

At the regular meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors on Wednesday, March 2, 2011, at 10:00 AM in the Giles County General District Courtroom, 120 North Main Street, Pearisburg, the following were present:

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

## CALL TO ORDER/INVOCATION

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

## RECOGNITION

Mr. Gentry announced that the county was losing a vital part of their staff with the resignation of Ms. Heather Snidow from the Building Department and the county. John Mills, Ms. Snidow's supervisor, spoke of her 13 years of loyal and dedicated service to the citizens of Giles County. She has done an excellent job and will be greatly missed. Mr. McKlarney presented Ms. Snidow with a plaque in recognition of her service. He stated she has provided exemplary service to the county and its citizens. She is going to be missed. Mr. Whittaker also offered comments about her dedication to her job and the professional manner in which she has conducted herself.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

***Mr. Baker moved to approve the minutes of February 2, 2011. Seconded by Mr. McCoy. Approved unanimously (4-0). Voting YES: Mr. Gentry, Mr. Baker, Mr. McCoy, Ms. Hobbs; Mr. Spencer-absent.***

## CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

**Sheriff Morgan Millirons:** Sheriff Millirons reported on his department's activities for February. There were 475 civil papers served, Animal Control picked up 25 cats and 24 dogs. There were 9 felony and 48 misdemeanor arrests and 4 DUI arrests. The department offered 2 alcohol and drug safety programs and also did several programs in the schools about 911. They are also doing pre-court and senior citizen programs. They recently graduated a RAD class and will be doing a demonstration of this program for the school board. On February 21<sup>st</sup>, the sheriff's department took 7 drug dogs into county schools. Sheriff Millirons said no drugs were found at any school facility.

Sheriff Millirons reported that Homeland Security has implemented a networking system for all police agencies in Virginia. When they look up a person's name and information, they will automatically be connected to a state-wide system. There is a possibility it could be expanded to a nationwide system through the FBI at some point.

Sheriff Millirons notes they are investigating several copper thefts in the county over the past few weeks. The young man in one instance is in the hospital in a burn unit, and two of the three suspects in the other case are in custody.

Sheriff Millirons reported that officers are still doing a large number of transports to hospitals, especially in Roanoke and Marion. He did not know if anything could be done about it but high gas prices are really making this expensive. The department really has no choice except to do it.

The DEA has notified the county they are no longer going to clean up contaminated sites where drug labs are found. That is all they have been doing lately. Sheriff Millirons said it does not happen a lot here but there are

cases. Mr. Gentry said they probably need to get an estimated cost per occurrence to get an idea of what they are looking at. Sheriff Millirons said the clean up in Pembroke took about 5 hours and was about \$7,000 to dispose of the chemicals. That was a relatively small operation. Mr. Baker asked if there was a way to put the burden back on the people who are charged with the crime. Sheriff Millirons said there was – that is done through another office though. Mr. Gentry said they probably need to consider putting a line item on the expenditure side to cover this. Sheriff Millirons asked if the Haz Mat crew in the county could handle this. Mr. McKlarney said he felt they could but would have to talk to them.

Mr. Baker asked if the sheriff had received any information about the turnover of officers at the regional jail. Sheriff Millirons said since 2007 there have been 70-80 – that is not a confirmed number though. He noted in February there were over 400 empty beds at the jail. Ms. Hobbs said she understood the state was opening the Grayson facility and would move state prisoners there. If those leave, there may be more empty beds and counties continue to pay for staffing for a full 1,100 beds. It is irresponsible that they just keep spending there while this board cannot even replace a open position. Sheriff Millirons said the jail made some purchases that he did not agree with. There are two board members from Giles County and they can vote “no” but there are 12 others who vote to spend money. He and Mr. McKlarney have discussed a county-paid magistrate. Ms. Hobbs said even with that, they are still appointed by the state and are state employees. She said it was something to think about but still was not sure it guarantees the county would get what they need.

Sheriff Millirons said the department has several vehicles they would like to remove from inventory. There are two Crown Vics, a Stratus, an Escalade 4-wheel drive, and a Blazer 4-wheel drive. Mr. Gentry asked if the board could get a list of those vehicles and VINs in order to declare it surplus. Mr. McKlarney said they might consider putting them in on-line auctions; especially the Crown Vics which are bringing a good price for used vehicles.

Mr. Baker said the jail, in February, purchased a tractor and other equipment for \$39,000. Sheriff Millirons gave Mr. McKlarney information on that. They plan to plow a five-acre field and raise vegetables. Mr. Baker said that was ridiculous for a jail to spend money on that. Sheriff Millirons said they told Mr. McPeak this was not perceived very well in Giles County. Mr. McKlarney said it was unnecessary since a mile down the road was a tractor they could use whenever they needed it. Mr. Baker said it was bad when the jail bill is running \$70,000 a month coming out of taxpayers’ pockets. They just cannot continue to do that. Mr. Baker suggested putting Mr. McKlarney on the jail board. Sheriff Millirons said there are some county administrators on the board. He said last August the county was supposed to receive a check from the jail but it was never sent. This was the money that was left from the construction. Mr. Gentry said just because the project came in under cost didn’t mean they should spend it. Mr. McCoy said they should have borrowed \$1 million less; if they had turned that money back in, it would have decreased the debt service for everyone. Since they didn’t return it, he asked if they spent \$1 million. Sheriff Millirons said he did not know what it was spent on. Mr. Baker said now they will be coming back to localities and raising the per diem again. Sheriff Millirons said he has made it known the jail needs to stop the spending.

Mr. Gentry commented that on the good side of things, there was an article in the newspaper on RAD in Montgomery County. Of course, Giles County has been doing it for several years. Mr. Gentry asked if the county is getting double billed for some people. If a person is charged in multiple counties, then all those counties are charged the per diem. He was told this was happening in Pulaski. Mr. Chidester said they should only be charged per diem to the county where it happened. If it is a charge in multiple jurisdictions, then the jurisdictions should each pay a portion. Mr. McCoy said he had never seen a split per diem on a bill. Mr. Gentry said he would like to see the roster and compare it. Mr. McCoy asked if there was any plan to adjust the number of guards down to reflect the lower amount of prisoners they have now.

Mr. Gentry said he also was told the jail has two different shifts. They hire half of them for six months at \$33,000 a year and then lay them off and work the other group for six months. Sheriff Millirons said he would not think that was true but would check on it. Mr. Gentry said he would just like to know if that was happening. Mr. Baker said the only way the county has to know what is going on is through Sheriff Millirons and one other representative. Mr. McCoy said jail personnel came about three years ago but have never answered the questions the board asked then. That was concerning the state paying \$12 per day for prisoners and Giles County paying the full per diem and the jail keeping both. Sheriff Millirons said they have a meeting next Friday.

He will conference all the local sheriff's about that. Mr. Baker said if they can keep state prisoners for \$12, then they should be able to keep county prisoners for \$12 too. Mr. Chidester said they are housing state inmates, they are probably getting more than \$12 to house them but he did not know that for sure. Sheriff Millirons said when they bring them in from another institution, they get more than \$12. However, if they are holding a state prisoner for pick up after they are convicted, then they only get \$12. Mr. McCoy said what is happening is state prisoners are pulling their full sentence at the regional jail; the state never picks them up.

Mr. Gentry asked if the jail is still doing a common kitchen with Dixie Caverns. Sheriff Millirons said he did not think so. Mr. Gentry said they purchased equipment for it. A guard who was over the field unit in Pulaski is going to be over that gardening project. Mr. Gentry said they could buy a lot of potatoes for \$39,000. Ms. Hobbs said she admired their effort to raise a garden but they should use backbone for the labor instead of a \$40,000 piece of equipment.

## **VDOT REPORT – DAVID CLARKE**

Mr. Clarke noted that the public hearing for the six-year plan was held on February 17<sup>th</sup>. The only comments were concerning the Penvir Bridge. He presented the board with a resolution approving the six-year plan as presented at that meeting.

***Mr. Baker moved to approve the VDOT Six-Year Plan as presented at the public hearing on February 17<sup>th</sup>. Second by Ms. Hobbs. Approved unanimously (4-0). Voting YES: Mr. McCoy, Mr. Gentry, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. Baker. Mr. Spencer – Absent.***

Mr. Clarke said VDOT was working on the maintenance items and on potholes throughout the county. They were able to get stone on Old Church Road and take care of the rocks in the median on Route 460. The sign that was down on Route 100 has been replaced. VDOT will also take care of the sign at Glen Lyn, Route 1308. Mr. Clarke reported that Gary Thornhill recently retired from VDOT after 39 years. They will be advertising for a new superintendent.

**Roy Lee Montgomery:** Mr. Montgomery thanked the board for allowing him and others to voice concerns over the condition of Wilburn Valley Road. He said when they have snow there, VDOT throws down some cinders or gravel. They are not acting out of malice and did everything they could with what they had. However, this has caused a burden in Wilburn Valley. Mr. Montgomery showed the board members jars of gravel and grit that he scooped up from the road. He said there is a substantial amount of the powdered dust and grit on the road. When it rains, this dust washes off but it is level and there is nowhere for it to go. As it dries, it creates huge clouds of dust that cover everything – cars, yards, houses – and gets inside houses too. Mr. Montgomery said he was not passing blame, but just explaining what they have to live with. He shared pictures of his vehicle and driveway covered in chalk-like dust. They have to clean this up every day. Mr. Montgomery said something needed to be done.

Mr. Gentry asked when this was put down. Mr. Montgomery said it was put down in the fall of 2010 before any snow fell. Mr. Clarke with VDOT said he has not seen this road. Mr. Montgomery said he believed VDOT's intention was good but this is the aftermath of it. Mr. Gentry said Mr. Clarke and Mr. Thompson are here today and can listen to these comments. He felt sure they will go look at this problem. Mr. Montgomery said he hoped the board could work with VDOT to get something done. Ms. Hobbs asked if this was a hard surfaced road before. Mr. Montgomery said it was. He expressed his confidence that the board would work with VDOT to take care of this situation.

**Ralph Owens:** Mr. Owens also commented on the condition of Wilburn Valley Road. He said when the school bus or anything goes by his house, it raises a huge cloud of dust. They are unable to keep anything clean. It is outside and tracks into houses. It is a very bad situation. Mr. Baker agreed this was unacceptable for people in the area with breathing problems.

**Neil Schmidt:** Mr. Schmidt said he knew several people with respiratory problems on Wilburn Valley Road and that is a concern. He said he noticed once during the winter, the snow plow actually had to raise up off the road

so it would not be scraping gravel. That made it worse. Mr. Schmidt said he picked up a five gallon bucket full of gravel just in front of his house.

Mr. Schmidt said he also wanted to have someone take another look at vehicles traveling the wrong way down Route 100. There are about 10 signs between there that say "Do Not Enter" but that is not stopping them. He said maybe they should look at some flashing lights or something before someone gets hurt. Ms. Hobbs asked VDOT to take a look at that and see what else can be done.

**Fearly Perkins:** Mr. Perkins commented that for quite a while one of the "Do Not Enter" signs was turned the wrong way. He called VDOT and they changed it. Mr. Perkins presented a petition to the board that had been signed by people living on Wilburn Valley Road. Mr. Perkins said they had no problems with that road until VDOT put tar on it with dust on top. It was a nice hard top road and now it is ruined. This dust is on everything and even follows you into the house. They would appreciate anything that can be done to take it back to what it was. Mr. Perkins said all of this needs repaved – Routes 633, 665, and 794. He said they appreciated the help the board gave them and also for bringing water out there. Mr. Baker said they would do the best they could on this.

**Don Hamblin:** Mr. Hamblin said this road issue also impacts the environment and causes health issues. He has chronic pulmonary problems and he gets hit all around his house with this. There is a cloud of "smoke" that hovers over there. He said he has to wash his truck everyday and it sets in the garage. It gets into the house and the grit tears up hardwood floors. All this dust and gravel on the side of the road can cause accidents too. They need to fix the asphalt but this stuff has to come up first. Mr. Hamblin said the people in Wilburn Valley are upset and wondering why they put this stuff on there. He said maybe they should think about going after the contractor on this. Mr. Hamblin said he appreciated the Board of Supervisors and thought they did a good job, but now he felt the state is making it apparent they want out of the business and contract everything out. If someone had inspected this, they would see the condition of that road.

Mr. Gentry asked what the addresses were for this road. Mr. Hamblin said it was the Mutter addition but also further up Wilburn Valley. It gets worse as you go on up the valley. Mr. Clarke said he would get some addresses and go there. Ms. Hobbs noted the board also received a letter concerning this matter from Ms. Barbara Lucas.

**Ed Huskey:** Mr. Huskey said he lived on Route 633. He blamed VDOT because they had a good paved road and they plowed it up and put down gravel.

**B. W. Songer:** Mr. Songer lives on Staffordsville Hill Road. This is definitely a problem on Route 660 also. When there is a little bit of snow, VDOT covers the whole road with gravel. He, his wife and son worked about 3 hours cleaning up the rock out of their driveway. They have done this several times. It is a problem where they put too much gravel on it. They have put it down even when there is no snow.

Mr. McCoy asked VDOT to look at a dip in the road on Route 460 West at Maybrook. It is getting deeper. Mr. Clarke said there was a problem on the east bound side last year in that same area. They will take a look at it.

Ms. Hobbs asked Mr. Clarke to please take a look and see what can be done about the problems that were brought to his attention today. Mr. Gentry agreed and said he would like to hear something from VDOT before the next meeting. Mr. Hobbs also asked them to check the low water bridges periodically to make sure the debris is cleared out before the rainy season starts. She also noted that work on Clendenin remains on schedule and Mr. Clarke confirmed that.

Mr. Baker asked VDOT to look at potholes on Route 100; there are some bad holes there that need attention as soon as possible. There are also a lot of tree branches out in the road on Route 100 again. Mr. Clarke will have someone look at that. Mr. Baker said he appreciated that and also asked VDOT to look at Wilburn Valley Road as quickly as they can.

Mr. Gentry said he spoke to David Trump at VDOT. They are going to start working on the road at the river in a few weeks. The ditching and cleaning will help there a lot. Mr. Gentry also asked about trimming trees down

from Mountain Lake to Route 460 (on 613 and 700) and in Eggleston. Those are old roads and there are large dead trees along there. It would be good to do some preventive work to keep them from falling into the road.

Mr. McKlarney said he spoke with Mr. Trump and he has been very responsible and is doing a good job working with the county. The county had a serious water leak last week and thought they were going to have to bore Route 460. Mr. Trump was at the site by the time Mr. McKlarney arrived there.

## **SCHOOL BOARD REPORT – TERRY ARBOGAST**

Dr. Arbogast said that enrollment as of the end of February was 2,467 – decrease of 24 from January. He only received this information this morning so he did not have details on those students. They do hope to end March in the neighborhood of 2,480 – that is still down about 56 from last year. Most of these students are transferring to other school districts in and out of the state. He will try to get that breakdown of information for the board. Dr. Arbogast also presented a calendar of March activities to the board members. He noted that the 4<sup>th</sup> six weeks ends on March 10<sup>th</sup>. He noted that the schools in Giles have missed 7 or 8 days for weather; this is much better than some of the school systems around us. He said it is difficult to always make the right call on weather between 5-6 AM, but they always err on the side of caution.

Dr. Arbogast reported that there had been some progress at Eastern. They can finally see some of the wall going up around the gym. They are working with the contractor to try to get this completed in a more timely manner and are seeing some progress.

Dr. Arbogast reported that several students placed in district competition with the Vo-Tech Center. He also recognized a Narrows Elementary student who won the American Legion essay writing contest. Dr. Arbogast also thanked Sheriff Millirons for his efforts in getting the drug dogs into the high schools for a search. He said it was good that no drugs were found.

## **COOPERATIVE EXTENSION – MELISSA CHASE**

Ms. Chase asked board members if they had questions about the program updates she had supplied them earlier. There were no questions. She updated them on several other program offerings through the Extension Service. She also pointed out a recent article in the newspaper highlighting the cooking and nutrition programs they are holding for children and their parents in both Giles and Pulaski Counties. They have used the assistance of local chefs to teach and involve the participants. Extension is working with Social Services to offer a class for their clients as well.

Ms. Chase reported that the General Assembly put \$1 million back into Extension's budget to use for hiring 25 agents in the coming year. They are not sure how this will impact Extension locally. They still have a \$4 million gap to deal with. She noted that the input and support from the board really made a difference and was appreciated. She reported that the new director of Extension is Dr. Edwin Jones who is coming to Virginia from North Carolina.

## **VDOT FUNDED PROJECTS**

Mr. Gentry shared information on VDOT projects that have been funded by the state legislature. There are five funded projects for Giles County – Route 219 bridge, Route 673 bridge, Route 713 bridge, Route 670 bridge. There is about \$300,000 to work in Giles. Basically, there is a lot of building going on in the state, but it is not in Giles.

## **PUBLIC WORKS - ASSISTANCE TO TOWNS**

Mr. McKlarney said a draft letter has been prepared to send to the towns that limits the amount of Public Works participating in other projects. Due to the small number of staff, we are just not able to do that any longer. He asked the board to review it and let him have comments on it.

## **SOCIAL SERVICES – ADDITIONAL CSA APPROPRIATION**

Mr. McKlarney called the board's attention to a request for CSA funding for Social Services. They are requesting \$20,952, with \$6,072 of those local funds. There are a number of issues they are dealing with – both economic and social – which causes these needs to escalate. Ms. Hobbs noted it is very frustrating and it seems that parents are now part of the problem, not the solution in a lot of these cases. She said the state approved the CSA amount and the county budgets it accordingly. However, when these cases come up, Social Services has to go back to the state for more funds and that increases the amount the county has to contribute too. Ms. Hobbs said she felt they should make parents responsible in some way.

***Mr. McCoy moved to appropriate \$20,952 in additional funding for CSA with the local match of that being \$6,072. Second by Mr. Hobbs. Approved unanimously (4-0). Voting YES: Mr. McCoy, Mr. Gentry, Mr. Baker, Ms. Hobbs; Mr. Spencer-absent.***

## **PAYMENT OF WARRANTS**

***Mr. McCoy moved to appropriate \$684,255.41 for payment of warrants as presented. Second by Mr. Baker.***

**Discussed:** Ms. Hobbs asked about the water bill for the old hospital property. It was over \$1,000 and that seemed excessive. Mr. McKlarney said they do operate the boilers there for heat, but he would check on it.

***Approved unanimously (4-0). Voting YES: Mr. McCoy, Mr. Gentry, Mr. Baker, Ms. Hobbs; Mr. Spencer-absent.***

## **STREET NAMING ORDINANCE – PROPOSED AMENDMENT**

Mr. McKlarney passed out copies of a proposed amendment to the Street Naming Ordinance. He said Mr. Reed has asked that the board review this and he will bring it officially before the board sometime in the future.

## **ANIMAL SHELTER**

Mr. McKlarney received an email from Barbara Link asking to address the board on March 17<sup>th</sup> concerning what she found out about the animal shelter. Mr. Gentry asked if there were problems that need to be investigated there. Mr. McKlarney was not aware of anything at this time. Ms. Hobbs said the board probably needs to discuss this with Sheriff Millirons first. Mr. Gentry agreed but said that in the end, this is the board's facility.

## **WATER SYSTEM**

Mr. McKlarney gave board members a copy of information concerning the county water system. This was a lot of information and he realized board members would need some time to review it.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

***Mr. McCoy moved to go into Executive Session as permitted by Virginia Code 2.2-3711 A(7) Personnel and A(7) legal. Second by Ms. Hobbs. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Ms. Hobbs, Mr. Baker, Mr. Gentry, Mr. McCoy; Mr. Spencer – Absent.***

***Ms. Hobbs 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. Gentry, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. Baker, Mr. McCoy; Mr. Spencer-Absent.***

**REDISTRICTING – PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED**

*Mr. Baker moved to schedule a public hearing for April 6, 2011 to consider readopting the existing districts in the county. Second by Mr. McCoy. Approved unanimously (4-0). Voting YES: Mr. McCoy, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. Gentry, Mr. Baker. Mr. Spencer-absent.*

**ADJOURN**

No further business was introduced. Mr. Gentry adjourned the meeting until the recess meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 17, 2011 at 6:30 PM in the Timberlake Building, General District Courtroom.

APPROVED:

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Chairperson

ATTEST:

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Clerk