

Board of Supervisors – June 10, 2021 Regular Meeting

The Wise County Board of Supervisors met in a Regular Meeting on Thursday, June 10, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m. in the School Board Education Center located at 628 Lake Street in Wise, VA. The following members were present:

Honorable J. H. Rivers – Chairman
Honorable Steve Bates – Vice-Chairman
Honorable Robert R. Adkins
Honorable John Schoolcraft
Honorable Robert E. Robbins, Jr.
Honorable James R. Lawson
Honorable Fred Luntsford
Honorable Bobby Cassell – 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 allegiance to the flag.

MINUTES

A motion was made by John Schoolcraft, seconded by Robby Robbins, to approve the minutes of May 13, 2021, as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

AGENDA

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

IN RE: PUBLIC HEARING – REZONING OF PROPERTY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SELF-STORAGE BUILDING

A public hearing was duly advertised for this date to receive citizens' comments on a request from Quinn Bowling for rezoning of 2.31 acres located on Route 23 S and Route 823 (Indian Creek Road) for the purpose of constructing a self-storage facility.

There being no public comments regarding the proposed rezoning, the public hearing was closed.

IN RE: PUBLIC HEARING – ZONING ORDINANCE #2-1991 AMENDMENT – CREMATION/CREMATORIALS

A public hearing was duly advertised for this date to receive citizens' comments on a proposed amendment to Zoning Ordinance #2-1991 to address crematoriums and cremation. There being no public comments regarding the proposed amendment, the public hearing was closed.

IN RE: PUBLIC HEARING – NAMING OF BRIDGE IN WEST NORTON – AMBURGEY MEMORIAL BRIDGE

A public hearing was duly advertised for this date to receive public comments regarding a request to name the bridge located in West Norton on Business 23 Park Avenue NW Kent Junction Road as the Sgt. Alfred J. Amburgey Bridge.

There being no public comments regarding naming of the bridge, the public hearing was closed.

IN RE: HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Frank Kibler, Senior Planner for LENOWISCO Planning District, provided the Board with an overview of the updated LENOWISCO Hazard Mitigation Plan.

IN RE: SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA WORKFORCE BOARD

Rachel Patton, representing the Workforce Development Board, stated that the Southwest Virginia Workforce Development Board is a 501©3 nonprofit organization that provides oversight and governance for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs in the local Workforce Development Southwest Region. The Southwest Region is composed of eight jurisdictions in far Southwestern Virginia and the City of Norton. The Southwest Virginia Workforce Development Board partners with many organizations including MECC, Virginia Employment Commission and others. Its main concern is to work with job seekers and businesses.

Coming out of COVID, there is a great demand from regional businesses for employees. She asked the Board to consider some financial assistance from the American Rescue Plan funding to help with some of the Workforce Projects. Any funds given would go for Wise County citizens to help them get back to work.

IN RE: EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK AMENDMENT

Administrator Hatfield provided the Board with a power point presentation on an updated version of the Employee Handbook.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Lonnie Brooks, Pastor East Stone Baptist Church, Brad Stapleton, Pastor East Stone Methodist Church, and Aaron Wiggins, a resident of East Stone Gap, came before the Board with much concern on recently finding out that a trailer park is being established in the East Stone Gap Community as a Sex Offender Sanctuary. Residents of that community are reaching out to the Board of Supervisors for some assistance in having that trailer park removed to another location rather than being in the middle of a large community.

Stacy Carson, Mayor Town of Pound, addressed the Board with problems that continue in the Town of Pound Office and the Pound Police Department. She explained her goals for the Town, but no one will work with her to achieve those goals. She voiced her concern that the Town may lose its Charter, and if that were to happen, where does that leave the Town.

David Gent approached the Board in support of Ms. Carson's concerns about losing the Town Charter, and about the condition of the Town of Pound Police Department.

Attorney Karen Mullins explained the process that must be followed when a town loses its Charter.

Chairman Rivers stated that the County Attorney will provide the Board with information regarding the steps that must be taken when a town loses its charter, which includes submitting a referendum for citizens to vote on. Mr. Gent and Ms. Carson will be provided information regarding the same.

Supervisor Luntsford stated that the PSA has been trying to work with the Town of Pound on the water and sewer issue in Pound, but there has been a lack of communication on part of the Pound Town Counsel. He wanted Ms. Carson to know that her concerns are not falling on deaf ears, and hopefully something can be worked out.

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

IN RE: CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Bob Adkins, seconded by J. H. Rivers, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

IN RE: RESOLUTION -LENOWISCO HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Approved the resolution adopting the LENOWISCO Hazard Mitigation Plan

RESOLUTION # 18 -2021

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

IN RE: TAX EXEMPTION STATUS – SOUTHWEST REGIONAL RECREATION AUTHORITY

Set public hearing (8-12-2021 @ 6:00 p.m.) on a request for real estate tax exemption for SW Regional Recreation Authority

IN RE: TAX EXEMPT STATUS – THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Set public hearing (8-12-2021 @ 6:00 p. m.) on a request for real estate tax exemption for The Nature Conservancy

IN RE: ORDINANCE --- MARKERS AND MONUMENTS

Set a public hearing (8-12-2021 @ 6:00 p.m.) on a proposed ordinance for Markers and Monuments

IN RE: ORDINANCE CIGARETTE TAX

Set a public hearing (8-12-2021 @ 6:00 p.m.) on a proposed ordinance on cigarette tax

IN RE: RESOLUTION PPTRA BUDGET

Approved the resolution adopting the PPTRA Budget for FY 2021/22 as presented

RESOLUTION # 19 - 2021

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

IN RE: MOU – LUNCHBOX 276 FOOD VOUCHER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Approved the MOU between LENOWISCO Planning District Commission and Wise County for the purpose of the Wise County/Lunchbox 276 Food Voucher Assistance Program.

IN RE: AGREEMENT VOUCHER ASSISTANCE PROJECT (COVID-19)

Approved the Administrative Agreement Voucher Assistance Project CDBG UN (COVID-19) between LENOWISCO Planning District Commission and Wise County.

IN RE: APPROPRIATION 4TH QUARTER

Approved the 4th quarter appropriations

IN RE: INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT – LENOWISCO REGIONAL SMALL BUSINESS RECOVERY ASSISTANCE

Approved the LENOWISCO Regional Small Business Recovery Assistance Grant Program Interagency Agreement between City of Norton and the County of Wise.

IN RE: MOU – ARC INSPIRE GRANT PROJECT

Authorized execution of the MOU – ARC INSPIRE Grant Project called Project Amelioration Phase II

IN RE: BROADBAND SERVICES

Authorized the County Administrator to negotiation with Thompson and Litton on Broadband Services

IN RE: DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS CONTRACT

Authorized execution of contract with Safeco Environmental for demolition of buildings

The motion to approve the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

IN RE: ZONING ORDINANCE #2-1991 AMENDMENT CREMATORIUMS AND CREMATION

A public hearing was held on June 10, 2021, to receive citizens comments on a proposed amendment to Zoning Ordinance #2-1991 regarding crematoriums and cremation.

There were no public comments regarding the proposed amendment.

A motion was made by John Schoolcraft, seconded by James Lawson, to approve the amendment to Zoning Ordinance #2-1991 regarding crematoriums and cremation as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT (Cremation & crematoriums)

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

IN RE: REZONING OF PROPERTY – CONSTRUCTION OF SELF-STORAGE BUILDING

A public hearing was held on June 10, 2021, to receive citizens comments regarding a request from Quinn Bowling to rezone 2.31 acres on Indian Creek Road for construction of a self-storage building.

There were no public comments regarding the proposed rezoning.

A motion was made by Bob Adkins, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to approve the request from Quinn Bowling to rezone 2.31 acres of property on Indian Creek Road for construction of a self-storage building. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: RESOLUTION – NAMING OF BRIDGE -AMBURGEY MEMORIAL BRIDGE

A public hearing was held on June 10, 2021, to receive citizens comments on naming of bridge located in West Norton as the Sgt. Alfred J. Amburgey Memorial Bridge.

There were no public comments regarding the proposed naming of the bridge.

A motion was made by Bobby Cassell, seconded by Fred Luntsford, to approve the resolution naming the bridge located in West Norton as the Sgt. Alfred J. Amburgey Memorial Bridge. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION # 20 - 2021

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

IN RE: RESOLUTION – WISE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS FY 2021/22 BUDGET

A public hearing was held on June 3, 2021, to receive citizens' comments on the proposed public schools FY 2021/22 budget.

There were no public comments regarding the proposed budget.

A motion was made by Robby Robbins, seconded by James Lawson, to adopt the resolution approving the Wise County Public Schools FY 2021/22 budget by Expenditure Classification/Category as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION # 21 - 2021

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

IN RE: RESOLUTION- WISE COUNTY FY 2021/22 BUDGET

A public hearing was held on June 3, 2021, to receive citizens' comments regarding the proposed Wise County FY 2021/22 budget.

There were no public comments regarding the proposed budget.

A motion was made by Robby Robbins, seconded by Bob Adkins, to adopt the resolution approving the Wise County FY 2021/22 budget as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION # 22 - 2021

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

IN RE: EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK AMENDMENT

A motion was made by Bob Adkins, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to approve amendments made to the Employee Handbook as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: JULY 2021 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING CANCELLATION

A motion was made by Steve Bates, seconded by Robby Robbins, to cancel July 8, 2021, Board of Supervisors Meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: BUDGET AMENDMENTS

A motion was made by Steve Bates, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to approve budget amendment #26 thru #29 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: APPOINTMENT-REDEVELOPMENT & HOUSING AUTHORITY

A motion was made by Steve Bates, seconded by Bob Adkins, to re-appoint Eula Hughes to the Redevelopment and Housing Authority 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 Steve Bates, seconded by Bobby Cassell, to re-appoint Teresa Adkins to the MECC Advisory Board for a term of four (4) years.

Aye- Fred Luntsford
Bobby Cassell
Steve Bates
J. H. Rivers
John Schoolcraft
Robby Robbins
James Lawson

Abstain - Bob Adkins

Motion carried.

A motion was made by John Schoolcraft, seconded by Robby Robbins, to re-appoint Betty Cornett to the MECC Advisory Board for a term of four (4) years.

Aye- Fred Luntsford
Bobby Cassell
Steve Bates
John Schoolcraft
Robby Robbins
James Lawson
Bob Adkins

Abstain – J. H. Rivers

Motion carried.

A motion was made by J. H. Rivers, seconded by James Lawson, to re-appoint Mike Abbott to the MECC Advisory Board for a term of four (4) years. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: APPOINTMENT – LONESOME PINE YOUTH SERVICES BOARD

A motion was made by Steve Bates, seconded by Bobby Cassell, to re-appoint Teresa Adkins to the LP Youth Services Board for a term of four (4) years.

Aye- Fred Luntsford
Bobby Cassell
Steve Bates
John Schoolcraft
Robby Robbins
James Lawson
J. H. Rivers

Abstain - Bob Adkins

Motion carried.

A motion was made by J. H. Rivers, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to re-appoint Cecilia Robinette to the LP Youth Services Board for a term of four (4) years. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: APPOINTMENT – MT. EMPIRE REGIONAL BUSINESS INCUBATOR BOARD (MERBI)

John Schoolcraft nominated Daniel Rollins for re-appointment to the MERBI Board for a term of four (4) years.

Robby Robbins made a motion that nominations cease, and Daniel Rollins be re-appointed by acclamation. James Lawson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: APPOINTMENT - PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY (PSA)

A motion was made by J. H. Rivers, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to re-appoint Ralph Gilley to the PSA for a term of four (4) years. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: AGENDA AMENDMENT

A motion was made by Bobby Cassell, seconded by James Lawson, to amend the agenda to consider filling the vacancy on the Building Code & Appeals Board due to the recent passing of Terry Mullins, current member of said Board. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: APPOINTMENT – BUILDING CODE AND APPEALS BOARD

A motion was made by Bobby Cassell, seconded by James Lawson, to appoint Randy Partin to fill the unexpired term of Terry Mullins (deceased) on the Building Code and Appeals Board for a term to expire 01/31/2026. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: CLOSED SESSION

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

Commissioner of Revenue Doug Mullins was invited into closed session.

The motion was unanimously approved.

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

IN RE: RESOLUTION – CLOSED SESSION CERTIFICATION

A motion was made by Robby Robbins, 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 closed session were heard or discussed by the Board of Supervisors.

The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Resolution # 23 - 2021

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

IN RE: APPOINTMENT – MECC ADVISORY BOARD (RESCIND TERESA ADKINS APPOINTMENT)

It was noted that Teresa Adkins has served two consecutive four-year terms on the MECC Advisory Board and is not eligible for re-appointment according to the MECC Advisory Board Bylaws. The Board erroneously re-appointed her, and now will rescind that motion.

A motion was made by Steve Bates, seconded by Bobby Cassell, to rescind the motion to re-appoint Teresa Adkins to the MECC Advisory Board for a third term. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Steve Bates, seconded by Bob Adkins, to appoint Michael W. Hatfield to the MECC Advisory Board for a term of four (4) years. The motion was unanimously approved.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Robby Robbins, seconded by Steve Bates, to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved.

ATTEST:

WISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Michael W. Hatfield, Clerk

J. H. Rivers, Chairman