

The Wise County Board of Supervisors met in a Regular Meeting on Thursday, January 13, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m. in the School Board Education Center located at 628 Lake Street, Wise. The following members were present:

Honorable J. H. Rivers, Chairman
Honorable John Schoolcraft , Vice-Chairman
Honorable Robert R. Adkins
Honorable Steve Bates
Honorable Fred Luntsford
Honorable Randy Carter
Honorable James Lawson
Honorable Tim Boardwine – members of said Board and
Michael W. Hatfield – County Administrator
Karen T. Mullins – County Attorney
Annette Underwood – Executive Secretary

MINUTES

A motion was made by Randy Carter, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to approve the minutes of December 9, 2021, as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

AGENDA

A motion was made by Bob Adkins, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to approve the agenda as presented to include items in red. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: BROADBAND UPDATE

Skip Skinner, representing the Blue Ridge Advisory Group, provided the Board with a power point presentation on the Broadband Assessment & Feasibility Study. The Advisory Group is working with Thompson and Litton to evaluate broadband service areas, and unserved areas. They surveyed more than 16,500 households and did eight interviews, which showed that about 36 percent of the area is unserved. Most complaints were lack of service, and high cost. The towns and city are well served, and the high cost is mainly due to lack of competition.

A final report is forthcoming, which shows six potential broadband expansion projects for an estimated cost of \$6.3M. The objective is to develop a broadband plan that creates the greatest opportunity to support current growth and long-term community broadband needs.

IN RE: REASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Doug Mullins, Commissioner of Revenue, addressed the Board with an overview of the recent reassessment for Wise County that was finalized at the beginning of 2022 with a 3 percent average increase in real estate values, which has met with some criticism from several citizens. However, not all properties increased by 3 percent. The increases were mostly residential structures.

He noted that in Virginia, fair market value is 100 percent of taxable value. The Commissioner of Revenue's Office uses International Association of Assessing Officers standards to determine fair market

value. His office also conducts its own in-house assessment instead of hiring a contractor, which is a savings for the County.

On another note, Mr. Mullins stated that hearings have been set to begin January 18 thru the month of February for those citizens with questions on the new assessment. Those that are not satisfied with this new assessment, can appeal to the Equalization Board, which will begin its hearings sometime in early March.

At this point, with Wise County's real estate increase, Wise County is a "Sellers' Market" for the first time in 20 years. This is good news for Wise County.

IN RE: PPEA PROJECT

Superintendent of Public Schools, Gregory Mullins, provided the Board with an update on the school construction associated with a PPEA Procurement. He explained that the federal funding can be used to construct additional classrooms at Union Primary School, make certain renovations needed for administrative spaces, and for upgrade of restroom facilities at various schools.

Skanska USA Building, Inc. services have been retained to serve as its project manager and to move forward with these projects by issuing an RFP for proposals to perform work consistent with the School Board's PPEA Guidelines.

The School Board received and accepted a conceptual phase proposal from Quesenberry's Inc, and authorized working with Skanska, to negotiate an interim agreement for design phase services associated with these projects within the existing budget.

The School Board at its meeting on January 11, 2022, reviewed a draft of a proposed interim agreement, in the amount of \$233,200.00, relating to design phase services associated with this procurement, and it was noted that pursuant to Virginia Code Section 56-575.16 (5) the School Board may not enter into this interim agreement without the approval of the Board of Supervisors

Mr. Mullins stated that upon approval by the Board of Supervisors, the School Board will hold a public hearing for the purpose of reviewing the proposed interim agreement, to consider public input on this construction project, and to negotiate an interim agreement for design phase services associated with these projects.

Mr. Mullins also noted that this PPEA Procurement will exclusively utilize federal funds and no local funds will be required from the County.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Steven Davis stated that he has been an employee in the Commonwealth Attorney's Office for six years, which he feels has enhanced his qualifications to fill the position of Commonwealth Attorney that has been vacated by Chuck Slemp. He explained his love for law enforcement and for Wise County. His desire is to continue working for the good of Wise County and make it a safer place to live.

Walter Crouse, a resident of the Hurricane section of Wise County, voiced his concerns about the icy roads, the need to restore recycling and, the CRT teaching that is being brought into some of our schools.

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

IN RE: CONSENT AGENDA

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

IN RE: PUBLIC HEARING -----ORDINANCE LEVY A MEALS & BEVERAGE TAX

Set public hearing (2-10-2022 @ 6:00 p.m.) proposed Ordinance to Levy a Meals & Beverage Tax

IN RE: EASEMENT – WATER LINE RIGHT-OF-WAY EASEMENT

Approved R-O-W easement #5, parcel #021307 –Town of St. Paul 4th St Waterline Replacement Project Easement Mapping created by The Lane Group for the Town of St. Paul

IN RE: DEMOLISH PROJECT ---SAFECO ENVIRONMENTAL INC..... CHANGE ORDER

Approved Safeco Environmental’s Change Order for the Demolish Project in the amount of \$133,407.40

IN RE: RESOLUTION – WATER & SEWER REVENUE BOND –LOAN # WSL-009-21A

Approved resolution Issuance of Water & Sewer Revenue Bond for Loan #WSL-009-21A

RESOLUTION # 1 - -2022

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

IN RE: RESOLUTION – WATER & SEWER REVENUE BOND –LOAN #C-515676

Approved resolution Issuance of Water & Sewer Revenue Bond for Loan #C-515676

RESOLUTION # 2 -- 2022

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

IN RE: RESOLUTION – WATER & SEWER REVENUE BOND –FINANCING ASSUMPTION AGREEMENT

Approved the Financing Assumption Agreement between the Authority and the VRA, and the Support Agreement between the Authority, the Board of Supervisors and the VRA

RESOLUTION # 3 -- 2022

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

IN RE: RESOLUTION –PPEA PROCUREMENT SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION –INTERIM AGREEMENT FOR DESIGN SERVICES

Approved the resolution regarding an Interim Agreement by the Wise County School Board for design services associated with a PPEA Procurement relating to school construction

RESOLUTION # 4 -- 2022

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

The motion to approve the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

IN RE: ORDINANCE – CIGARETTE TAX FOR WISE COUNTY

A public hearing was held on August 12, 2021, to receive citizens comments on a proposed Cigarette Tax for Wise County. There were several citizens attending the public hearing that voiced their opposition to the proposed ordinance.

Chairman Rivers explained that the ordinance is now before the Board for consideration.

A motion was made by Steve Bates, seconded by Bob Adkins, to approve the ordinance for a Cigarette Tax for Wise County.

John Schoolcraft made a substitute motion to table the ordinance. James Lawson seconded the motion.

Supervisor Schoolcraft felt that this tax would cause people to go other places that does not have this tax to purchase their cigarettes as well as buying other products. This would be lost revenue for Wise County businesses.

After discussion, James Lawson withdrew his second to the substitute motion to table the cigarette tax, and John Schoolcraft withdrew his substitute motion to table the proposed Cigarette Tax.

The votes for the original motion to approve the proposed Cigarette Tax were as follows:

Aye-	Bob Adkins	Nay-	John Schoolcraft
			Fred Luntsford
			Randy Carter
			Steve Bates
			J. H. Rivers
			Tim Boardwine
			James Lawson

Motion failed.

IN RE: RESOLUTION HONORING CHUCK SLEMP

A motion was made by Randy Carter, seconded by James Lawson, to approve the resolution recognizing and honoring the commitment and integrity that Charles H. “Chuck” Slemp, III has brought to the Office

of the Commonwealth's Attorney during his tenure as Commonwealth Attorney for Wise County. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION # 5 - 2022

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

IN RE: RESOLUTION – PETITION FOR WRIT OF ELECTION

A motion was made by Fred Luntsford, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to approve the resolution to petition the Circuit Court regarding a Special Election Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 24.2-228.1. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION # 6 - 2022

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

IN RE: BUDGET AMENDMENTS

A motion was made by Fred Luntsford, seconded by Randy Carter, to approve budget amendments #17 thru #21 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: APPOINTMENT – EMERGENCY SERVICES

John Schoolcraft nominated Bob Adkins for re-appointment to Emergency Services. Tim Boardwine made a motion that nominations cease. Fred Luntsford seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: APPOINTMENT LENOWISCO PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A motion was made by Tim Boardwine, seconded by James Lawson, to re-appoint Bob Adkins to the LENOWISCO Planning District Commission Board of Directors for a term to expire with his term of office. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Tim Boardwine, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to appoint James Lawson to the LENOWISCO Planning District Commission Board of Directors for a term to expire with his term of office. The motion was unanimously approved.

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

IN RE: COMMUNITY POLICY AND MANAGEMENT BOARD

John Schoolcraft nominated John McCarroll for appointment to the Community Policy and Management Board to represent the Appalachian Foster Care Alliance, for a term of four (4) years. James Lawson made a motion that nominations cease, and John McCarroll be appointed by acclamation. Tim Boardwine seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: LONESOME PINE YOUTH SERVICES BOARD

J. H. Rivers made a motion that Virginia Meador be re-appointed to the LP Youth Services Board for a term of four (4) years. John Schoolcraft seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: NINTH DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT FINANCING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tim Boardwine nominated James Lawson to the Ninth District Development Financing Board of Directors for a term of two (2) years. John Schoolcraft made a motion that nominations cease, and James Lawson be appointed by acclamation. Bob Adkins seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: PLANNING COMMISSION

A motion was made by James Lawson, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to appoint Tim Boardwine to the Planning Commission for a term of four (4) years. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: APPOINTMENT – PSA

A motion was made by James Lawson, seconded by Tim Boardwine, to re-appoint Robby Robbins to the PSA for a term of four (4) years. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Steve Bates, seconded by J. H. Rivers, to re-appoint Bob Adkins to the PSA for the term of his office. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES AUTHORITY (RIFA)

John Schoolcraft nominated Michael W. Hatfield for re-appointment to the RIFA Authority. Randy Carter made a motion that nominations cease, and Michael W. Hatfield be re-appointed by acclamation for a term of two (2) years. The motion was unanimously approved.

James Lawson nominated Brian Falin for re-appointment to the RIFA Authority. John Schoolcraft made a motion that nominations cease, and Brian Falin be re-appointed by acclamation for a term of two (2) years. Fred Luntsford seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: SARA TITLE III COMMITTEE

Steve Bates nominated Bob Adkins for re-appointment to the SARA Title III Committee. John Schoolcraft made a motion that nominations cease, and Bob Adkins be re-appointed by acclamation for his term of office. James Lawson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Hatfield gave a brief update on the demolish project.

BOARD COMMENTS

Board members welcomed the two new members to the Board with the anticipated goal of working together to move Wise County forward.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, a motion was made by James Lawson, seconded by Randy Carter, to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved.

ATTEST:

WISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Michael W. Hatfield, Clerk

J. H. Rivers, Chairman