They reviewed the priorities for the state, what they wanted to address and why they were addressing it.

He stated the reassessment is going well but it is slow and he doesn't feel like it can be completed by December 31st. He stated Ms. Munsey has put together some documents to present to the judge to request a 90 day extension. However, he does believe this can be completed by the end of February.

Mr. Leonard stated December 31st is the deadline and asked why they can't get this done.

Mr. Wright stated in April when they started there were issues with getting certified to do the reassessment. Therefore, they didn't get started until up in the summer. He reported 6,000 cards of the estimated 22,000 have been entered with the exception of 1,000 received today. The assessment company is reporting they will have the remaining cards in by the end of the month. He stated it will take the four people entering the cards 50 hours to enter the information assuming they work on it 1 hour a day.

Mr. Leonard stated the trouble with going through an extension is it's going to put pressure on the Board with the two billing cycle and he doesn't see how they will have time to do it.

Mr. Flanary stated with the budget this will make it rough.

Mr. Wright stated it will be tough and the problem is we either we file for an extension or we are due to the deadline that isn't physically possible to meet.

Mr. Leonard advised not giving them any more money until the reassessments are complete.

Mr. Shoemaker asked if the County entered into a contract with a company that isn't qualified or legal to do the work.

Mr. Wright stated there was some question about some paperwork that wasn't filed with the state or miss coded and it took a few months to work through that and added they are fully qualified. He stated the reassessment company is paying 4 County employees a couple of hours a day to enter the data. He stated if all the cards were in now it would take until December 15th to enter all the data. He explained the process of the Equalization Board and meeting with the citizens after the data is entered. He stated this is not perfect but a tax rate will have to be set soon for the split billing.

Mr. Waddell asked if the Equalization Board needs to be appointed soon.

Mr. Wright stated yes everyone needs to be thinking about who they want to appoint.

Mr. Waddell asked how many people are on the Equalization Board.

Mr. Wright stated one from each district and they do have to meet certain qualifications.

2016 FORD ESCAPE

Mr. Wright stated the 2016 Ford Escape is down and the county mechanic stated there is an issue with the block in this year Escapes and believes this is what's happening. He instructed our mechanic to tear the top out of the motor to confirm the issue and if the vehicle will need to be replaced.

COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE COPIER

Mr. Wright reported the copier in the Commissioner's Office is down and is too old to get parts for. He sent out for quotes for a comparable copier and received one for \$1,500 which is within his approval.

NEW COUNTY CREDIT CARD

Mr. Wright stated the County has been trying for some time to correct the information on the account for the county credit card and have been unsuccessful. He requested approval from the Board to get another credit card.

It was consensus of the Board to allow the County Administrator to get another credit card.

SPRINKLER SYSTEM

Mr. Wright reported East Tennessee Sprinkler System has completed the necessary work at the Courthouse and DSS.

UPDATE ON EDA DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Mr. Wright reported that Leslie Litton, EDA Director, attended the last Airport Authority Meeting as requested and will be attending some future meetings. He stated he has not moved her to the airport yet due to getting the office cleaned out.

ENGAGEMENT LETTER

Mr. Wright stated he has an Engagement Letter for Robinson, Farmer & Cox Associates for engagement for the 2024 audit that needs a signature.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BOARD

Mr. Waddell stated Animal Control Officer, Allen Fortner, has requested updating some of the ordinances.

Ms. Munsey stated making changes to ordinances would require a public hearing.

It was moved by Mr. Waddell to update the Litter Ordinances per Mr. Fortner's request.

The motion died due to lack of a second.

Mr. Leonard recommended having the County Attorney review the ordinance before scheduling a public hearing.

Ms. Munsey stated she would get with Mr. Fortner on what specifically needs to be addressed.

CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by Mr. Shoemaker, seconded by Mr. Flanary, to enter Closed Session pursuant to Section 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, Section 2.2-3711 A.6., the investing of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be adversely affected. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

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

It was moved by Mr. Shoemaker, seconded by Mr. Waddell, to come out of Closed Session. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

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

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.

ASSESSMENT EXTENSION

It was moved by Mr. Leonard, seconded by Mr. Shoemaker, to allow the County Administrator to file for a 90 day Assessment Extension beginning January 1st. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

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

SELLING OF TENNIS COURT PROPERTY

It was moved by Mr. Leonard to sell the Tennis Court property to the Lee County School System in the amount of \$500,000.

The motion died due to lack of a second.

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

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