

The Wise County Board of Supervisors met in a Regular Meeting on Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the School Board Education Center located at 628 Lake Street in Wise, Virginia. The following members were present:

Honorable J. H. Rivers, Chairman ABSENT: Honorable Steve Bates
Honorable John T. Schoolcraft, Vice-Chairman
Honorable Fred Luntsford
Honorable Randy Carter
Honorable Robert R. Adkins
Honorable Tim Boardwine
Honorable Clarence S. "Rusty" Peters, Jr. - members of said Board and
Michael W. Hatfield – County Administrator
Karen T. Mullins – County Attorney
Rebecca Mullins – Executive Secretary

PRAYER

Bob Adkins led in prayer.

PLEDGE

All led by Tim Boardwine in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Tim Boardwine, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to approve the minutes of both the Organizational Meeting, and the Regular Meeting, January 9, 2025, as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

AGENDA

A motion was made by Randy Carter, seconded by Clarence S. Peters, Jr., to approve the agenda as presented to include items in red. The motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED 1% INCREASE IN WISE COUNTY'S FY24/25 BUDGET

A public hearing was duly advertised for this date to receive citizens' comments regarding the proposed 1% increase in Wise County's FY24/25 budget.

There being no comments, the public hearing was closed.

PUBLIC HEARING – TOWN OF POUND PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT AND SPECIAL USE PERMIT

A public hearing was duly advertised for this date to receive citizens' comments regarding the Town of Pound Plan of Development and Special Use Permit. The following citizens appeared to address the Board on this issue:

- Leaburn Kennedy, Pound, VA appeared and gave a brief overview of the Town of Pound's Plan of Development and request for a Special Use Permit for the development of a 3.5-acre parcel of land near the Red Fox Trail for the purpose of primitive camp sites and an ADA approved restroom facility. This campsite will encourage tourism and welcome hikers and naturalists to explore the trail.
- Dakota Noble, Pound, VA appeared and expressed opposition to the campsite area and stated that a similar site was located at Laurel Fork in Pound and that no one maintains or visits this camping area. He is also concerned that human waste will be an issue.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Walter Crouse, Wise, VA appeared and expressed concern for the following issues:

- Need for regional recycling center
- Need for connector road between Darden Drive and Rt. 58
- VDOT needs to repair roads in the county
- Wants all illegals to be sent back to Mexico
- AEP rates are excessive and something must be done

Michael Willis, Coeburn, VA appeared and expressed a need for political climate change and the need for coal and natural gas energy.

BOARD COMMENTS

Supervisor Lunsford commented about the request from the Town of Pound for the campsite area and suggested the Board table the issue until a meeting could take place wherein surrounding landowners who may be affected could present any concerns and offer more information for the Board of Supervisors on which to base their decision.

Supervisor Carter stated that he has had numerous calls from citizens with complaints about Comcast and the rising costs associated with their service.

Supervisor Adkins agreed with Supervisor Lunsford that a meeting should be held to gather more information on the campsite in Pound.

Chairman Rivers stated that he had no problem in tabling the campsite issue in Pound. In addition, he mentioned that Appalachia Elementary School is currently being utilized by MECC for workforce training which is beneficial to the county. The school facility needs a new HVAC system which is costly. Also, in regard to the naming of the Tate Brothers Bridge, he would like to be made aware of the date for the ceremony to erect the signage. Chairman Rivers suggested a need for consistency especially as it relates to dog kennel licensure since there has become a problem in his district.

Supervisor Lunsford followed up on the comments regarding the MECC workforce by stating that he hopes to keep MECC there, but it is "hard to battle with egos" particularly when discussing the issue of funding for the facility. Vice-Chairman Schoolcraft asked if the facility could be marketed for another use if MECC decides not to remain at Appalachia Elementary School.

IN RE: RESOLUTION – RIVERVIEW SEWER EXTENSION PHASE I PROJECT

A motion was made by John Schoolcraft, seconded by Randy Carter to approve the resolution regarding the Riverview Sewer Extension Phase I Project. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION #1-2025

(A copy of the resolution is on file in the County Administrator’s Office.)

IN RE: RESOLUTION – CWIA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT FORCE MAIN PROJECT

A motion was made by John Schoolcraft, seconded by Randy Carter to approve the resolution regarding the CWIA Wastewater Treatment Plant Force Main Project. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION #2-2025

(A copy of the resolution is on file in the County Administrator’s Office.)

IN RE: RESOLUTION – WATCH FOR CHILDREN SIGN – SWANSON ROAD

A motion was made by John Schoolcraft, seconded by Randy Carter to approve the resolution regarding the “Watch for Children” sign on Swanson Road. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION #3-2025

(A copy of the resolution is on file in the County Administrator’s Office.)

IN RE: APPROVAL OF DCR COMMUNITY FLOODPLAIN FUND – CFPF GRANT ROUND 5

A motion was made by John Schoolcraft, seconded by Randy Carter to approve the DCR Community Floodplain Fund – CFPF Grant Round 5. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT FOR PATRIOT DRIVE IMPROVEMENTS

A motion was made by John Schoolcraft, seconded by Randy Carter to approve the agreement for Patriot Drive improvements. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT FOR PHASE V EXPANSION OF BLACKWOOD LANDFILL SITE

A motion was made by John Schoolcraft, seconded by Randy Carter to approve the agreement for Phase V Expansion of Blackwood Landfill site. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: RESOLUTION – OPPOSITION TO AEP’S REQUEST

A motion was made by Clarence S. Peters, Jr., seconded by John Schoolcraft, to approve the resolution regarding opposition to AEP’s request. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION #4-2025

(A copy of the resolution is on file in the County Administrator's Office.)

IN RE: RESOLUTION – OPPOSITION TO AEP'S RATE ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE

A motion was made by Clarence S. Peters, Jr., seconded by Tim Boardwine to approve the resolution regarding opposition to AEP's rate adjustment clause. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION #5-2025

(A copy of the resolution is on file in the County Administrator's Office.)

IN RE: TOWN OF WISE REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTION FOR NEW SPORTSPLEX

Administrator Hatfield advised the Board that the Tourism Committee had made a recommendation to contribute the sum of \$50,000 toward the construction of a new sportsplex for the Town of Wise. Chairman Rivers stated that the money would come from the transient occupancy fund. Supervisor Lunsford brought up the fact that the Town of Pound was asking for assistance for a new campsite and that the Town of Appalachia is seeking to build a pickleball court. Supervisor Boardwine added that the Town of St. Paul needs to make repair to the baseball park. Chairman Rivers and Vice-Chair Schoolcraft mentioned that the Town of Big Stone is building a skateboard park. Supervisor Peters stated that he just cannot support this request due to all the other towns asking for assistance with community projects.

Supervisor Peters made a motion, seconded by Tim Boardwine, to deny the request made by the Town of Wise for the new sportsplex. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: VOAA COOPERATIVE PARTNERSHIP GRANT RENEWAL – PROJECT PATHFINDER

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Schoolcraft, seconded by Randy Carter, to approve the VOAA Cooperative Partnership Grant Renewal for Project Pathfinder. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: CSA REQUEST

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Schoolcraft, seconded by Tim Boardwine to approve the CSA Request. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: PROPOSED 1% INCREASE IN WISE COUNTY'S FY24/25 BUDGET

A motion was made by Randy Carter, seconded by Clarence S. Peters, Jr., to approve the proposed 1% increase in Wise County's FY24/25 budget. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: TOWN OF POUND PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT AND SPECIAL USE PERMIT

A motion was made by Fred Lunsford, seconded by Vice-Chair Schoolcraft, to table this item to next month's meeting so that a community meeting could be held for adjoining landowners to appear and discuss before the Board makes a decision concerning the campsite. The motion was unanimously approved.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

A motion was made by Bob Adkins, seconded Tim Boardwine, to approve budget amendments #23 through #25 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION – FAIR HOUSING ACTIVITY FOR 2025

There was a discussion amongst the Board concerning the Fair Housing Activity for 2025 covering a variety of topics including Fair Housing practices for Wise County.

APPOINTMENT – SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD

A motion was made by John Schoolcraft, seconded by Tim Boardwine to re-appoint Chairman Rivers to the Social Services Board for a four-year term. Chairman Rivers abstained from the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

IN RE: CLOSED MEETING

A motion was made by Clarence S. Peters, Jr., seconded by Tim Boardwine, 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 Fred Lunsford, 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 John Schoolcraft, 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 #6 – 2025

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

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Hatfield commented that many roads throughout the county have suffered damage due to the recent flooding and significant snowfall. Public Works is currently 2-3 months behind schedule due to numerous requests for gravel and grade work.

Additionally, he mentioned that there is a great need for foster families in the County and that folks should be encouraged to become involved.

CLOSING BOARD COMMENTS

There was some discussion on the following topics:

- Appalachia Elementary School and MECC Workforce Program
- Valentine's Day
- Town of Pound meeting for new campsite
- Need for recycling center
- Support gas and coal
- Need meeting with School Board for Budget planning (Supervisors Carter and Peters selected to attend)

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Clarence S. Peters, Jr., seconded by Tim Boardwine, to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved.

ATTEST:

WISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Michael W. Hatfield, Clerk

J. H. Rivers, Chairman