

The Smyth County Board of Supervisors held its regular meeting on Thursday, May 9th, 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:** 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 Sheriff's Deputy and citizens

**5/9/2024 5:02 PM** Chair, Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

**5/9/2024 5:02 PM** Kenneth Pennington, Building Inspector led the Pledge of Allegiance and Kendra Hayden, Director of Community and Economic Development gave the invocation.

**5/9/2024 5:03 PM** Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill read the following resolution for the Board's consideration:

***RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WEEK***

***WHEREAS***, more than 100,000 economic development or related professionals worldwide are committed to creating, retaining, and expanding top-tier opportunities that facilitate long-term, equitable community growth; and

***WHEREAS***, the economic development profession cultivates thriving neighborhoods, champions sustainability and resiliency, boosts economic prosperity, enhances the quality of life, and builds robust tax bases; and

***WHEREAS***, economic development professionals operate throughout diverse economic environments, including rural, suburban, and urban settings; local, state, provincial, and national governments; public-private partnerships; chambers of commerce; institutions of higher education; among many similar organizations and associations; and

***WHEREAS**, economic development professionals serve as stewards, bridging connections between community stakeholders such as residents, business leaders, elected officials, industry executives, and educational administrations, to collaborate in promoting job creation, community investment, infrastructure advancements, and an optimistic future; and*

***WHEREAS**, economic developers contribute to the betterment and progress of all communities within Smyth County, Virginia, the Mt. Rogers Region, Southwest Virginia, and the Commonwealth of Virginia as a whole.*

***WHEREAS**, since 1926, the International Economic Development Council has been a leader and driving force in advancing economic development initiatives, with a steadfast commitment to fostering growth and prosperity in communities of all sizes worldwide through equity, inclusion, sustainability, resilience, and innovation; and*

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Smyth County, Virginia recognizes the week of May 6 through May 10, 2024, as Economic Development Week, and remind individuals of the importance of this community celebration which supports expanding opportunities, bettering lives, and moving society forward.*

*Resolved, this 9th day of May 2024.*

**ATTEST:**

**SMYTH COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Charles E. Atkins, Chair*

- *Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener made a motion to adopt the Resolution in Support of Economic Development week May 6th through May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024. 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.*

5/9/2024 5:06 PM Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener read the following resolution for the Boards consideration:

**RESOLUTION OF THE SMYTH COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IN HONOR OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK**

*WHEREAS, emergency medical services is a vital public service; and*

*WHEREAS, the members of emergency medical services agencies are ready to provide life-saving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and*

*WHEREAS, access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and*

*WHEREAS, in May of 1928, Julian Stanley Wise witnessed two persons in a capsized canoe in Roanoke, and with multiple bystanders with no training, saw the need for training and organization in EMS, started the first volunteer EMS agency in Roanoke in 1929.; and,*

*WHEREAS, the emergency medical services system consists of first responders, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, emergency medical dispatchers, firefighters, police officers, educators, administrators, pre-hospital nurses, emergency nurses, emergency physicians, trained members of the public, and other out of hospital medical care providers; and*

*WHEREAS, the members of emergency medical services teams, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their life-saving skills; and*

*WHEREAS, Smyth County prides itself in the five agencies of Smyth County that provides emergency medical services; The Town of Chilhowie, The Town of Marion, Sugar Grove Lifesaving Crew, Nebo Fire Department and Smyth County for their dedication, passion, and enthusiasm; and*

*WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of emergency medical services providers by designating Emergency Medical Services Week;*

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Smyth County Board of Supervisors declares the week of May 19th to May 25th, 2024, to be Emergency Medical Services Week in Smyth County, in honor of the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our County and citizens safe.

*Adopted this the 9th day of May, 2024.*

**ATTEST:**

**SMYTH COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Charles E. Atkins, Chair

- *Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener made a motion to adopt the Resolution in Support of Emergency Medical Services week May 12<sup>th</sup> through May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024. 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.*

**5/9/2024 5:12 PM** North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings read the following resolution for the Boards consideration:

***RESOLUTION OF THE SMYTH COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IN HONOR OF  
LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND NATIONAL POLICE WEEK***

***WHEREAS***, there are more than 800,000 law enforcement officers serving in communities across the United States, including the dedicated members of the Smyth County Law Enforcement Agencies; and,

***WHEREAS***, since the first recorded death in 1786, more than 26,000 law enforcement officers in the United States have made the ultimate sacrifice and been killed in the line of duty; and,

***WHEREAS***, the names of these dedicated public servants are engraved on the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, DC where the names of fallen heroes are being added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, including 137 officers killed in 2023 and 55 this year; and,

***WHEREAS***, the Candlelight Vigil is part of National Police Week, which will be observed this year May 12-18; and

***WHEREAS***, May 15 is designated as Peace Officers Memorial Day, in honor of all fallen officers and their families and U.S. flags should be flown at half-staff;

***WHEREAS***, Smyth County prides itself in the four agencies of Smyth County that protect and serve its citizens including The Smyth County Sheriff's Office, Town of Chilhowie Police Department, Town of

*Marion Police Department, Town of Saltville Police Department for their dedication, passion, and enthusiasm; and*

***WHEREAS**, it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of Police Officers by recognizing National Police Week;*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Smyth County Board of Supervisors declares the week of May 12th to May 18th, 2024, to be National Police Week in Smyth County, in honor of the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our County and citizens safe.*

***Adopted** this the 9th day of May, 2024.*

**ATTEST:**

**SMYTH COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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Shawn M. Utt, Clerk

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Charles E. Atkins, Chair

- *North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings made a motion to adopt the Resolution in Support of National Police week May 12<sup>th</sup> through May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024. 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.*

**5/9/2024 5:13 PM** Minutes of the April 25th Board of Supervisors meeting:

- *A motion was made by North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings to approve the minutes from the April 25, 2024, meeting as presented. 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,  
North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings,  
Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call,  
Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener,  
Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris, and  
Park District Supervisor Kristoper Ratliff.*

*NAYS: None.*

*ABSTAINERS: None.*

*ABSENT: None.*

**5/9/2024 5:14 PM** Assistant County Administrator, Lisa Richardson reviewed the following County financial information:

**SMYTH COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2024**

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE LISTING  
April 2024

Request approval of the following payables:

<u>General County - Regular Checks</u>	\$2,774,607.06
<u>Fund 004 EDA - Regular Checks</u>	\$33,688.31
Fund 302 Public Safety Radio	\$38,820.72
Fund 505 Transfer Station-Regular Checks	\$0.00
Accounts Payable Listing - April 2024	\$2,847,116.09
<u>Fund Accounts - Manual Checks</u>	
Fund 501 Water Deposit Refunds	\$200.00
Fund 747 Sheriff State Asset Forfeiture	\$0.00
Fund 748 Sheriff Purchase of Equipment	\$2,770.54
Fund 749 Recovery Court	\$36,803.06
Fund 760 Commonwealth Attorney Federal Drug Asset	
Fund 770 Circuit Court Clerk - Holding Account	
Total Fund Accounts	\$39,773.60
<b>TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE - April 2024</b>	<b>\$2,886,889.69</b>

**5/9/2024 5:17 PM** A motion was made by Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call to approve the accounts payable listing 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.*

**5/9/2024 5:18 PM** Chair, Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins opened citizen's time.

Mark Chaney, Commander of Post 18 American Legion in Marion spoke about the current services of the American Legion including vital support in Smyth County Veterans and invited the Board to upcoming events.

Rusty Hamm, Marion Fire Chief thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve in his current role. Mr. Hamm also invited everyone to a swearing-in ceremony for all employees on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**5/9/2024 5:35 PM** With no one else wishing to speak, Chair, Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins closed citizen's time.

**5/9/2024 5:36 PM** Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener read the minutes from the May 2nd Public Safety Committee meeting and presented the following recommendations:

- *Rye Valley District Supervisor, Jason Parris made a motion to recommend approving the RFP for PPE/gear purchase and to allow Mr. Crawford to advertise. Chilhowie District Supervisor, Mike Sturgill seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.*

*After consideration, the Public Safety 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.*

- *Chilhowie District Supervisor, Mike Sturgill made a recommendation to approve the Mt. Rogers MOU for shared emergency management services. Rye Valley District Supervisor, Jason Parris seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.*

*After consideration, the Public Safety 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.

**5/9/2024 5:38 PM** Mr. Utt read the minutes from the May 2nd Budget Committee meeting and presented the following recommendations:

- *Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener made a motion to recommend approving budget amendment #8 in the amount of \$375,000 of revenue in the Food Service reimbursement line. Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins seconded the motion, and it was approved by the Committee with Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill abstaining.*

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

**AYES:** Chair, Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins,  
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:** Vice Chair, Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill.

**ABSENT:** None.

- *Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener made a motion to recommend approving MOU with Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates, PLLC for audit services and authorize Vice Chair, Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill and County Administrator to execute the document on behalf of the County. Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill seconded the motion, and it was approved by the Committee.*

*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.*

**5/9/2024 5:38 PM** Mr. Utt shared the Budget Committee requested the Vision Software contract be reviewed by the full Board and had no recommendation at that time. The Board reviewed the proposed agreement and discussed options with staff and Commissioner of Revenue, Bradley Powers. After discussion the following motion was rendered:

- *Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill made a motion to update the current Stonewall software to Vision to include the proposed agreement pending County Attorney review and allow the County Administrator to execute any related documents. 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.*

**5/9/2024 5:50 PM** Rye Valley District Supervisor Courtney Widener read the minutes from the May 2nd Animal Control Committee meeting and presented the following recommendation:

- *Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call made a motion to recommend approval of the Smyth County Damage Claim form in the amount of \$1,200 to James Ashby. North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.*

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

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

*NAYS: None.*

*ABSTAINERS: None.*

*ABSENT: None.*

**5/9/2024 5:56 PM** Mr. Utt presented the Board with the Motorola Radio project's Change Order #2 for review and consideration. Mr. Crawford explained the changes with market prices as well as moving the radio tower from Betty's Knob to Edgewood for a better location.

- *After consideration, a motion was made by North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings to approve the Motorola Radio project Change Order #2 in the amount of \$1,566,268.88. 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.*

**5/9/2024 6:13 PM** County Attorney Report

County Attorney, Scot Farthing had nothing to report at this time.

**5/9/2024 6:13 PM** County Administrator Report -

Mr. Utt shared staff has applied for an updated special use permit with the National Forest for St. Clair's Creek water system. In case the formal approval by the Board of Supervisors is required, Mr. Utt would like authorization from the Board to proceed.

- *A motion was made by Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill to approve the application for a Special Use Permit to the National Forrest for the Saint Clair's Creek water system project and allow County Administrator to execute all related documents. 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.*

**5/9/2024 6:17 PM** Supervisor Comment Time -

Chair, Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins thanked everyone for their attendance as well as his appreciation for the work the American Legion is putting into the veteran community.

Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill thanked the veterans for all they have sacrificed as well as those in law enforcement, fire, and EMS. Mr. Sturgill also shared graduation dates and asked for prayers for the students.

Park District Supervisor Kristopher Ratliff shared he sat on a committee last week in Richmond concerning new regulations for fire and EMS, he shared the rough working copy with Mr. Utt as he was very impressed with the result.

Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call thanked everyone for their attendance and wished them a safe drive home.

North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings shared he had two appointments to make:

- *North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings made a motion to appoint Christin Long to the Mount Rogers Community Services Board for a 3-year term set to expire 5/1/2027. 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.*

- *North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings made a motion to appoint Ryan Cox to the Smyth County Services Board following the end of a current term for a 4-year term set to expire 5/31/2028. 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,  
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.*

Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener shared his appreciation for Police, Fire, and EMS workers who each sacrifice so much to keep citizens safe. Mr. Widener also thanked Mr. Chainey for his work for the veterans and encouraged anyone who is able to help with the flag celebration in the Town of Marion at the Courthouse.

Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris shared his appreciation for police, fire, and EMS employees. Mr. Parris also shared the end of school is near and advised parents to be on the

lookout for summer programs to keep kids busy. Mr. Parris wished all moms a happy Mother's Day.

**5/9/2024 6:35 PM** With no further business to discuss, Chair, Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins adjourned the meeting.