

The Wise County Board of Supervisors met in a Regular Meeting on Thursday, June 8, 2023, @ 6:00 pm. In the School Board Education Center located at 628 Lake Street in Wise. The following members were present:

Honorable J. H. Rivers, Chairman

ABSENT

Honorable John T. Schoolcraft, Vice-chairman

Honorable Fred Luntsford

Honorable James Lawson

Honorable Randy Carter

Honorable Robert R. Adkins

Honorable Steve Bates

Honorable Tim Boardwine – members of said Board and

Michael W. Hatfield – County Administrator

Karen T. Mullins – County Attorney

Annette Underwood – Executive Secretary

PRAYER

Randy Carter led in prayer.

PLEDGE

All led in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

MINUTES

A motion was made by John Schoolcraft, seconded by Tim Boardwine, to approve the minutes of May 11, 2023, as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

AGENDA

A motion was made by Randy Carter, seconded by Steve Bates, to approve the agenda as presented to include items in red. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: PUBLIC HEARING – COUNTY FY 2023/2024 BUDGET

A public hearing was duly advertised for this date to receive citizens' comments regarding the County's proposed FY 2023/2024 budget.

There being no public comments, the public hearing was closed.

IN RE: PUBLIC HEARING – E-911 ROAD NAME – FREEDOM BOULEVARD

A public hearing was duly advertised for this date to receive citizens' comments regarding a proposed E-911 road name addition - (Freedom Boulevard).

There being no public comments, the public hearing was closed.

IN RE: PUBLIC HEARING – CONDITIONAL RE-ZONING OF PROPERTY

A public hearing was duly advertised for this date to receive citizens' comments regarding a request from Brandy Stanley DBA J&S Farm Supply for a conditional re-zoning of property located on old Norton-Coeburn Road for the purpose of establishing a truck shop with a maintenance building, and truck parking.

There being no public comments, the public hearing was closed.

IN RE: PUBLIC HEARING – 1% INCREASE IN COUNTY FY 2022/2023 BUDGET

A public hearing was duly advertised for this date to receive citizens' comments regarding a proposed 1% increase in the County FY 2022/2023 budget.

Walter Crouse voiced his opposition to the proposed increase.

There being no further public comments, the public hearing was closed.

IN RE: LONESOME PINE OFFICE ON YOUTH PRESENTATION

Glenda Collins, Executive Director for Lonesome Pine Office on Youth, addressed the Board with an update on Lonesome Pine Office on Youth's mission to serve the youth and families in Southwest Virginia through education, access to academic supports, mental health supports and safe crime-free communities fostering the development of healthy families and children. This office also emphasizes the coordination of services and specializes in research-based, locally driven community program designs and resources.

IN RE: WISE FIRE DEPARTMENT - FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – PURCHASE OF FIRE TRUCK

Wise Fire Department Chief, Duane Phillips, came before the Board requesting financial assistance in the amount of \$1.4M for the purchase of a ladder truck, which has the support of the Town of Wise. This truck, he said, would serve two purposes, as a special rescue vehicle and as a pumper.

The department's response area is roughly 70 square miles, with 70 percent of fire department man hours served are in the County. The fire department puts in over 1,500 training hours, and special duty hours, which includes public education and community events to mention a few. This does not include hours spent working on equipment, building and grounds, and fundraising events.

The department applied for a grant at the beginning of the year, which would cover one-third of this cost. However, the grant was denied due to lack of support from local governments.

Town of Wise Mayor Teresa Adkins also addressed the Board stating that the Town of Wise supports Fire Chief Phillips and the Wise Fire Department in its endeavors to upgrade the fire department to better serve our County. She explained that this is not only an investment for the Town of Wise but also an

investment for the County to protect its buildings and citizens as well as an additional benefit for attracting new businesses to our area.

Chairman Rivers stated that finances are tough right now. However, he believes the Board is willing to assist the department in pursuing grants.

IN RE: PLANNING DISTRICT ONE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES UPDATE

Kim Howell, PDI Behavioral Health Services Financial Officer, provided the Board with a brief overview of PDI 's Annual Report, which included addressing mental health, intellectual and developmental disability, substance use, early intervention and crisis needs to mention a few services provided by PDI Behavioral Health Services.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Walter Crouse addressed the Board with the following complaints:

- Wise County does not need migrants
- Recycling needs to be reinstated
- Litter Control Department needs help
- Hurricane Road needs to be cleaned before the Fair begins
- VDOT needs to check the flood areas for cleanup

There being no further public comments, the public expression period was closed.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Tim Boardwine, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

IN RE: RESOLUTION – BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES PERFORMANCE CONTRACT

Approved the Resolution – Behavioral Health Services Performance Contract 98-102 as presented.

RESOLUTION # 12 - 2023

(Said resolution is on file in the County Administrators Office)

IN RE: APPALACHIA FIRE DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

Approved the Appalachia Fire Department Emergency Response Plan as presented.

(Said Plan is on file in the County Administrator's Office)

The motion to approve the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

IN RE: ROAD NAME ADDITION – FREEDOM BOULEVARD

A public hearing was held on June 8, 2023, to receive citizens' comments regarding a request from Wendell Barnette, Double T, LLC for an E-911 road name addition (Freedom Boulevard) located off Industrial Park Road in Norton.

There were no public comments regarding the proposed name.

A motion was made by John Schoolcraft, seconded by Randy Carter, to approve the E-911 road name addition ...Freedom Boulevard, as requested. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: COUNTY FY 2022/23 BUDGET 1% INCREASE

A public hearing was held on June 8, 2023, to receive citizens comments regarding a proposed 1% increase in the County FY 2022/23 budget.

There were no public comments regarding the proposed increase.

A motion was made by Tim Boardwine, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to approve the 1% increase in the County FY 2022/23 budget as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: CONDITIONAL RE-ZONING OF PROPERTY – NORTON-COEBURN ROAD

A public hearing was held on June 8, 2023, to receive citizens' comments regarding a request from Brandy Stanley for a conditional re-zoning of property on the old Norton-Coeburn Road approximately 1.5 miles west of Coeburn for the purpose of establishing a truck shop with a new maintenance building and truck parking.

There were no public comments regarding the proposed conditional re-zoning request.

A motion was made by Randy Carter, seconded by Tim Boardwine, to approve the conditional re-zoning of property located on the old Norton-Coeburn Road as requested by Brandy Stanley. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: BUDGET AMENDMENTS

A motion was made by John Schoolcraft, seconded Tim Boardwine, to approve budget amendments #47 thru #59 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: APPOINTMENT -- BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

J. H. Rivers made a motion to recommend that Deborah S. Kilgore be re-appointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a term of five (5) years. John Schoolcraft seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: APPOINTMENT – LENOWISCO PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A motion was made by Fred Luntsford, seconded by Randy Carter, to re-appoint Jackie L. Johnson to the LENOWISCO Planning District Commission Board of Directors for a term of three (3) years. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Tim Boardwine, seconded by J. H. Rivers, to re-appoint Suzy Harrison to the LENOWISCO Planning District Commission Board of Directors for a term of three (3) years. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: APPOINTMENT – SOUTHWEST REGIONAL RECREATION AUTHORITY

Tim Boardwine nominated Richard Hull for re-appointment to the Southwest Regional Recreation Authority for a term of three (3) years. John Schoolcraft made a motion that nominations cease, and Richard Hull be re-appointed by acclamation. Randy Carter seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: APPOINTMENT – SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD

A motion was made by John Schoolcraft, seconded by Steve Bates, to appoint J. H. Rivers to fill the unexpired term of Charles E. Miller on the Social Services Board for a term to expire 1/31/2025. The motion was unanimously approved.

CANCEL JULY 2023 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

A motion was made by Randy Carter, seconded by Tim Boardwine, to cancel the Board of Supervisors July 13, 2023, Board meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: CLOSED MEETING

A motion was made by Bob Adkins, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to go into closed session as permitted by the Code of Virginia per the following Code Sections:

- Section 2.2-3711(A)(6) Investing of public funds
- (A)(7) Consultation with legal counsel
- (A)(1) Personnel

The motion was unanimously approved.

Following closed session, a motion was made by Bob Adkins, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to reconvene the regular meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: RESOLUTION CERTIFICATION FOR CLOSED MEETING

Supervisor Luntsford read the certification for closed meeting.

A motion was made by Fred Luntsford, seconded by J. H. Rivers, to approve the resolution certifying that only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements as were identified in the motion convening the meeting were heard or discussed by the Board of Supervisors. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION # 13 -2023

(Said resolution is on file in the County Administrator’s Office)

COUNTY ATTORNEY’S REPORT

Attorney Mullins provided the Board with an overview of the Comcast Cable Franchise and its obligations to Wise County and its citizens. She explained that constant complaints are being made by our citizens against Comcast regarding its poor service performance, no local representation, no local office, and monthly charges that change without notice. She noted that contact phone numbers on file in the County Administrator’s office for Comcast have been disconnected. Other counties are also having these same problems. She further noted that there are some things the Board can dictate. Such as, use of the County R-O-Ws. Once a contact person has been located, the Board can require their presence at a Board meeting for clarification on Comcast’s responsibilities to Wise County and its citizens.

BOARD COMMENTS

There was some discussion on the following topics:

- Real Estate Audit status
- Regional Animal Shelter
- Switching Building recently built on Pound School property for expanding internet services
- County’s FY 2023/24 budget increase

RECESS

A motion was made by Tim Boardwine, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to recess the meeting until Thursday, June 29, 2023, @ 6:00 p.m. in the School Board Education Center. The motion was unanimously approved.

ATTEST:

WISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Michael W. Hatfield, Clerk

J. H. Rivers, Chairman