

At the recess meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors on Thursday, November 17, 2011, at 6:30 PM 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
Richard McCoy	At-Large Supervisor (ABSENT)
Barbara Hobbs	Central District
Chris McKlarney	County Administrator
Susan Kidd	Board Secretary

## CALL TO ORDER/INVOCATION

Mr. Gentry called the meeting to order. Mr. Spencer had the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

## EXTENSION SERVICE – CHARLES LYTTON

Mr. Lytton introduced Cora Gnegy as the new 4-H agent for Giles County. She has been in the office for about a week and is still getting to know the people in the area. Mr. Lytton said he felt she would do an excellent job. Ms. Gnegy stated that she has been living here about 2 weeks after moving from Shenandoah County. She invited the board members to drop by for the Extension Open House on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Lytton shared a report of activities with board members. He noted that Mr. Atwell and Ms. Chase have both left the Extension Office. The position of agriculture agent should be discussed later this month. He also asked the board members to think about the multi-flora rose program and budget for next year. He would like to bring the sprayers back to the Extension Office. They were very lightly used last year and he felt it may be because the school bus garage closed earlier and it was hard for people to get by there to pick the sprayers up. They are fielding more questions about agriculture now. These seem to be coming more and more from small farms and vineyards. In the next few weeks, Giles County will be encouraged to make a decision on the Giles County/Bland County ag position. Based on the questions Mr. Lytton is getting, he felt it was time to have an agent available here in the county. There are a lot of people in Giles today with "farmettes" and those people need services too. Ms. Hobbs said the county has an Agriculture Committee and should let them discuss that. Mr. McKlarney said he will be meeting with Mr. Martin on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Any board member is welcome to attend that meeting. Mr. Gentry said they have talked about sharing an agent versus using an in-county agent. That needs to be discussed. Ms. Hobbs said she felt the Ag Committee would be a good group to get input from on that as well.

## NARROWS ANNEX BUILDING – DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY

Mr. McKlarney presented a resolution authorizing disposition of the school property located in the Town of Narrows that is commonly referred to as the Narrows Annex facility. The school board's intent is to sell this property. Mr. Gentry said there was some question on retaining certain limited use of the facility. Mr. McKlarney said this would only convey the footprint of the building – there is a drawing and survey with it. Mr. Chidester said the football team will continue to use the building on game nights. Ms. Hobbs said this states the school board will retain all proceeds – how much is that. Mr. McKlarney noted it was minimal -- \$1 or \$10. There are no real proceeds. Mr. Chidester said that was in there because the school board could declare it surplus and the county would have to take it back and then negotiate with the town. The statutes say if you do it this way, the county has to agree and use the money for capital projects.

***Ms. Hobbs moved to approve the resolution for disposition of the "annex" school property in the Town of Narrows. Second by Mr. Baker. Approved unanimously (4-0). Voting YES: Mr. Spencer, Mr. Baker, Mr. Gentry, Ms. Hobbs; Mr. McCoy – absent.***

## PPTRA RESOLUTION

Mr. McKlarney said this resolution would officially set the percentage of Personal Property Tax Relief for tax year 2011. This year's percentage is 58.6%. This is the amount the county will get back from the state.

***Ms. Hobbs moved to approve the resolution establishing 58.6% as the number for personal property tax relief for the tax year 2011. Second by Mr. Spencer. Approved unanimously (4-0). Voting YES: Mr. Spencer, Mr. Baker, Mr. Gentry, Ms. Hobbs; Mr. McCoy – absent.***

## HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP AWARENESS MONTH – FEBRUARY, 2012

Mr. McKlarney called the board's attention to a copy of a proclamation naming February, 2012 as Healthy Relationship Awareness Month. This was a request from the Giles Youth-Adult Partnership.

***Ms. Hobbs moved to approve the proclamation for February, 2012 as Healthy relationship Awareness Month. Second by Mr. Baker. Approved unanimously (4-0). Voting YES: Mr. Spencer, Mr. Baker, Mr. Gentry, Ms. Hobbs; Mr. McCoy – absent.***

The board requested Mr. McKlarney send a congratulations note to Coach Williams for the Giles High School football team's success and wish them success in the play-offs. Mr. McKlarney said he would do so.

Mr. Gentry had a letter from the governor telling the board of a \$545 million surplus. However, the next day the newspaper reported there was a \$102 million deficit. He said that was interesting and he really thought the state should try to explain it. Ms. Hobbs said they will just cut the localities in everything and then next spring they will declare another surplus. Seems to be the way things are working lately.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

**Debbie Atkins:** Ms. Atkins said she had comments and would like to receive answers. She was at the meeting when they discussed the rezoning of the Sinking Creek area and also at the Planning Commission meeting. There were five people opposing that and one in favor. The Planning Commission recommended to the board for this not to be approved. They also commented they would like to look at it later to see if they could get a different code to fit the area without all of the other stuff in it. Then the issue comes to the board and it passes – three people passed it. Ms. Atkins said she would like to know why. They are elected officials and they went against the will of the people who appointed them. She also said she emailed every supervisor and only received a comment back from one.

Ms. Hobbs said the county sent out over 90 letters to residents about the rezoning. They had 7 property owners who spoke. One of those spoke for it. The staff and supervisors received numerous calls from people with no issues with it. Those are the ones who received the letter and the ones Ms. Hobbs referred to as the silent majority. Ms. Hobbs said the whole area was zoned wrong according to the county's own definitions. This was done to correct a wrong and make it right.

Ms. Atkins said she would accept that fact if it was zoned wrong. However, she could not accept the fact that the Planning Commission said it was zoned wrong and they would like to look at it and go in and fix it the way it should be zoned. That was totally ignored. Ms. Hobbs said it was not ignored. This issue had been before the Planning Commission two years before and nothing happened. The board corrected a mistake and the Planning Commission is going to continue to work on what is allowed in RRA1 to make it compatible with surrounding uses. Ms. Atkins said the Planning Commission said it was brought to the board two years ago and turned down. Ms. Hobbs said the Planning Commission, at that time, ignored it and it was not referred back to the board. There was no vote taken by the board.

Ms. Atkins said they are talking about down the road putting the sewer system in there. What are they going to do about the sewer system that is still having problems to this day? The odor is in her house and they have done a smoke test. They dropped three smoke bombs and said there were no issues in her house. She has

had plumbers from Montgomery County to look and they say there is not a problem with her house. Mr. Cumbee still has the same problems. Mr. Gentry said the county has looked into it. Ms. Atkins said they can't fix her problems but this rezoning will allow them to extend that. Mr. Gentry said the sewer system could be extended regardless of the zoning. With money the way it is though, he did not think that would happen any time soon.

Mr. Gentry said he voted to go with the Planning Commission's recommendation on the zoning because he felt they could do better for the community. The majority of the board did not agree. However, that does not prevent the Planning Commission from looking at it. There are some uses he did not feel should be in there, but that does not mean they will not look at it. They are still going to try to make the zoning better for the area. He believed in the end this will go the way it needs to go.

Ms. Atkins said she had no objections to the Williams' family farming; it is other things in the zoning she is against. On another issue, Ms. Atkins asked why she emailed the board and only one responded. This is not the only time that happened. Mr. Gentry was the only response. If the board members are not going to use them, then they should remove them from the site. Ms. Hobbs said Ms. Atkins stated in her email that if she did not get an answer she would come to the meeting. Ms. Hobbs preferred to talk to her one-on-one. Ms. Atkins said she had to work and rush to come there. If she had received an answer, she would not have to be here. Mr. Spencer answered and said they could pull minutes but those had nothing to do with the problem. She called the office and was told this was not really what she needed. It was a waste of her time. Ms. Hobbs said she was glad she came to the meeting. Ms. Atkins said she was not really concerned about the zoning. She has 6 acres there and does not live on it. She doesn't intend to do anything with it except hold on to it. She is just concerned on what else may happen in the area.

**PAYMENT OF WARRANTS**

***Ms. Hobbs moved to appropriate funds in the amount of \$619,543.59 for payment of warrants as presented. Second by Mr. Baker. Approved unanimously (4-0). Voting YES: Mr. Spencer, Mr. Baker, Mr. Gentry, Ms. Hobbs; Mr. McCoy – absent.***

**SCHOOL BOARD APPROPRIATION**

***Mr. Spencer moved to appropriate funds in the amount of \$2,239,071.00 for the school board for December, 2011. This includes \$63,000 in JOBS funds. Second by Ms. Hobbs. Approved unanimously (4-0). Voting YES: Mr. Spencer, Mr. Baker, Mr. Gentry, Ms. Hobbs; Mr. McCoy – absent.***

**SOCIAL SERVICES APPROPRIATION**

***Mr. Spencer moved to appropriate \$175,000 for Social Services and \$135,000 for CSA for December, 2011. Second by Ms. Hobbs. Approved unanimously (4-0). Voting YES: Mr. Spencer, Mr. Baker, Mr. Gentry, Ms. Hobbs; Mr. McCoy – absent.***

No further business was introduced. Mr. Gentry adjourned the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 7, 2011, at 10 AM in the General District Courtroom, 120 North Main Street, Pearisburg, Virginia.

APPROVED:

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Chairperson

ATTEST:

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Clerk