

 The Smyth County Board of Supervisors held its regular meeting on Thursday, March 28th, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. The location of the meeting was held in the First Floor Board Room of the County Office Building, 121 Bagley Circle, Suite 100, Marion, Virginia.

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

**ABSENT:** Park District Supervisor Kristopher Ratliff; Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener.

**STAFF:** County Administrator, Shawn Utt; Assistant County Administrator- Development Clegg Williams; County Attorney Scot Farthing; Executive Administrative Assistant/Deputy Clerk Auna Louthian.

**OTHERS:** Smyth County News and Messenger, Sheriff's Office, and Citizens

**3/28/2024 5:01 PM** Chair, Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins called the meeting to order.

**3/28/2024 5:01 PM** Executive Assistant, Auna Louthian then led the pledge of allegiance.

**3/28/2024 5:01 PM** Director of Community and Economic Development, Kendra Hayden, led the invocation.

**3/28/2024 5:02 PM** Chair, Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins introduced Gina Waddle from Evergreen Soil and Water Conservation District. Mrs. Waddle thanked the Board for their annual contribution to Evergreen Soil and Water Conservation District. Mrs. Waddle spoke about the impact of programs and activities they are participating in that benefit Smyth County. Mrs. Waddle provided a list to the Board of current projects. The Board thanked Mrs. Waddle for all that Evergreen Soil and Water Conservation District does for the well-being of Smyth County.

**3/28/2024 5:13 PM** Chair, Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins introduced Patty Youngman with the Rich Valley Fair. Ms. Youngman gave an update on various projects in progress, noting the HVAC units were coming along and they are still working to get the contractor finalized for the new kitchen. Ms. Youngman thanked the Board as well as the EDA for their continued support.

**3/28/2024 5:19 PM** Mr. Utt shared representatives from Davenport & Company will attend the April 4<sup>th</sup> Budget Committee meeting but have sent over the Resolution Authorizing the sale and award of the General Obligation Bond, in a principal amount to not exceed \$13,450,000 as well as the Local Bond Sale and Financing Agreement for review and consideration.

- A motion was made by Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill to authorize County Administrator to execute any and all documents to close the General Obligation Bond. North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings seconded the motion.

*After consideration, the motion PASSED by the following roll call 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,

**NAYS:** None.

**ABSTAINERS:** None.

**ABSENT:** Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener, and  
Park District Supervisor Kristopher Ratliff.

**3/28/2024 5:21 PM** Minutes from the March 14th, 2024 meeting.

- A motion was made by Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call to approve the meeting minutes of the March 14th, 2024 meeting. 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,

**NAYS:** None.

**ABSTAINERS:** None.

**ABSENT:** Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener, and  
Park District Supervisor Kristopher Ratliff.

**3/28/2024 5:22 PM** Chair, Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins opened Citizens Time.

**3/28/2024 5:22 PM** David Fulton of 423 Pearl Ave., Marion, requested an update on the progress of the truck stop project at exit 39. Mr. Williams shared the property owner will give a formal update to the Board of Supervisors soon.

**3/28/2024 5:25 PM** Mr. Utt read the minutes from the March 21st, 2024 Insurance Committee meeting and presented the following recommendation:

- *A motion was made by Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill to recommend maintaining The Local Choice health insurance proportional rates (80% County, 20% employee) with the 11% increase. Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.*

*After consideration, the Committee recommendation 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,

**NAYS:** None.

**ABSTAINERS:** None.

**ABSENT:** Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener, and  
Park District Supervisor Kristopher Ratliff.

**3/28/2024 5:27 PM** Mr. Utt read the minutes from the March 21st, 2024 Personnel Committee meeting and presented the following recommendation:

- *A motion was made by Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris to recommend approving the personnel policy changes as presented with the exception of the social media and travel policies. Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.*

*After consideration, the Committee recommendation 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,

**NAYS:** None.

**ABSTAINERS:** None.

**ABSENT:** Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener, and  
Park District Supervisor Kristopher Ratliff.

**3/28/2024 5:30 PM** Mr. Utt read the minutes from the March 21st, 2024 Budget Committee meeting and presented the following recommendations:

**4<sup>th</sup> QUARTER APPROPRIATIONS**

• General County	\$10,500,000	Fund 001
• Schools – Operating Fund	\$12,873,794	Fund 009
• Public Safety Radio Bond	\$ 2,000,000	Fund 302
• Water/Sewer Department Refund	\$ 2,500	Fund 501
• Department of Social Services	\$ 1,646,733	Fund 013
• Recovery Court	\$ 43,400	Fund 749

**Total for 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr. – FY23/24            \$27,066,427**

Following discussion, the subsequent motion was made:

- *Motion was made by Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris to recommend approving the requested 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Appropriations in the total amount of \$27,066,427 as presented. Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.*

*After consideration, the Committee recommendation 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,*

*NAYS:            None.*

*ABSTAINERS:   None.*

*ABSENT:        Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener, and  
Park District Supervisor Kristopher Ratliff.*

- *Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill made a motion to recommend adopting the resolution for Bristol Improvement Commission and Use of Casino Tax Revenues. Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener seconded the motion.*

*After consideration, the Committee recommendation 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,

**NAYS:** None.

**ABSTAINERS:** None.

**ABSENT:** Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener, and  
Park District Supervisor Kristopher Ratliff.

- A motion was made by Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill to recommend approving a check made payable to Wythe County for half of the taxes on Airplanes collected in 2023 totaling \$6,765.69. Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener seconded the motion, as it was unanimously approved.

*After consideration, the Committee recommendation 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,

**NAYS:** None.

**ABSTAINERS:** None.

**ABSENT:** Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener, and  
Park District Supervisor Kristopher Ratliff.

**3/28/2024 5:38 PM** County Attorney Report:

County Attorney Scot Farthing stated he had nothing new to report at this time.

**3/28/2024 5:38 PM** County Administrator Report:

Mr. Utt shared a request he received to appoint Veronica Goade to replace Regina Eller to represent The Family Resource Center on the County's Community Policy Management Team.

- A motion was made by Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill to recommend appointing Verica Goade to fill the unexpired term of Regina Pack Eller to the Community Policy Management Team. Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener seconded the motion, as it was unanimously approved.

*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,*

*NAYS: None.*

*ABSTAINERS: None.*

*ABSENT: Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener, and  
Park District Supervisor Kristopher Ratliff.*

Mr. Utt noted that staff had been working with the owner of the convenience station in Camp that we currently lease. She is willing to sell, and we are working through the variance process with the Board of Zoning Appeals due to the relatively small size of the property. He plans to be able to report more at the next Solid Waste Committee meeting.

**3/28/2024 5:39 PM Supervisor Comment Time**

Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call thanked the staff for all they do and shared he was glad to see everyone.

Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris thanked all those in attendance. He shared his wish to do what is best for the betterment of the County.

Vice Chair, Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill thanked Sarah Gillispie, Executive Director of the Smyth County Chamber of Commerce for her work and dedication to the Manufacturing Excellence Program and the organization of the graduation ceremony.

North Fork District Rick Billings thanked staff for keeping him informed and feels as if the County is going in the right direction.

Chair, Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins shared it is nice to see Smyth County being showcased in positive lights.

**3/28/2024 5:47 PM** With no further business to discuss, Chair, Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins recessed until the joint public hearing with the Planning Commission at 7:00pm.

**3/28/2024 7:18 PM** Mr. Atkins called the Board of Supervisors meeting back to order.

**3/28/2024 7:18 PM** Mr. Williams presented the Planning Commission's recommendation after tonight's joint public hearing.

**3/28/2024 7:18 PM** Rye Valley District Supervisor, Jason Parris asked how long Mr. Harper has to remove the hogs. Mr. Williams answered that they would work on a plan of action with Mr. Harper.

**3/28/2024 7:19 PM** Mr. Utt stated Mr. Harper's special use permit was previously tabled and if the Board approves the map amendment, then the special use permit will be null and void.

**3/28/2024 7:19 PM** Mr. Atkins opened the floor for a motion to be made to rezone Mr. Harper's property from Agricultural/Rural to Commercial. He also expressed concern about the special use permit allowing the Board to make conditions, while rezoning does not.

**3/28/2024 7:33 PM** Mr. Billings asked if Mr. Harper will still be required to obtain VDOT approval for an entrance if the property is rezoned Commercial. Mr. Williams confirmed he would.

**3/28/2024 7:34 PM**

- *Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call made a motion to accept the Planning Commission recommendation to rezoning the properties at the intersection of Hwy 107, Valley Road, and South Wood Lane (Tax Map Nos. 41A-4-1 and 41A-4-2) from A/R to Commercial. 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,  
Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris,  
Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call,  
North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings,*

**NAYS:** *None.*

**ABSTAINERS:** *None.*

**ABSENT:** *Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener, and  
Park District Supervisor Kristopher Ratliff.*

**3/28/2024 7:35 PM**

- *Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill made a motion to follow the Planning Commission's recommendation and deny the Special Use Permit request for a Service Business located at the intersection of Hwy 107, Valley Road, and South Wood Lane (Tax Map Nos. 41A-4-1 and 41A-4-2). 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,  
Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris,  
Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call,  
North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings,*

*NAYS: None.*

*ABSTAINERS: None.*

*ABSENT: Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener, and  
Park District Supervisor Kristopher Ratliff.*

**3/28/2024 7:36 PM** Mr. Atkins adjourned the Board of Supervisors meeting.