

The Smyth County Board of Supervisors held its regular meeting on Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. The location of the meeting was in the First Floor Board Room of the County Office Building, 121 Bagley Circle, Suite 100, Marion, Virginia.

**PRESENT:** Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins; Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris; Park District Supervisor Kristopher Ratliff; Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill; Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener; Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call; North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings

**ABSENT:** None.

**STAFF:** County Administrator Shawn Utt; Assistant County Administrator – Operations Lisa Richardson; Assistant County Administrator – Development Clegg Williams; Executive Assistant Auna Louthian; County Attorney Scot Farthing.

**OTHERS:** Smyth County News & Messenger; Smyth County Sheriff's Deputy and citizens

**2/8/2024 5:01 PM** Chair, Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

**2/8/2024 5:02 PM** Kenneth Pennington led the Pledge of Allegiance and Pastor Alan Gray gave the invocation.

**2/8/2024 5:04 PM** *A motion was made by Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener to approve the minutes from the January 25, 2024, meeting as presented. Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill seconded the motion.*

*After consideration, the motion PASSED by the following vote:*

**AYES:** *Chair, Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins, Vice Chair, Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill, Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener, North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings, Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call, Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris, and Park District Supervisor Kristoper Ratliff.*

**NAYS:** *None.*

**ABSTAINERS:** *None.*

**ABSENT:** *None.*

**2/8/2025 5:09 PM** Assistant County Administrator, Lisa Richardson reviewed the following County financial information:

**SMYTH COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024**

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE LISTING**  
January 2024

Request approval of the following payables:

<b><u>General County - Regular Checks</u></b>	<b>\$2,392,490.52</b>
<b><u>Fund 4 EDA - Regular Checks</u></b>	<b>\$9,473.17</b>
<b>Fund 302 Public Safety Radio</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Fund 505 Transfer Station-Regular Checks</b>	<b>\$24,025.00</b>
<b>Accounts Payable Listing - December 2023</b>	<b>\$2,425,988.69</b>
<b><u>Fund Accounts - Manual Checks</u></b>	

<b>Fund 501 Water Deposit Refunds</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Fund 747 Sheriff State Asset Forfeiture</b>	<b>\$350.49</b>
<b>Fund 748 Sheriff Purchase of Equipment</b>	<b>\$2,741.54</b>
<b>Fund 749 Recovery Court</b>	<b>\$3,411.48</b>
<b>Fund 760 Commonwealth Attorney Federal Drug Asset</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Fund 770 Circuit Court Clerk - Holding Account</b>	<b>\$237.33</b>
<b>Total Fund Accounts</b>	<b>\$6,740.84</b>
<b>TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE - January 2024</b>	<b>\$2,432,729.53</b>

**2/8/2024 5:09 PM** A motion was made by Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call to approve the accounts payable listing as presented. Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener seconded the motion.

After consideration, the motion PASSED by the following vote:

**AYES:** Chair, Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins,  
 Vice Chair, Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill,  
 Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener,  
 North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings,  
 Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call,  
 Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris, and  
 Park District Supervisor Kristoper Ratliff.

**NAYS:** None.

**ABSTAINERS:** None.

**ABSENT:** None.

**2/8/2024 5:09 PM** Chair, Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins opened citizen's time.

**2/8/2024 5:09 PM** Chair, Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins entered the following letters into the record:

1549 Laurel Valley Road  
Troutdale, VA 24378 (Smyth County)  
February 8, 2024

Smyth County Board of Supervisors  
Marion VA 24354  
Washington County Board of Supervisors  
Abingdon, VA 24210

To Whom It May Concern:

We want to voice our concerns about you even considering closing the Konnarock Waste Station.

This is very important to our community. The community needs this station. We feel that Smyth and Washington County need to continue working together for the benefit of all concerned in this matter. Konnarock should be just as important as any other community.

We implore you to keep the Konnarock Waste Station open.

Thank you for your consideration in this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Regina Roop

276-623-7152



June Roop

276-388-3962



Re: Laurel Valley Rd - 24378

Smyth County Board of Supervisors Feb 3, 2024  
and County Administrator  
121 Bagley Circle, 24354

To whom this concerns:

The project being promoted by the power company, that will result in the loss of our trash dumpsters, is short-sighted. It took us years to clean up these roads. Taking our trash to Sugar Grove is simply not realistic. Neither is Washington County's Love's Mill. It's just not practical or fair.

Pushing this project as a solution to the poor service that we consistently receive from our landline telephones and internet is a bully tactic. We pay enough already to stay connected. The loss of our trash dumpsters is not necessary, and will cause undue hardship in this community. Please prevent this project from being set up on our trash site. There must be other options.

Most sincerely,  
D Partridge 24378



Deborah Partridge  
824 Days Bottom Ln  
Troutdale, VA 24378

**2/8/2024 5:13 PM** Tom Hosteler of 226 Swamp Road, Troutdale, Brenda Shepherd, and Patty Blevins all spoke with concern regarding Washington County closing the convenience station in Konnarock as well as cell phone service in the area.

**2/8/2024 5:18 PM** Roby Parks Jr. of 187 Churchland Drive, Atkins VA asked for updates regarding the nuisance complaint across the street with continued concern for the health and safety of himself and his neighbors. Mr. Farthing updated that he is working though extended family for property ownership to serve the correct people with the violation.

**2/8/2024 5:30 PM** Commissioner of Revenue Bradley Powers updated the Board on his first month in office and offered to answer any questions at any time.

**2/8/2024 5:30 PM** Anna Lee Debord of 343 College St. Marion, VA. Mrs. Debord is a volunteer member for the Smyth County Museum. Mrs. Debord updated the Board about the

civil war uniform and upcoming schedule with the museum. Mrs. Debord thanked the Board for their continued support.

**2/8/2024 5:42 PM** With no one else wishing to speak, Chair, Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins closed citizen's time.

**2/8/2024 5:42 PM** Mr. Utt read the minutes from the January 31<sup>st</sup> Budget Committee meeting and presented the following recommendations:

Item #1:

- *Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener made a motion to recommend approving budget amendment #6 in the amount of \$81,072 for FY23/24 as presented. Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.*

**RESOLUTION  
SMYTH COUNTY BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2023/24 – AMENDMENT #6**

**WHEREAS**, the Smyth County Board of Supervisors, on June 8th, 2023 adopted the Fiscal Year 2023/24 Budget in the original amount of \$132,444,641; and

**WHEREAS**, in the meeting of August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 the Smyth County Board of Supervisors adopted an amended budget (Budget amendment #1) for Fiscal Year 2023/24 in the amount of \$135,536,020; and

**WHEREAS**, in the meeting of September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 the Smyth County Board of Supervisors adopted an amended budget (Budget amendment #2) for Fiscal Year 2023/24 in the amount of \$135,436,104; and

**WHEREAS**, in the meeting of November 9<sup>h</sup>, 2023 the Smyth County Board of Supervisors adopted an amended budget (Budget amendment #3) for Fiscal Year 2023/24 in the amount of \$135,839,906; and

**WHEREAS**, in the meeting of December 14<sup>h</sup>, 2023 the Smyth County Board of Supervisors adopted an amended budget (Budget amendment #4) for Fiscal Year 2023/24 in the amount of \$136,471,806; and

**WHEREAS**, in the meeting of January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 the Smyth County Board of Supervisors adopted an amended budget (Budget amendment #5) for Fiscal Year 2023/24 in the amount of \$136,471,806; and

**WHEREAS**, the aggregate amount of budget amendment #6 is \$81,072 which would increase the Fiscal Year 2023/24 budget to a total of \$140,059,644 as shown in greater detail on Exhibit A attached hereto.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Smyth County Board of Supervisors sets forth and approves the amended Smyth County Budget for the Fiscal Year 2023/24 in the amount of \$140,059,644.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the approval of this budget amendment #6 shall indeed constitute an appropriation of the same funds.

**Adopted** this the 8<sup>th</sup> day of February 2024

**ATTEST:**

**SMYTH COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shawn M. Utt, Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Charles Atkins, Chair



Exhibit A  
 FY2023/24  
 Budget Amendment #6 (02-08-2024)

Part 1. REVENUES

Fund	Department	Line Item Number	Account Title	Adopted Budget	Amount of Amendment	Budget with Amendment	Notes
Fund 001		001-013010-0002	Interest on Investments	\$ (844,000)	\$ 6,632	\$ (837,368)	Balance budget between Fund 001 and Fund 301
Fund 001		001-021100-0038	State Grant Money	\$ (481,000)	\$ (60,000)	\$ (541,000)	Add'l grant funding for SCSO Capital needs
Fund 001		001-013030-0004	Permits & Other Licenses	\$ (300)	\$ (21,072)	\$ (21,372)	Use this to cover costs below (\$30k last reassessment)
Fund 301		301-013001-0002	Payments from Customers	\$ (284,000)	\$ (6,632)	\$ (270,632)	Balance budget between Fund 001 and Fund 301
<b>Total Revenues With Amendment</b>				<b>\$ (139,978,572)</b>	<b>\$ (81,072)</b>	<b>\$ (140,059,644)</b>	

Part 2. EXPENDITURES

Fund	Department	Line Item Number	Account Title	Adopted Budget	Amount of Amendment	Amended Budget Amount	Notes
Fund 001	Commissioner of Revenue	001-013090-3301	Postal Services	\$ 4,300	\$ 2,300	\$ 7,000	Increased mailing costs
Fund 001	Commissioner of Revenue	001-012090-3401	Office Supplies	\$ 2,300	\$ 10,372	\$ 13,072	Office furniture and misc supplies
Fund 001	Commissioner of Revenue	001-013090-3803	Professional Serv. (NADA)	\$ 4,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 12,000	New requirements for NADA evaluations
Fund 001	Capital Improvements	001-070000-3888-78	Sheriff-Vehicle Replacements	\$ 440,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 500,000	Add'l grant funding for SCSO Capital needs
<b>Total Expenditures With Amendment</b>				<b>\$ 139,978,572</b>	<b>\$ 81,072</b>	<b>\$ 140,059,644</b>	

Revenues	\$ (139,978,572)	\$ (81,072)	\$ (140,059,644)
Expenditures	\$ 139,978,572	\$ 81,072	\$ 140,059,644
<b>Difference</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

*After consideration, the Budget Committee recommendation PASSED by the following vote:*

**AYES:** Chair, Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins,  
Vice Chair, Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill,  
Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener,  
North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings,  
Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call,  
Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris, and  
Park District Supervisor Kristoper Ratliff.

**NAYS:** None.

**ABSTAINERS:** None.

**ABSENT:** None.

Item #2:

Mr. Utt also discussed a VRS option the County can provide to Law Enforcement Officers (aka, LEOs) as an enhanced multiplier for hazardous duty benefit. The benefit would increase the multiplier from 1.7% to 1.85% and cost is based on all county employee salaries. Due to Mr. Widener's employment with the Smyth County Sheriff's Office, he requested the item go to the full Board without a formal recommendation from the Budget Committee.

- *Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill made a motion to approve the VRS enhanced hazardous duty retirement benefit multiplier option of 1.85% for all Smyth County Law Enforcement Officers effective July 2024. North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings seconded the motion.*

*After consideration, the motion PASSED by the following vote:*

**AYES:** Chair Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins,  
Vice Chair Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill,  
Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris,  
Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call,  
North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings, and  
Park District Supervisor Kristopher Ratliff.

**NAYS:** None.

**ABSTAINERS:** Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener.

**ABSENT:** None.

**2/8/2024 5:49 PM** Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener read the minutes from the January 31<sup>st</sup> Public Safety Committee meeting. Informational only, no action taken at this time.

**2/8/2024 5:51 PM** Mr. Williams presented the following recommendations from the Planning Commission from their meeting held on January 25, 2024:

Charles Bridgers rezone request:

- *After discussion, Mr. Spence made a motion to recommend the Board of Supervisors approve Mr. Charles Bridgers request for a map amendment to rezone his property from Residential to Agriculture/Rural. The property is identified as tax map number 65-A-48K and is located across from 2121/beside 2085 Scratch Gravel Road, Marion. The motion was seconded by Ms. Meadows and unanimously approved by the Planning Commission.*

After review and consideration, the following motion was made:

- *Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener made a motion to follow the Planning Commission's recommendation and approve the request of Mr. Charles Bridgers for a map amendment to rezone his property from Residential to Agriculture/Rural. The property is identified as tax map number 65-A-48K and is located across from 2121/beside 2085 Scratch Gravel Road, Marion. Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill seconded the motion.*

*After consideration, the motion PASSED by the following vote:*

*AYES: Chair, Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins,  
Vice Chair, Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill,  
Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener,  
North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings,  
Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call,  
Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris, and  
Park District Supervisor Kristoper Ratliff.*

*NAYS: None.*

*ABSTAINERS: None.*

*ABSENT: None.*

DeBusk Farms LLC special use permit for recreational vehicle park:

- *Mr. Spence made a motion to recommend the Board of Supervisors approve DeBusk Farms LLC's special use permit for a Recreational Vehicle Park on property identified as tax map number 41-A109B, located between 1528 and 1366 Buckeye Hollow Road, Saltville, with the condition it expires in six years. The motion was seconded by Mr. Campbell and unanimously passed.*

*After review and consideration, the following motion was made:*

- *A motion was made by Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener to follow the Planning Commission's recommendation and approve DeBusk Farms LLC's special use permit for a Recreational Vehicle Park on property identified as tax map number 41-A-109B, located between 1528 and 1366 Buckeye Hollow Road, Saltville, with the condition it expires in six years. Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill seconded the motion.*

*After consideration, the motion PASSED by the following vote:*

*AYES: Chair, Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins,  
Vice Chair, Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill,  
Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener,  
North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings,  
Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call,  
Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris, and  
Park District Supervisor Kristoper Ratliff.*

*NAYS: None.*

*ABSTAINERS: None.*

*ABSENT: None.*

James Harper special use permit for service business:

- *Mr. Spence made a motion to recommend the Board of Supervisors decline the special use permit requested by Mr. James Craig Harper for a service business on property identified as tax map number 41A-4-2, located beside 74 South Wood Lane, Saltville. The motion was seconded by Mr. Campbell and unanimously passed.*



- *After further discussion, Mr. Davidson Jr. made a motion to recommend the Board of Supervisors schedule a public hearing to consider a map amendment to rezone Mr. Harper's property from Agricultural/Rural to Commercial. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spence, and the following vote was recorded.*

**2/8/2024 5:54 PM** Mr. Williams introduced Mr. Haper who was unable to attend the Public Hearing to hear comments on his request. Mr. Harper shared his frustrations with neighbors not in agreeance with any business he attempts to put in. Mr. Harper stated he did approach all the surrounding neighbors prior to purchasing the property to make sure they would be okay with the service business he planned to locate on the property. Mr. Utt then read the following letter from the neighbors who were not in attendance into the record:

Board of Supervisors  
Bagley Circle  
Marion, VA 24354

Members of the Board of Supervisors:

This letter is in regards to Mr. James Craig Harper's request for a Special Use Permit for a Service Business. As adjoining landowners, we are seeking your help in maintaining the land's current zoning as Agricultural/Rural. Under the current zoning, the property maintains its natural esthetics. Mr. Harper has a plan with little sustenance. There is simply a 50' building with a 50'x50' storage lot. We have great concerns that no stipulations will be set in place to protect us or the extended community and fear that our beautiful community will take on the appearance of other such business properties that Mr. Harper owns and operates. We rest assured that the Board of Supervisors will handle this in an appropriate manner.

<u>Bill Woodward</u> Printed Name	<u>[Signature]</u> Signature
<u>Nanine Woodward</u> Printed Name	<u>[Signature]</u> Signature
<u>James Carter</u> Printed Name	<u>[Signature]</u> Signature
<u>Dottie Carter</u> Printed Name	<u>[Signature]</u> Signature
<u>Michael D Morgan</u> Printed Name	<u>[Signature]</u> Signature
<u>Teresa T. Morgan</u> Printed Name	<u>[Signature]</u> Signature
<u>John Dinsmore</u> Printed Name	<u>[Signature]</u> Signature
<u>Tammy Dinsmore</u> Printed Name	<u>[Signature]</u> Signature

- *Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill made a motion to table the current request for Special Use Permit and to schedule a joint public hearing for consideration of rezoning Mr. Craig Harper's properties located beside 74 South Wood Lane, Saltville from Agricultural/Rural to Commercial and table the special use permit request made by Mr. Harper. Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener seconded the motion.*

*After consideration, the motion PASSED by the following vote:*

**AYES:** Chair, Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins,  
Vice Chair, Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill,  
Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener,  
North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings,  
Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call,  
Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris, and  
Park District Supervisor Kristoper Ratliff.

**NAYS:** None.

**ABSTAINERS:** None.

**ABSENT:** None.

**2/8/2024 6:15 PM** Mr. Utt presented an updated resolution for Project Pathfinder in partnership with the Legal Aid Society of Southwest Virginia. Mr. Utt shared the Board had approved a similar resolution for this project in January but Mr. Carico has been directed by the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority to reapply for a regional effort for Project Pathfinder and needs a revised resolution to reflect that.

***RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR VIRGINIA OPIOID ABATEMENT AUTHORITY  
COOPERATIVE PARTNERSHIP GRANT FUNDING***

***WHEREAS***, the Smyth County Board of Supervisors seeks to mitigate and abate the impacts of the opioid epidemic throughout Smyth County; and

***WHEREAS***, the mission of the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) is to abate and remediate the opioid epidemic in the Commonwealth through financial support in the form of grants, donations, or other assistance; and

***WHEREAS***, the OAA operates a financial assistance program to support certain cooperative partnerships of cities and/or counties in Virginia that implement regional efforts to treat, prevent, and reduce opioid use disorder and the misuse of opioids; and

***WHEREAS***, Smyth County joins other Southwest Virginia counties who have committed to work together to develop and jointly submit an application for regional cooperative partnership funding from the OAA for **Project Pathfinder** operated by the nonprofit organization **Southwest Virginia Legal Aid**; and

***WHEREAS***, all Southwest Virginia partnership counties are located within the same region, Region 3, of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services; and

***WHEREAS***, Smyth County agrees they will execute a legally binding operational agreement formalizing the cooperating partnership if the application for financial assistance is approved; and

***WHEREAS***, Smyth County has agreed to serve as the fiscal agent for the cooperative partnership if it is awarded; and

***WHEREAS***, Smyth County supports the request for grant funding from the OAA for Fiscal Year 2025, with plans by the partnership to apply for renewal funds for fiscal years 2026-2029; and

***WHEREAS***, in support of this cooperative partnership, Smyth County has agreed to allocate **\$10,000.00** of its Direct Distribution OAA funds for Fiscal Year 2025 and has agreed to review the allocation amount annually in support thereof.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, the Smyth County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes Shawn Utt, Smyth County Administrator to execute the grant application to the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority, to accept the grant award, and to execute all documents in connection therewith.

**ADOPTED** this 8 day of February, 2024.

**ATTEST:**

**SMYTH COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Shawn M. Utt, Clerk of the Board*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Charles Atkins, Chair*

- *Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill made a motion to approve the Resolution of Support for Project Pathfinder and Providing Signatory Authority for the proposal for grant funding from the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority. Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call seconded the motion.*

*After consideration, the motion PASSED by the following vote:*

*AYES: Chair, Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins,  
Vice Chair, Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill,  
Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener,  
North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings,  
Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call,  
Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris, and  
Park District Supervisor Kristoper Ratliff.*

*NAYS: None.*

*ABSTAINERS: None.*

*ABSENT: None.*

**2/8/2024 6:19 PM County Attorney Report -**

County Attorney, Scot Farthing shared he has prepared the deed for the Saltville Rescue Squad property and is requesting the formal acceptance from the Board.

- *Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener made a motion to accept ownership of 126 Battle Ground Avenue, Saltville, VA 24370 identified as tax map number 28A4-A-10. Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris seconded the motion.*

*After consideration, the motion PASSED by the following vote:*

*AYES: Chair, Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins,  
Vice Chair, Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill,  
Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener,  
North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings,  
Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call,  
Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris, and  
Park District Supervisor Kristoper Ratliff.*

*NAYS: None.*

*ABSTAINERS: None.*

*ABSENT: None.*

**2/8/2024 6:22 PM County Administrator Report -**

Mr. Utt updated the Board on VDOT projects that were previously requested as well as a reassessment update.

**2/8/2024 6:28 PM Supervisor Comment Time -**

Park District Supervisor Kristopher Ratliff thanked everyone for their hard work.

North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings shared his appreciation for the staff.

Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins shared his condolences for Jesse Choate's family. Mr. Atkins also thanked staff for organizing the recent VACO trip and appreciated the chance to go speak on behalf of Smyth County.

Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris also shared his condolences for Mr. Choate's family. Mr. Parris also thanked staff for organizing VACO and said he believes it was a successful trip. He then thanked Mrs. Deel for her impact she had on the community being Rye Valley's representative the past four years.

Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill shared information about the Teachers for Tomorrow program as well as the State Superintendent for VA making a trip to Smyth County next week with hopes of rolling out a similar program throughout the state. Mr. Sturgill shared his condolences for Mr. Choate's family. Mr. Sturgill shared his appreciation of the impact Mr. Choate had on his community as a public servant with a true heart for students.

Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener shared his appreciation for the well-organized VACO trip. Mr. Widener also shared his condolences for Mr. Choate's family and his appreciation for the special place Mr. Choate will always hold in the community and hopes to carry on in a direction he would appreciate. He thanked the Board for their willingness to work together and always put citizens first.

Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call thanked staff and shared his condolences for Mr. Choate's family. Mr. Call wished everyone a safe trip home.

**2/8/2024 6:45 PM** With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.