

The Wise County Board of Supervisors met in a Regular Meeting on Thursday, June 12, 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: None.
Honorable John T. Schoolcraft, Vice-Chairman
Honorable Fred Luntsford
Honorable Randy Carter
Honorable Robert R. Adkins
Honorable Steve Bates
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

Randy Carter led in prayer.

PLEDGE

All led by John Schoolcraft in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

MINUTES

A motion was made by John Schoolcraft, seconded by Clarence Peters, Jr., to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting, May 8, 2025, as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

AGENDA

A motion was made by Randy Carter, seconded by Steve Bates, to add the following items: 1- Resolution to Approve Lease Funding of Vehicles; 2- Resolution to Encourage Senators to Increase Black Lung Benefits; and 3- Zoning Request by Mark Broyles; and to approve the agenda as presented including items in red. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: JOINT PUBLIC HEARING BETWEEN WISE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION AND WISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON AMENDMENT TO WISE COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO PERMITTED USES WITHIN THE M-1 AND M-2 ZONING DISTRICTS

A joint public hearing was duly advertised for this date to receive citizens' comments amendment to Wise County Zoning Ordinance pertaining to permitted uses within the M-1 and M-2 zoning districts.

Brian Falin, Executive Director of the Wise County Industrial Development Authority, appeared to express support for the Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance.

Sharon Fisher, Big Stone Gap, VA, appeared and asked questions concerning data centers.

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

IN RE: JOINT PUBLIC HEARING BETWEEN WISE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION AND WISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON A REQUEST BY MARK BROYLES FOR A CHANGE OF ZONING ON PARCEL #014712 FROM AN R-2 TO AN A-RR.

A joint public hearing was duly advertised for this date to receive citizens' comments on a zoning request from Mark Broyles for a change of zoning on Parcel #014712 from an R-2 to an A-RR.

Mark Broyles appeared and described in detail the intent for this request.

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

IN RE: JOINT PUBLIC HEARING BETWEEN VDOT AND WISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON THE PROPOSED SECONDARY SIX-YEAR PLAN AND SECONDARY SYSTEM CONSTRUCTION BUDGET FY 25/26

A public hearing was duly advertised for this date to receive citizens' comments regarding proposed Secondary Six-Year Plan & Secondary System Construction Budget FY25/26.

Joey Mullins, VDOT, appeared and gave a brief overview of the Secondary Six-Year Plan and Secondary System Construction Budget for FY25/26.

Walter Crouse, Wise, VA, appeared and stressed the need for a road to be constructed to connect US Alt. 58 to the UVA-Wise Campus to eliminate travel on Tacoma Mountain Road.

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

IN RE: PUBLIC HEARING – CHANGING 3RD DUE EMS AGENCY FOR SANDRY RIDGE AND ST. PAUL RESPONSE ZONES FROM LIFECARE TO PRO MED

A public hearing was duly advertised for this date to receive citizens' comments regarding changing 3rd due EMS agency for Sandy Ridge and St. Paul Response Zones from Lifecare to Pro Med.

There being no comments, the public hearing was closed.

IN RE: PUBLIC HEARING – REQUEST TO CLOSE AND VACATE A PORTION OF A 40 FT. ALLEYWAY IDENTIFIED AS SMITH STREET BETWEEN PROPERTIES (PARCEL ID 010711, 012939 & 010056).

A public hearing was duly advertised for this date to receive citizens' comments regarding a request to close and vacate a portion of a 40 ft. alleyway identified as Smith Street between properties (Parcel ID 010711, 012939 & 010056).

There being no comments, the public hearing was closed.

IN RE: PUBLIC HEARING – ESTABLISH ANNUAL COMPENSATION FOR THE WISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

A public hearing was duly advertised for this date to receive citizens' comments regarding the establishment of annual compensation for the Wise County Board of Supervisors.

There being no comments, the public hearing was closed.

IN RE: PRESENTATION – ROLAND KOOCH - DAVENPORT

Roland Kooch, Davenport and Dan Siegel, Sands Anderson, appeared to give a very detailed and informative presentation concerning observations, recommendations and results of a strategic debt restructuring for Wise County.

IN RE: PRESENTATION – KIM HOWELL, PD-1 UPDATE

Kim Howell, Financial Officer, PD-1, appeared and presented an update pertaining to the Planning District One – Behavioral Health Services and provided the 2024 Annual Report and outlined the services provided and impact on the community.

IN RE: PRESENTATION – EDDIE MULLINS, KIDS CENTRAL

Eddie Mullins, Kids' Central, appeared and presented an update pertaining to Kids' Central and discussed programs offered and requested funding from the County.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Kara Dotten, Appalachian Voices, appeared to give an update on the Just Transition Platform.

Walter Crouse, Wise, VA, appeared to express concern about the following topics:

- Opposed to tax increase
- Need to pay off school debt
- Need new connector road between Rt. 58 and UVA-Wise Campus/Airport areas
- VDOT needs to paint stripes on roadways
- Need for a regional recycling center
- 250 Anniversary of the US Army
- Opposed to dual personal property tax
- Wants courts to be moved to Big Stone Gap Courthouse

Glenn Sturgill, Pound, VA, appeared to express concern over neighbor's dogs running loose on his property.

Sharon Fisher, Big Stone Gap, VA, appeared to express concern about the following topics:

- SWVA Nuclear Watch
- Not against Data Centers but want regulations in place for the safety of the public
- Noise pollution from data centers

Annie Jane Cotton, Kentucky, appeared to request support for a resolution in support of increasing the Black Lung Benefits Rate.

Mark Broyles, East Stone Gap, VA, appeared to clarify his zoning request/special use permit was only temporary due to his intention to purchase a larger plat of land in which to operate his dog kennel.

BOARD COMMENTS

Comments from Board members as follows:

- Tough decisions to be made
- Data centers
- Litter – need more education – penalties
- Items in Red – Chairman Rivers requested no items in red to be added three days prior to meetings and all supporting documents should be uploaded to County website with Agenda

BREAK – 8:25PM

RECONVENE – 8:45PM

CONSENT AGENDA

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

IN RE: PERSONAL PROPERTY REFUND REQUEST OVER \$2,000 (Hills Machinery Company, LLC)

A motion was made by Bob Adkins, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to approve the Personal Property refund request for over \$2,000. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: RESOLUTION – EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN 12 MONTH EXTENSION

A motion was made by Bob Adkins, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to approve the Resolution for the Emergency Operations Plan – 12-month extension. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION #17-2025

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

IN RE: SET PUBLIC HEARING (AUGUST MTG.) FOR DUAL PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX TICKETS

A motion was made by Bob Adkins, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to set a public hearing (August meeting) to be held at the School Board Education Center, 628 Lake Street, Wise, VA, for Dual Personal Property Tax Tickets. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: SET PUBLIC HEARING (AUGUST MTG.) TO AMEND DUE DATE FOR REAL ESTATE TAXES

A motion was made by Bob Adkins, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to set a public hearing (August meeting) to be held at the School Board Education Center, 628 Lake Street, Wise, VA, to Amend Due Date for Real Estate Tax Tickets. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Consent Agenda was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION APPROVING SCHOOL BOARD FY 2025/26 BUDGET

A motion was made by Randy Carter, seconded by Steve Bates, to approve the Resolution approving the Wise County School Board FY2025/26 Budget. There was some discussion concerning this motion and Randy Carter withdrew his motion and Steve Bates withdrew his second. Tim Boardwine made a motion, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to table the matter concerning Wise County School Board FY2025/26 Budget to a later date. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: RESOLUTION APPROVING COUNTY FY2025/26

A motion was made by Clarence Peters, Jr., seconded by John Schoolcraft, to table the matter concerning the County FY2025/26 Budget to a later date. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: COURTHOUSE WINDOW REPLACEMENT CONTRACT

A motion was made by Clarence Peters, Jr., seconded by Bob Adkins, to approve the Courthouse window replacement contract. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: RESOLUTION – VPSA REFUNDING

A motion was made by John Schoolcraft, seconded by Steve Bates, to approve the VPSA Refunding Resolution. There was some discussion concerning this motion and John Schoolcraft withdrew his motion and Steve Bates withdrew his second. Fred Lunsford made a motion, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to table the matter concerning the VPSA Refunding to a later date. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: FIRST QUARTER APPROPRIATIONS

A motion was made by Tim Boardwine, seconded by Clarence Peters, Jr., to table the First Quarter Appropriations. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: RESOLUTION – PPTRA BUDGET

A motion was made by Clarence Peters, Jr., seconded by John Schoolcraft, to approve the Resolution for the PPTRA Budget. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION # 18-2025

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

IN RE: RESOLUTION – COMMITTING UNSPENT BUDGETED MONIES AS OF JUNE 30, 2025, TO SCHOOL DEBT SERVICE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A motion was made by Chairman Rivers, seconded by Randy Carter, to approve the Resolution for Committing Unspent Budgeted Monies as of June 30, 2025, to School Debt Service and Economic Development. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION # 19-2025

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

IN RE: HIRING FREEZE

A motion was made by Chairman Rivers, seconded by Randy Carter, to place an immediate hiring freeze on all county departments to the extent allowed by law with no positions being filled without Board approval. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: PETITION FOR REFERENDUM FOR ELECTRIC UTILITY AUTHORITY

A motion was made by Clarence Peters, Jr., seconded by Tim Boardwine, to proceed with the petition for a referendum to be held on the question of whether the County should create an electric authority to operate within the County, by the County. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: ZONING REQUEST PERTAINING TO PERMITTED USES WITHIN THE M-1 AND M-2 ZONING DISTRICTS

A motion was made by John Schoolcraft, seconded by Clarence Peters, Jr., to approve the Amendment to Zoning Ordinance (2-1991). The motion was unanimously approved.

ORDINANCE # 1-2025

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

IN RE: REQUEST BY MARK BROYLES FOR A CHANGE OF ZONING ON PARCEL #014712 FROM AN R-2 TO AN A-RR.

A motion was made by Fred Lunsford, seconded by Randy Carter, to approve the recommendation of the Planning Commission to deny the request for a change of zoning on Parcel #014712 from an R-2 to an A-RR. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: RESOLUTION – SECONDARY SIX YEAR PLAN

A motion was made by Fred Lunsford, seconded by Randy Carter, to approve the Resolution – Secondary Six Year Plan, as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION # 20-2025

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

IN RE: CHANGING 3RD DUE EMS AGENCY FOR SANDY RIDGE AND ST. PAUL RESPONSE ZONES FROM LIFECARE TO PROMED

A motion was made by Clarence Peters, Jr., seconded by Tim Boardwine, to approve changing 3rd Due EMS Agency for Sandy Ridge and St. Paul response zones from Lifecare to Pro Med. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: ORDINANCE - REQUEST TO CLOSE AND VACATE A PORTION OF A 40-FT. ALLEYWAY IDENTIFIED AS SMITH STREET BETWEEN PROPERTIES (PARCEL ID 010711, 012939 & 010056)

A motion was made by Clarence Peters, Jr., seconded by Tim Boardwine, to approve the Ordinance to close and vacate a portion of a 40-ft. alleyway identified as Smith Street between properties (Parcel ID 010711, 012939 & 010056). The motion was unanimously approved.

ORDINANCE #2-2025

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

IN RE: DEED – WISE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD – SURPLUS PROPERTY TO TOWN OF WISE

A motion was made by Bob Adkins, seconded by Randy Carter, to approve the deed conveying Wise County School Board surplus property to the Town of Wise. There was some discussion concerning the motion and Bob Adkins withdrew his motion and Randy Carter withdrew his second. A motion was made by Bob Adkins, seconded by Randy Carter, to table the issue pertaining to the deed for Wise County School Board surplus property. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: RESOLUTION – ESTABLISH ANNUAL COMPENSATION FOR WISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

A motion was made by Bob Adkins, seconded by Clarence Peters, Jr., to approve the Resolution to establish annual compensation for the Wise County Board of Supervisors. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION # 21-2025

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

IN RE: RESOLUTION – CHILDREN AT PLAY SIGN – 4TH AVE., E., BIG STONE GAP, VA

A motion was made by Chairman Rivers, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to approve the Resolution for Children at Play signs to be erected at 4th Avenue, East, Big Stone Gap, VA. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION # 22-2025

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

IN RE: BUDGET AMENDMENTS

A motion was made by Fred Lunsford, seconded by Randy Carter, to approve budget amendments #36 through #43 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: APPROVE LEASE FUNDING OF VEHICLES

A motion was made by Tim Boardwine, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to approve the lease funding of vehicles. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: RESOLUTION – SUPPORT FOR RATE INCREASE FOR BLACK LUNG BENEFITS

A motion was made by Tim Boardwine, seconded by Clarence Peters, Jr., to approve the Resolution for Support for a Rate Increase for Black Lung Benefits. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION # 23-2025

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

IN RE: APPOINTMENT – REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY

A motion was made by Steve Bates, seconded by Bob Adkins to re-appoint Robert England to the Redevelopment and Housing Authority for a four-year term. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: APPOINTMENT – BUILDING CODE AND APPEALS BOARD

A motion was made by Chairman Rivers, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to table this appointment. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: APPOINTMENT – LENOWISCO PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

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

A motion was made by Chairman Rivers, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to re-appoint Robert Bloomer to the LENOWISCO Planning District Commission for a three-year term. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: LONESOME PINE YOUTH SERVICES BOARD

A motion was made by Steve Bates, seconded by Randy Carter, to re-appoint Teresa Adkins to the Lonesome Pine Youth Services Board for a four-year term. Bob Adkins abstained from the vote. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Rivers, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to re-appoint Cecilia Robinette to the Lonesome Pine Youth Services Board for a four-year term. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: APPOINTMENT – MECC ADVISORY BOARD

A motion was made by Steve Bates, seconded by Bob Adkins, to re-appoint Michael W. Hatfield to the MECC Advisory Board for a four-year term. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Randy Carter, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to appoint Gail Lunsford to the MECC Advisory Board for a four-year term. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Chairman Rivers, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to appoint Amy Hubbard to the MECC Advisory Board for a four-year term. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by John Schoolcraft, seconded by Chairman Rivers, to table the District 3 appointment to fill the vacancy of Mike Abbott to the MECC Advisory Board. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: APPOINTMENT – MOUNTAIN EMPIRE REGIONAL BUSINESS INCUBATOR BOARD

A motion was made by Chairman Rivers, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to table this appointment. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: CANCEL JULY MEETING

A motion was made by Tim Boardwine, seconded by Randy Carter, to cancel the July meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: CHANGE DATE FOR AUGUST MEETING DUE TO SCHEDULING CONFLICT WITH VACO MEETING

A motion was made by Steve Bates, seconded by Bob Adkins, to change the date of the August meeting to August 7, 2025, at 6pm at the Wise County School Board Education Center, 628 Lake Street, Wise, VA. The motion was unanimously approved.

BOARD COMMENTS

There was some discussion on the following topics:

- High Knob Music Festival
- VA/KY District Fair

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- Tate Brothers Memorial Bridge dedication ceremony to take place on June 13, 2025, at 11am
- The courthouse will be closed on June 19, 2025, in observance of Juneteenth
- Litter grant was awarded, and monies were spent to purchase signage

RECESS

A motion was made by Fred Lunsford, seconded by Randy Carter to recess this meeting until June 25, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. The motion was unanimously approved.

ATTEST:

WISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Michael W. Hatfield, Clerk

J. H. Rivers, Chairman

The Wise County Board of Supervisors met in a Recessed Meeting on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 11:00 a.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: None.
Honorable John T. Schoolcraft, Vice-Chairman
Honorable Fred Luntsford
Honorable Randy Carter
Honorable Robert R. Adkins
Honorable Steve Bates
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

IN RE: RESOLUTION APPROVING COUNTY FY2025/26

A motion was made by Tim Boardwine, seconded by Bob Adkins, to approve the County FY2025/26 Budget, as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION # 24-2025

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

IN RE: RESOLUTION APPROVING SCHOOL BOARD FY 2025/26 BUDGET

A motion was made by Randy Carter, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to approve the Resolution approving the Wise County School Board FY2025/26 Budget, as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION # 25-2025

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

IN RE: RESOLUTION – VPSA REFUNDING

A motion was made by Steve Bates, seconded by Tim Boardwine, to approve the VPSA Refunding Resolution. There was some discussion among the Board concerning this motion.

Aye -
Fred Lunsford
Randy Carter
Bob Adkins
Steve Bates
John Schoolcraft
Tim Boardwine

Nay –
Chairman Rivers
Clarence Peters, Jr.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 26-2025

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

IN RE: FIRST QUARTER APPROPRIATIONS

A motion was made by Fred Lunsford, seconded by Bob Adkins, to approve the First Quarter Appropriations. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: DEED – WISE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD – SURPLUS PROPERTY TO TOWN OF WISE

A motion was made by Chairman Rivers, seconded by Fred Lunsford, to table the issue pertaining to the deed for Wise County School Board surplus property. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: APPOINTMENT – BUILDING CODE AND APPEALS BOARD

A motion was made by Chairman Rivers, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to table this appointment. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: APPOINTMENT – MECC ADVISORY BOARD

Chairman Rivers announced that the MECC Advisory Board had rejected the appointment of Amy Hubbard stating she resided in Lee County, VA. Further, Chairman Rivers stated that Ms. Hubbard requested her name be withdrawn. A motion was made by Chairman Rivers, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to appoint Kim Mullins to the MECC Advisory Board for a four-year term. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by John Schoolcraft, seconded by Chairman Rivers, to table the District 3 (Mike Abbott) appointment to the MECC Advisory Board. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: APPOINTMENT – MOUNTAIN EMPIRE REGIONAL BUSINESS INCUBATOR BOARD

A motion was made by Chairman Rivers, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to appoint Amy Hubbard to the Mountain Empire Regional Business Incubator Board for a four-year term. The motion was unanimously approved.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- Ballard is requesting support for opposing Medicaid cuts
- Wise Little League is requesting donations for girls' softball to travel to state tournament

ADJOURN

A motion was made by John Schoolcraft, seconded by Randy Carter to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 a.m. The motion was unanimously approved.

ATTEST:

WISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Michael W. Hatfield, Clerk

J. H. Rivers, Chairman