

Board of Supervisors – April 8, 2021 Regular Meeting

The Wise County Board of Supervisors met in a Regular Board Meeting on Thursday, April 8, 2021 in the School Board Education Center located at 628 Lake Street in Wise. The following members were present:

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| Honorable J. H. Rivers – Chairman | <u>ABSENT</u> |
| Honorable Steve Bates – Vice-Chairman | |
| Honorable Fred Luntsford | Honorable James Lawson |
| Honorable Bobby Cassell | |
| Honorable Robert E. Robbins, Jr. | |
| Honorable John T. Schoolcraft | |
| Honorable Robert R. Adkins – 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 of allegiance to the flag.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Robby Robbins, seconded by Fred Luntsford, to approve the minutes of March 11, 2021 and the Budget Workshop Minutes 3-23-21 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

AGENDA

Supervisor Luntsford asked that paving of Ratliff Road in Big Stone Gap and Woodland Drive in Appalachia be added to the agenda.

A motion was made by Robby Robbins, seconded by Fred Luntsford, to approve the agenda as presented to include the items in red and the paving of Ratliff Road in Big Stone Gap and Woodland Drive in Appalachia. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: PUBLIC HEARING – CONDITIONAL REZONING & SPECIAL USE PERMIT

A public hearing was duly advertised for this date to receive citizens' comments regarding a proposed conditional rezoning and Special Use Permit for property located at 4443 Dorchester Road, Norton for the purpose of placing a prefabricated building to store materials and assemble ammunition to be shipped or delivered to local businesses for sale.

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

IN RE: PUBLIC HEARING – NAMING OF BRIDGE LOCATED IN ESSERVILLE

A public hearing was duly advertised for this date to receive citizens' comments regarding the naming of the bridge located in Esserville the "Corporal Carl Dingus Memorial Bridge".

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

IN RE: AMBULANCES FOR WISE COUNTY

Travis Anderson provided a power point presentation on ambulances recently purchased for Wise County rescue squads with the Cares Act Funds.

He explained that the increased number of COVID-19 patients were placing hardships on the EMS agencies in Wise County. All EMS agencies met and discussed the need for ambulances that could handle high risk infectious diseases and viruses. Working together with the County, CARES Act funds were available to purchase six (6) ambulances for the EMS squads in Wise County.

Members of the different Rescue Squads were present to thank the Board for meeting this need, which will better serve the citizens of Wise County.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Stephany Kerns, a resident of Big Stone Gap, voiced her opposition to placing a monument or plaque at the Wise County Courthouse regarding the lynching of three black individuals in Wise County. She spoke briefly on the need to bring healing to our nation, learn from our past mistakes, and move forward to mend the bridges that have divided our nation. She stated that bringing up the past does not bring healing it only causes more conflict.

Walter Crouse, a resident of Hurricane, made the following comments:

- The Board needs to prepare a resolution, as well as other county boards, stating that no immigrant children can come to Southwest Virginia to live because the counties are struggling to provide for its own children.
- There needs to be a recycling program to save space in landfill
- The County cannot afford an increase in taxes
- Need jobs to bring revenue into our County

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

IN RE: CONSENT AGENDA

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

IN RE: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HAMILTON TOWN SEWER PROJECT

Approved the resolution authorizing the County Administrator to sign and submit any and all appropriate documents relevant to the Hamilton Town Sewer Project

RESOLUTION # 7 - 2021

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

IN RE: RESOLUTION – SETTING PROPERTY TAX RATE FY 2021/22

Approved the resolution setting the property tax rates for Wise County FY 2021/22 Budget

RESOLUTION #8 – 2021

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

The motion to approve the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

IN RE: RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY REMEMBRANCE PROJECT

Administrator Hatfield stated that he has received two requests for the Community Remembrance Project. One was to recognize all fallen coal miners, and the other to recognize the 1950 little League Baseball Team in Norton that won the State Championship that year, which had both black and white players.

A motion was made by Robby Robbins, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to table this request for the present time, since there are other requests being made. The motion was unanimously approved.

Supervisor Luntsford stated that he does not want citizens to get the impression that the Board wants to delay or discredit this request to recognize the injustice that has occurred in the history of Wise County. Instead of a monument being placed on the Courthouse grounds, which could be vandalized, broken, etc. perhaps a plaque being placed in the Courthouse with other historical plaques would be an option to consider.

Chairman Rivers asked the County Administrator to prepare a resolution that could be considered to recognize this historical event.

IN RE: CONDITIONAL REZONING & SPECIAL USE PERMIT

A public hearing was held on April 8, 2021 to receive citizens comments regarding a conditional rezoning and a Special Use Permit for property located at 4445 Dorchester Road in Norton.

A motion was made by Robby Robbins, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to approve the request from Jack Flanary for conditional rezoning and a Special Use Permit for property located at 4445 Dorchester Road in Norton for the purpose of placing a prefabricated building to store materials and assemble ammunition to be shipped or delivered to local businesses for sale. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: RESOLUTION NAMING OF BRIDGE IN ESSERVILLE

A public hearing was held on April 8, 2021 to receive citizens comments regarding the proposed naming of the bridge in Esserville “Corporal Carl Dingus Memorial Bridge”. There was no public opposition to this request.

A motion was made by Robby Robbins, seconded by Bobby Cassell, to approve the resolution naming of the bridge in Esserville “Corporal Carl Dingus Memorial Bridge”. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION # 9 – 2021

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

IN RE: APPOINTMENT – DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

A motion was made by Steve Bates, seconded by Rob Adkins, to appoint Gilmer Blackburn to Department of Social Services Board for a term of four (4) years. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: APPOINTMENT – MOUNTAIN EMPIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE ADVISORY BOARD

A motion was made by Fred Luntsford, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to appoint Roy Munsey to the MECC Advisory Board for a term of four (4) years. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: APPOINTMENT – COMMUNITY POLICY AND MANAGEMENT BOARD

Robby Robbins nominated Heather Crouse 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 Heather Crouse be re-appointed by acclamation. Fred Luntsford seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Steve Bates, seconded by Bobby Cassell, to appoint Susan Mullins, Director of Department of Social Services, to the Community Policy and Management Board for a term of four (4) years. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: APPOINTMENT – STANDARDS COMMITTEE (911)

Robby Robbins nominated Billie Laney to the Standard Committee. Bobby Cassell made a motion that nominations cease, and Billie Laney be appointed by acclamation. Fred Luntsford seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: APPOINTMENT - SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA REGIONAL RECYCLING & SOLID WASTE WORKING GROUP

Fred Luntsford nominated Michael Hatfield to the Southwest Virginia Regional Recycling & Solid Waste Working Group. John Schoolcraft made a motion that nominations cease, and Michael Hatfield be appointed by acclamation. Steve Bates seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: PAVING OF COUNTY ROADS

A motion was made by John Schoolcraft, seconded by Bob Adkins, to approve paving of Ratliff Road in Big Stone Gap, and paving of Woodland Drive in Appalachia. The motion was unanimously approved.

Several Board members noted roads in their districts that could be improved with paving rather than gravel.

IN RE: CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Bob Adkins, seconded by Robby Robbins, 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

Commonwealth Attorney Chuck Slemper was invited into closed session.

The motion was unanimously approved.

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

IN RE: RESOLUTION CERTIFYING 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 # 10 – 2021

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

IN RE: AGENDA AMENDMENT

A motion was made by Robby Robbins, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to amend the agenda to add an item authorizing the County Administrator to enter into a contract with the Commonwealth Attorney for the collection of Delinquent Court Order Fines and Costs pursuant to Virginia Code 19.2-349. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: CONTRACT – COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT COURT ORDERED FINES AND COSTS

A motion was made by Robby Robbins, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to authorize the County Administrator to enter into a contract with the Commonwealth Attorney for the collection of Delinquent Court Ordered Fines and Costs pursuant to Virginia Code 19.2 – 349. The motion was unanimously approved.

BOARD COMMENTS

Board comments included:

- The County is thankful for the new ambulances that have been purchased thru the CARES Act funding, which has benefitted the whole County
- Recognizing the Community Remembrance Project and the history of Wise County
- Future graveling of County Roads once the Coal Severance money has been depleted

ADJOURN

There being no further business, a motion was made by Bob Adkins, seconded by Robby Robbins, to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm. The motion was unanimously approved.

ATTEST:

WISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Michael W. Hatfield, Clerk

J. H. Rivers, Chairman