

## Board of Supervisors – February 9, 2023 Regular Meeting

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The Wise County Board of Supervisors met in a Regular Meeting on Thursday, February 9, 2023, @ 6:00 p.m. in the School Board Education Center located at 628 Lake Street in Wise. The following members were present:

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

### PRAYER

Bob Adkins led in prayer.

### PLEDGE

All led in the pledge.

### MINUTES

A motion was made by John Schoolcraft, seconded by James Lawson, to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2023, Organizational Meeting and the January 12, 2023, Regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors. The motion was unanimously approved.

### AGENDA

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

### PRESENTATION - SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Don Green gave an overview of the Napoleon Hill Scholarship Program and encouraged the Board to consider giving a contribution to the Scholarship Program in the upcoming budget.

### PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Joanna Ogden addressed the Board requesting help in cleaning up the litter, old vehicles, and dilapidated trailers in the Lawson Trailer Park located in Riverview, and in the Riverview Community. The community itself has trash everywhere: abandoned cars, homes with broken windows, and unkept surroundings, to mention a few. Ms. Ogden's parents have a home, which they have been trying to sell, that is located on Radford Road near this trailer park, which at one time was well maintained. Riverview has become a tremendous eye sore over the years as well as Wise County as a whole, which was once a beautiful place to live. Drugs has also been a problem. She stated that the County has failed its citizens & her family by not enforcing these Code violations. Wise County needs to revitalize its communities as a part of economic development to attract businesses, and tourists to this area.

She stated that she has tried, on several occasions, to get something done but the situation gets worse instead of better, and her requests seem to fall on deaf ears. She asked the Board for any assistance they can give to alleviate these blighted problems.

Chairman Rivers stated that there are areas like Riverview all over the County. The County is taking steps to address the litter problems and the blighted areas, but it takes money, and planning. A Planning Workshop will be scheduled to discuss ways improvements can be made and target more enforcement on violations.

Supervisor Luntsford suggested appointing an Action Committee that will meet with the Building and Zoning Administrator Jimmy McElrath and County Administrator Mike Hatfield, to do a "Reader's Digest" version of what can be done legally and any action the Board can take to strengthen its existing ordinances by putting more teeth in them. These violations need to get in the court system and prosecuted accordingly.

It was noted that there needs to be a meeting set up soon to discuss these issues especially with those individuals that work daily dealing with these violations.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

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

#### IN RE: RESOLUTION FOR COMPLIANCE – BEAR CREEK WATER PROJECT

Approved the Resolution for Compliance for the Bear Creek Water Project

#### **RESOLUTION # 2 - 2023**

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

#### IN RE: PUBLIC HEARING – AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE ON POLICY ON MARKERS, PLAQUES AND MONUMENTS

Set a public hearing for (3-9-23 @ 6:00 p.m.) on a proposed amendment to Ordinance #3-2021 on Policy on Markers, Plaques and Monuments located on property of Wise County

IN RE: RESOLUTION ON COUNTY'S PARTICIPATION IN OPIOID SETTLEMENT

Approved the Resolution on the County's Participation in the Proposed Settlement of Opioid-Related Claims Against TEVA, Allergan, Walmart, Walgreens, CVS, and their Related Corporate Entities, and Directing the County Attorney and/or the County's Outside Counsel to Execute the Documents Necessary to Effectuate the County's Participation in the Settlements

**RESOLUTION # 3 - 2023**

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

IN RE: AGREEMENT FOR CONSULTING SERVICES – SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Approved the Consulting Agreement between the Sheriff's Department and National Public Safety Group

The motion to approve the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved.

IN RE: PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

The Board discussed much needed property maintenance in Wise County. It was noted that the County has an ordinance in place to govern the conditions and maintenance of all property, building and structures and the demolition of structures unfit for human occupancy, known as Property Maintenance Code, which allows the County to enforce these violations.

Board members agreed that there has been a downturn in the upkeep of our communities and our county, and the Board needs to address these blighted areas to enhance the beauty of Wise County for future growth in economic development and businesses.

IN RE: BUDGET COMMITTEE

Supervisor Luntsford made this statement: After several conversations with Commissioner of the Revenue Doug Mullins, he and Commissioner Mullins agreed that Wise County should assess this year's used cars owned by our taxpayers 15 to 20 percent lower than the JD Power lowest book value.

JD Power Evaluations (formerly NADA) early projections indicate used car values are expected to decline approximately 12% from January, 2022 to January, 2023. On average, used car values increased up to 40% last year across the Commonwealth.... Wise County's fleet of used vehicles experienced a cumulative 30% average increase last year, which created a heavy tax burden for our citizens.

Commissioner Mullins continues to analyze all the data coming from JD power. He and staff will be in a better position to offer this Board and Administration additional projections in the next 45 days.

JD Power projects the market to correct to true fair market value as more new cars are introduced into supply for consumers over the next 24 months.

Chairman Rivers stated that he would ask that the whole Board be the Budget Committee. The Board must look at the County's financial needs, requests being made, and use its money wisely. It was the consensus of the Board to set a Budget Workshop for Wednesday, March 1, 2023, in the County Administrator's Office conference room located in the Courthouse beginning at 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

IN RE: APPOINTMENT – REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY

A motion was made by Fred Luntsford, seconded by J. H. Rivers, to appoint Randy Carter to the Redevelopment and Housing Authority for a term of four years. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: APPOINTMENT – ROUNDTABLE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Fred Luntsford nominated Greg Cross for re-appointment to the Roundtable Executive Board for a term of two (2) years. Bob Adkins made a motion that nominations cease and Greg Cross be re-appointed by acclamation. Fred Luntsford seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: APPOINTMENT – SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL

A motion was made by Fred Luntsford, seconded by Bob Adkins, to table the appointment to Southwest Virginia Emergency Medical Services Council until next month. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: APPOINTMENT – COMMUNITY POLICY AND MANAGEMENT BOARD

Fred Luntsford nominated Jerrie Adams for re-appointment to the Community Policy and Management Board for a term of four (4) years. John Schoolcraft made a motion that nominations cease, and Jerrie Adams be re-appointed by acclamation. James Lawson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: APPOINTMENT – SPEARHEAD TRAILBLAZERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Supervisor Luntsford stated that the Board needs to have some information as to qualifications for the person to be appointed to the Spearhead Trailblazers Board of Directors.

It was noted that Jack McClanahan will be making a presentation on Spearhead Trails at the March meeting, and he will be providing that information.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Hatfield suggested having the Long-Term Planning Workshop on Thursday, February 16, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Windswept Business Center located in the LP Business and Technology Park. It was the consensus of the Board to meet at that time and place.

BOARD COMMENTS

Board members voiced their concerns regarding the decline in upkeep of our communities, roads, and the blight that has eroded the beauty of our County. Several suggestions were made for possible assistance in the clean-up process.

Several comments were made in support of the Food Bank and its need for financial assistance.

Chairman Rivers stated that the Animal Shelter is in needs of cat cages. He suggested that the County look into purchasing the cages.

Administrator Hatfield noted that cages are being donated, which will fill that need.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by James Lawson, seconded by Bob Adkins, to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved.

ATTEST:

WISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Michael W. Hatfield, Clerk

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J. H. Rivers, Chairman