

 The Smyth County Board of Supervisors held its regular meeting on Thursday, May 23rd, 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; Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call; North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings; Vice Chair Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill.

ABSENT: Park District Supervisor Kristopher Ratliff.

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

5/23/2024 5:01 PM Chair, Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins called the meeting to order.

5/23/2024 5:02 PM Public Safety Administrative Assistant, Paula Clark lead the pledge of allegiance.

5/23/2024 5:02 PM Executive Assistant, Auna Louthian led the invocation.

5/23/2024 5:03 PM Minutes from the May 9th, 2024 meeting.

- *A motion was made by Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener to approve the meeting minutes of the May 9th, 2024 meeting. Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris seconded the motion.*

After consideration, the motion PASSED by the following roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAINERS: None.

ABSENT: Park District Supervisor Kristopher Ratliff

5/23/2024 5:03 PM Chair, Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins opened Citizens Time.

David Fulton of 423 Pearl Ave, Marion questioned parking issues on Main Street in Marion with possible new developments in the previous Wells Fargo Building. Mr. Utt assured that possibilities would be reviewed if a large tenant does go into the Wells Fargo Building.

Kenneth Browning of 5538 Megan Ln, Sugar Grove shared ideas of an arena to drive more development and growth within the County. Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill shared it has been looked at and would have to be strategically planned and infrastructure built to support it but it would be wonderful for the county.

5/23/2024 5:09 PM Mr. Utt read the minutes from the April 18th, 2024 Budget Committee meeting and presented the following recommendations:

- *Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill made a motion to recommend approving the SIMCON revised contract for the Courthouse construction project to include the additional \$102,615 for the HVAC errors. Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins seconded the motion with Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener abstaining.*

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

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAINERS: Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener.

ABSENT: Park District Supervisor Kristopher Ratliff.

- *Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener made a motion to recommend scheduling a public hearing on June 13th, 2024 at 5pm or thereafter to hear public comments for budget amendment #9 in the amount of \$3,143,275. 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,
Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener,
Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris,
Vice Chair Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill,
Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call, and
North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAINERS: None.

ABSENT: Park District Supervisor Kristopher Ratliff.

- *Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener made a motion to recommend approving the revised budget calendar as presented. Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill seconded the motion, and it was approved by the Committee.*

- Present Full Budget to Board of Supervisors May 30, 2024 (Special called meeting)
- Public Hearing(s) – (draft budget and rate/tax adjustments) June 13, 2024

- Adopt County Budget for FY24/25 June 20, 2024 (Moved from June 27th meeting)
- Adopt Tax Levies for FY24/25 June 20, 2024 (Moved from June 27th meeting)
- Adopt CIP for FY24/25 June 20, 2024 (Moved from June 27th meeting)

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

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

NAYS: *None.*

ABSTAINERS: *None.*

ABSENT: *Park District Supervisor Kristopher Ratliff.*

5/23/2024 5:18 PM Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill read the minutes from the April 18th, 2024 Ordinance Committee meeting and presented the following recommendations:

- *Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins made a motion to recommend scheduling a public hearing on June 20th, 2024 at 5 pm or thereafter to gain public comments on the current Floodplain Ordinance. Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill seconded the motion.*

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

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

NAYS: *None.*

ABSTAINERS: *None.*

ABSENT: *Park District Supervisor Kristopher Ratliff.*

- *Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins made a motion to recommend scheduling a public hearing on June 20th, 2024 at 5 pm or thereafter to gain public comments on the current Stormwater Management Ordinance. Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill seconded the motion.*

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

AYES: *Chair Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins,
Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener,
Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris,
Vice Chair Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill,
Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call, and*

North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings.
NAYS: *None.*
ABSTAINERS: *None.*
ABSENT: *Park District Supervisor Kristopher Ratliff.*

5/23/2024 5:21 PM Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris read the minutes from the May 16th, 2024 Surplus Committee meeting and presented the following recommendations:

- *A motion was made by North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings to recommend placing the 6 vehicles, loader, and miscellaneous items in the courthouse in surplus as is and authorize the County Administrator to dispose of the 6 vehicles and loader by any means available as well as donate the miscellaneous items from the Courthouse to the Smyth County Historical Society. Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.*

Mr. Williams explained the Historical Society has declined the donation; however, he has spoken to the Smyth County Foundation who is willing to accept the items. Following the discussion the following actions were taken:

After consideration, the Committee recommendation FAILED by the following vote:

AYES: *None.*
NAYS: *Chair Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins,
Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener,
Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris,
Vice Chair Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill,
Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call, and
North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings.*
ABSTAINERS: *None.*
ABSENT: *Park District Supervisor Kristopher Ratliff.*

5/23/2024 5:27 PM Mr. Utt discussed the Board's retreat and related strategic work plan for the next three years that was developed during the retreat. He presented the draft plan and requested the Board to consider adopting the plan to give it more value.

- *A motion was made by Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill to adopt the three-year Strategic Work Plan adding auxiliary gyms and childcare initiatives as goals to be sought. Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.*

After consideration, the motion PASSED by the following vote:

AYES: *Chair Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins,
Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener,
Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris,
Vice Chair Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill,
Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call, and
North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings.*
NAYS: *None.*
ABSTAINERS: *None.*

ABSENT: *Park District Supervisor Kristopher Ratliff.*

5/23/2024 5:39 PM County Attorney Report:

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

5/23/2024 5:39 PM County Administrator Report:

Mr. Utt shared a request he received from the Town of Marion's Director of Community and Economic Development, Ken Heath, to share in the cost of a new historic marker at the courthouse that would cost roughly \$3,500.

- *Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener made a motion to approve sharing in half the cost for a new historic marker at the courthouse with the Town of Marion. 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,
Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener,
Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris,
Vice Chair Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill, and
North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings.*

NAYS: *Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call.*

ABSTAINERS: *None.*

ABSENT: *Park District Supervisor Kristopher Ratliff.*

Mr. Utt also shared the Judicial Council of Virginia has given July 5th off to all court-related employees and he expected some of the Constitutional Offices would likely follow suit. He requested guidance from the Board about providing the additional holiday to county employees as well.

- *Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill made a motion to provide an additional paid holiday to County employee for July 5, 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,
Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener,
Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris,
Vice Chair Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill,
Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call, and
North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings.*

NAYS: *None.*

ABSTAINERS: *None.*

ABSENT: *Park District Supervisor Kristopher Ratliff.*

5/23/2024 5:56 PM Supervisor Comment Time

North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings shared his appreciation for childcare advocacy with the

Board. Mr. Billings thanked staff and shared he looks forward to all good things coming.

Chair, Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins recommended everyone that is able to see the memorial for fallen soldiers at the Courthouse for Memorial Day. Mr. Atkins also shared his appreciation growth within the VFW.

Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill reminded everyone of the Memorial Day parade and all three high schools will have students playing in a county band. Mr. Sturgill expressed his gratitude to the Board for working well together for the betterment of the County.

Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call shared his appreciation for an enjoyable Board meeting and is thankful to be getting things done.

Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris shared two appointments he wished to make:

- *Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris made a motion to appoint Derek Orr to the Smyth County Social Services Board to represent Rye Valley for a 4-year term set to expire 6/30/2028. 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,
Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener,
Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris,
Vice Chair Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill,
Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call, and
North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings.*

NAYS: None.

ABSTAINERS: None.

ABSENT: Park District Supervisor Kristopher Ratliff.

- *Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris made a motion to reappoint Montie Fleshman to the Smyth County Economic Development Authority to represent Rye Valley for a 1-year term set to expire 6/30/2025. 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,
Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener,
Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris,
Vice Chair Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill,
Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call, and
North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings.*

NAYS: None.

ABSTAINERS: None.

ABSENT: Park District Supervisor Kristopher Ratliff.

Mr. Parris then shared his appreciation for Mr. Browning's idea and is thankful for continued growth in the County.

Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener spoke regarding the truck climbing lane on I81 North bound and his concern for the potential for accidents it has caused due to the trucks having to merge as soon as they get to the top of the hill. Mr. Widener also shared his appreciation for veterans who have paid the ultimate sacrifice and also encouraged citizens to see the memorial in front of the courthouse.

5/23/2024 6:16 PM With no further business to discuss, Chair, Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins adjourned the meeting.