

Board of Supervisors – September 8, 2022 Regular Meeting

The Wise County Board of Supervisors met in a Regular Meeting on Thursday, September 8, 2022 @ 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 August 11, 2022, as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

AGENDA

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

IN RE: PUBLIC HEARING – NAMING OF ROAD – VELDON DOTSON BLVD

A public hearing was duly advertised for this date to receive citizens comments regarding a proposed naming of the road located at entrance to Town of Wise Sports Complex as Veldon Dotson Blvd.

There being no one to speak, the public hearing was closed.

IN RE: MECC PROMISE PROGRAM

Dr. Kristen Westover provided the Board with a power point presentation on the MECC Promise Program.

The mission of the Promise Program is to cultivate a community of care that provides students with guidance & tools that enhance opportunities for academics and personal success. The program helps students discover their talents and developing them into strengths. Promise Programs open doors to our community colleges for students traditionally underserved.

Dr. Westover provided information on our educational needs in Wise County and Southwest Virginia. MECC's goal is to increase educational attainment in our region and to:

- Provide Wise County students the same mechanism for educational attainment available in East Tennessee and other areas of Virginia.
- Increase educational attainment of Wise and SWVA region
- Prepare students to fill current and future jobs in our region

This Promise Program requires an average annual gift of \$60,000 from Wise County to support every Wise County graduate starting with the graduation class of 2023. Any funding not spent, would be carried over to the next year. Any additional funding needed for Wise County students would be covered by MECC Foundation.

IN RE: SUN TRIBE DEVELOPMENT SOLAR PROJECT

Sun Tribe CEO Danny Van Clief and Betsy Arlen, representing Sun Tribe Development, provided the Board with a power point presentation on the Sun Tribe Solar Project and its benefits.

Sun Tribe Development is the utility-scale development arm of Sun Tribe. The intent of Sun Tribe Development is to develop a long-range plan to convert abandoned land mines properties to operating solar farms. Solar is an economic engine. Developing a solar farm does create direct and indirect economic impact.

Five different sites in Wise County are designated to become utility-scale solar farms over the next few years

Ms. Arlen, stated that Sun Tribe's responsibility is to assemble the approvals necessary to site, finance, own and operate a solar power facility. This usually takes 3-4 years. She explained, in detail, the following process:

- Development Plan
- Project Timelines & Tax Revenue Projections
- Permitting Plan
- Construction and Operation
- Community Benefits Program

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Walter Crouse, a resident of the Hurricane Section of Wise County, voiced his frustration on the following:

- VDOT's failure in keeping the highway roadsides mowed, and the ditch lines cleaned out, which in many cases, cause flooding
- PSA needs to cut minimum water rate usage in the Pound area from 1,500 gallons
- Wise County needs to do more recycling to save space in the landfill

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

IN RE: CONSENT AGENDA

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

IN RE: APPROPRIATIONS 2ND QUARTER

Approved the 2nd quarter appropriations as presented

IN RE: RESOLUTION EMERGENCY SERVICES & FIREFIGHTING ORGANIZATIONS

Approved the resolution granting approval for emergency services and firefighting organizations to operate within their locality

RESOLUTION # 23 - 2022

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

IN RE: RESOLUTION – SANDY RIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT FIREFIGHTING SERVICES

Approved the resolution granting approval for Sandy Ridge Fire Department to provide firefighting services within designated boundaries

RESOLUTION # 24 - 2022

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

IN RE: MOU WITH WAIVER-RELEASE– CREEKSIDE DRIVE CULVERT REPAIR

Approved the MOU With Waiver-Release whereas Wise County has been requested to utilize the gravel fund to assist residents along Creekside Drive in repairing and/or replacing a culvert crossing right of way for ingress and egress to their homes washed out by the flood event of August 2022, wherein the County of Wise declared a flooding emergency.

The motion to approve the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

IN RE: VELDON DOTSON BLVD ROAD NAME

A public hearing was held on 9-8-2022 to receive citizens' comments on the proposed naming of a road located at the entrance to Town of Wise Sports Complex as Veldon Dotson Blvd.

There was no opposition to the proposed name.

A motion was made by Steve Bates, seconded by Bob Adkins, to approve the naming of the bridge located at the entrance to the Town of Wise Sports complex as Veldon Dotson Blvd. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: FIRE AND EMS ALLOCATION

A motion was made by Randy Carter, seconded by James Lawson, to increase the Fire and Ems allocation by an additional \$15,000 to each active Fire Department and each active EMS Department whose base of operations is in Wise County, and further that money will not be distributed to an agency until the County receives a completed financial form. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chairman Rivers noted that the financial forms have been revised to include the number of volunteers and paid employees.

Jack Mullins advised the Board that two (2) Departments have not submitted their financial forms.

IN RE: THOMPSON & LITTON AGREEMENT – CONSULTANT & ADVISOR – HVAC DESIGN -COURTHOUSE

A motion was made by Fred Luntsford, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to approve the Agreement with T&L to engage their services as Consultant & Advisor for the design of a new HVAC System for the old side of the Courthouse. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: CHANGE OF NOVEMBER MEETING DATE

Administrator Hatfield informed the Board that due to the November Election falling on the 8th, which is the November meeting date of the School Board, the School Board has moved its November 8, 2022, meeting to Thursday November 10, 2022, which is the November meeting date of the Board of Supervisors. At this point, the Board of Supervisors needs to move its November 10, 2022, meeting to another day.

A motion was made by Randy Carter, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to move the Board of Supervisors 2022, November meeting date to Thursday, November 3, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at the School Board Education Center in Wise. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: BUDGET AMENDMENTS

A motion was made by John Schoolcraft, seconded by Steve Bates, to approve budget amendments #5 thru #10, as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: APPOINTMENT – BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

A motion was made by Fred Luntsford, seconded by Randy Carter, to table the expired term of Haskel Phillips on the Board of Zoning Appeals until next month. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Bob Adkins, seconded by Steve Bates, to table the expired term of Bill Wampler on the Board of Zoning Appeals until next month. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: APPOINTMENT - COAL AND GAS ROAD IMPROVEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

John Schoolcraft nominated Donald L. Ratliff for re-appointment to the Coal & and Gas Road Improvement Advisory Committee for a term of four (4) years. Fred Luntsford made a motion that nominations cease, and a letter be sent to the Circuit Court Judge for consideration of re-appointing Donald L. Ratliff to the Coal and Gas Road Improvement Advisory Committee. Bob Adkins seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: APPOINTMENT – INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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

A motion was made by James Lawson, seconded by Tim Boardwine, to re-appoint Suzanne Lawson, to the IDA for a term of four (4) years. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: APPOINTMENT – PLANNING COMMISSION

A motion was made by Steve Bates, seconded by Bob Adkins, to re-appoint Lee Turner to the Planning Commission 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 Bob Adkins, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved.

ATTEST:

WISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Michael W. Hatfield, Clerk

J. H. Rivers, Chairman