

The Smyth County Board of Supervisors held its regular meeting on Thursday, August 8th, 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; Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill; Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call; Park District Supervisor Kristopher Ratliff; Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener; North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF: County Administrator Shawn Utt; Assistant County Administrator – Development Clegg Williams; Zoning Administrator Becca Creasy.

OTHERS: Smyth County Sheriff's Deputy and citizens

8/8/2024 5:02 PM Chair, Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

8/8/2024 5:02 PM Manuel Street, GIS Coordinator led the Pledge of Allegiance and Reverend Alan Gray gave the invocation.

8/8/2024 5:03 PM Lennie Gail Mitcham, Executive Director of the Southwest Virginia Alliance for Manufacturing presented their annual report, thanking Smyth County for their continued support.

8/8/2024 5:20 PM Minutes of the July 27th Board of Supervisors meeting:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSTAINERS: Park District Supervisor Kristoper Ratliff.

ABSENT: None.

8/8/2024 5:27 PM Chair, Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins opened citizen's time.

Veda Odle of South Fork Road– shared her concern for the lack of information on property reassessments, processes for determining value and increased taxes.

Sarah Taylor of 604 E. Coyner Ave, Marion – expressed concern about the property reassessment, citing state code provisions that allow citizens to access records, but noted that she felt she had not received a suitable response to her request. She mentioned that she exercised her right to appeal with the Board of Equalization but was dissatisfied with the process. Ms. Taylor raised questions about how the Board of Equalization measures and assesses property, pointing out what she felt to be inaccuracies such as an incorrect lot size that remained uncorrected even after the error was identified, as well as inaccuracies in the minutes of the Board of Equalization meetings. She has requested that the Board of Supervisors review these issues.

David Fulton of 423 Pearl Ave, Marion – Mr. Fulton inquired if anyone had received any updates from VDOT regarding the project at Exit 47, as he had a near-miss incident there. Mr. Utt responded that VDOT representatives would be present at the September meeting to address such concerns.

8/8/2024 5:30 PM With no one else wishing to speak, Chair, Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins closed citizen's time.

8/8/2024 5:30 PM Mr. Utt reviewed the County financial information.

SMYTH COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2024

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE LISTINGJuly 2024

Request approval of the following payables:

General County	1,827,081.49
Fund 004 EDA	17,599.44
Fund 302 Public Safety Radio	17,893.50
Fund 505 Transfer Station	-
Regular Checks Total:	1,862,574.43
<u>Fund Accounts - Manual Checks</u>	
Fund 501 Water Deposit Refunds	100.00
Fund 747 Sheriff State Asset Forfeiture	-
Fund 748 Sheriff Purchase of Equipment	-
Fund 749 Recovery Court	1,801.38
Fund 760 Commonwealth Attorney Federal Drug Asset	-
Fund 770 Circuit Court Clerk - Holding Account	-
Manual Checks Total:	1,901.38
TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE - July 2024	1,864,475.81

8/8/2024 5:31 PM A motion was made by Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call to approve the accounts payable listing as presented above. 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, North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings, Park District Supervisor Kristoper Ratliff, and Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener, Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call, and

Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAINERS: None.

ABSENT: None.

8/8/2024 5:31 PM Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener read the minutes of the August 1st Animal Control Committee and presented the following recommendations:

- *Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener made a motion to recommend approval of the Smyth County Damage Claim in the amount of \$20 to Amanda Jones for the loss of 2 chickens. North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings 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, North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings, Park District Supervisor Kristoper Ratliff, and Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener, Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call, and Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAINERS: None.

ABSENT: None.

- *Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener made a motion to recommend approval of the Smyth Animal Rescue contract as amended in discussion, pending County Attorney review and authorize County Administrator to execute on the County's behalf. North Fork District supervisor Rick Billings 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, North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings, Park District Supervisor Kristoper Ratliff, and Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener, Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call, and Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAINERS: None.

ABSENT: None.

8/8/2024 5:36 PM Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris read the minutes of the August 1st Surplus Committee and presented the following recommendation:

- *A motion was made North Fork Supervisor Roscoe Call to recommend accepting the bid for the .10 acre with tax map number 41B-A-7A of \$251.00 stipulating the bidder pay all associated legal fees and closing costs. Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris 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,
North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings,
Park District Supervisor Kristoper Ratliff, and
Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener,
Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call, and
Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris.*

NAYS: None.

ABSTAINERS: None.

ABSENT: None.

8/8/2024 5:37 PM North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings read the minutes of the August 1st Water and Sewer Committee and presented the following recommendation:

- *Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris made a motion to recommend that staff write off all past-due amounts on closed accounts that are over five years old and do not qualify for debt setoff, as well as four closed accounts with balances under \$5.00 each, which also do not qualify for debt setoff totaling \$55,256.36. North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings 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,
North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings,
Park District Supervisor Kristoper Ratliff, and
Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener,
Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call, and
Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris.*

NAYS: None.

ABSTAINERS: None.

ABSENT: None.

8/8/2024 5:39 PM Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener read the minutes of the August 1st Public Safety Committee. No recommendations made, informational only.

8/8/2024 5:40 PM Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener read the minutes of the August 1st Parks and Recreation Committee. No recommendations made, informational only.

8/8/2024 5:41 PM Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener read the minutes of the August 1st Ordinance Committee and presented the following recommendation:

- *Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins made a motion to recommend scheduling a joint public hearing with the Planning Commission on September 26, 2024, at 7 pm or shortly thereafter as may be heard to gain public comments to consider amendments to the zoning ordinance sections 4-8, 8-3.1, and 8-6.2. Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener seconded the motion.*

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

AYES: None.

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

ABSTAINERS: None.

ABSENT: None.

- *Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener a motion to schedule a joint public hearing with the Planning Commission on September 26, 2024, at 7 pm or shortly thereafter as may be heard to gain public comments to consider amendments to the zoning ordinance sections 4-8 and 8-6.2. 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, Park District Supervisor Kristoper Ratliff, and Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener,

*Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call, and
Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris.*

NAYS: None.

ABSTAINERS: None.

ABSENT: None.

8/8/2024 5:45 PM Mr. Utt read the minutes of the August 1st Budget Committee and presented the following recommendations:

- *Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener made a motion to recommend approving a Resolution of Moral Obligation for the Town of Saltville's water project in the amount of \$1,314,656. Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins seconded the motion, and it was approved by the Committee.*

After consideration, the Committee recommendation 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,
Park District Supervisor Kristoper Ratliff, and
Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener,
Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call, and
Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris.*

NAYS: None.

ABSTAINERS: None.

ABSENT: None.

- *Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener made a motion to recommend proceeding with Edmonds software and allow County Administrator to execute any necessary documents pending County Attorney review. Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the Committee.*

Mr. Utt reported that the staff favored Edmunds, which was also recommended by IT Director Gabe Dempsey. Mr. Dempsey expressed concerns about RDA, the other software under consideration. The Commissioner of Revenue, who had emailed his reservations, was represented by Jody Reedy during the meeting. The Board engaged in a discussion focused on finding the best solution for all staff and ensuring the decision was made correctly. As a result, Board members requested additional information from other localities and tabled the motion until the next regular meeting.

- *Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener made a motion to recommend scheduling a public hearing for Thursday, August 22nd at 5:00 or shortly thereafter to consider Budget Amendment #1 for FY24/25 in the amount of \$4,942,421. Atkins*

District Supervisor Charles Atkins seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the Committee.

After consideration, the Committee recommendation 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,
Park District Supervisor Kristoper Ratliff, and
Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener,
Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call, and
Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris.*

NAYS: None.

ABSTAINERS: None.

ABSENT: None.

- Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill made a motion to recommend payment of \$4,450.52 to D. R. Henderson Funeral Home for Deputy Scott Prater's funeral bill. Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by Committee.*

After consideration, the Committee recommendation 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,
Park District Supervisor Kristoper Ratliff, and
Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener,
Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call, and
Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris.*

NAYS: None.

ABSTAINERS: None.

ABSENT: None.

8/8/2024 6:24 PM Mr. Utt shared during the meeting on July 25th, KJ Holbrook, Chief Clinical Officer for Mount Rogers presented the proposed amendments to the Performance Agreement, as mandated by the Commonwealth of VA. These amendments were included in the Board packet for July 25th for the Boards review and consideration. The Board will now need to vote on these amendments.

- Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill made a motion to approve amendments as presented to the Mount Rogers Performance Contract. 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,
Vice Chair, Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill,
North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings,
Park District Supervisor Kristoper Ratliff, and
Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener,
Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call, and
Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris.*

NAYS: None.

ABSTAINERS: None.

ABSENT: None.

8/8/2024 6:25 PM Mr. Williams shared the following Planning Commission recommendations for the Boards review and consideration:

William R. Varner - recommendation on proposed Special Use Permit for a Campground or Recreational Vehicle Park

After a lengthy discussion, Lea Meadows made a motion to recommend the Board of Supervisors approve William R. Varner's Special Use Permit for a Campground or Recreational Vehicle Park on property identified as tax map number 29-A-82B, located across from 1857 Riverdale Lane on Saltville Hwy in Saltville, and it was unanimously approved by the Planning Commission to include the following conditions:

- Install appropriate trash containers.
 - Empty trash containers daily.
 - To comply with floodplain requirements
 - The maximum length of camping shall not exceed two weeks,
 - Keep documentation of visitors.
 - Verify the camper's contact information to address any illegal activities at the Campground and disclose floodplain requirements.
 - One-year expiration so the SUP can be reviewed (Mr. Varner shall reapply if he wishes to continue operating his campground)
 - No invasive lighting shall be installed.
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- *After discussion, Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener made a motion to approve the Special Use Permit for William R. Varner for a Campground or Recreational Vehicle Park on property identified as tax map number 29-A-82B, located across from 1857 Riverdale Lane on Saltville Hwy in Saltville with the following conditions:*
 - *Install appropriate trash containers.*
 - *Empty trash containers daily.*

- *To comply with floodplain requirements*
- *The maximum length of camping shall not exceed two weeks,*
- *Keep documentation of visitors.*
- *Verify the camper's contact information to address any illegal activities at the Campground and disclose floodplain requirements.*
- *Three-year expiration so the SUP can be reviewed*
- *No invasive lighting shall be installed.*

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, Park District Supervisor Kristoper Ratliff, and Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener, Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call, and Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAINERS: None.

ABSENT: None.

8/8/2024 6:37 PM Myrtle Properties LLC - recommendation on map amendment to rezone 15 acres from to C Lea Meadows made a motion to recommend the Board of Supervisors approve Myrtle Properties' request for a map amendment to rezone approximately 15 acres to Commercial. The property is identified as a portion of tax map number 54-A-28 and is located at 289 Lee Hwy in Chilhowie. The motion was seconded by Mr. Shepherd and was approved by majority vote.

- *Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call made a motion to rezone approximately 15 acres to Commercial identified as a portion of tax map number 54-A-28 and is located at 289 Lee Hwy in Chilhowie. 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, Vice Chair, Chilhowie District Supervisor Michael Sturgill, North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings, Park District Supervisor Kristoper Ratliff, and Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener, Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call, and Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAINERS: None.

ABSENT: None.

8/8/2024 6:39 PM County Administrator Report -

Mr. Utt shared Chairman, Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins would like Mr. Widener and Mr. Parris to serve on the Building Needs Task Force. Both Board members agreed. Mr. Utt then shared dates for upcoming events as well as providing “Thank you” gifts from 4-H to each Board member for their support.

8/8/2024 6:42 PM Supervisor Comment Time –

North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings thanked everyone for working together for the betterment of the County.

Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris shared his excitement for rezoning property and supporting development.

Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call shared his appreciation for everyone working together.

Park District Supervisor Kristopher Ratliff shared his appreciation for all those involved in the Rec program.

Chilhowie District Supervisor Micheal Sturgill shared good news of a great start to the school year.

Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener thanked staff as well as volunteers for the Rec program.

Chair, Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins shared his concern for Mrs. Taylor’s comments during citizen’s time. Mr. Atkins also congratulated Amanda Livingston, Director of Tourism for the three awards received and is very proud of Tourism in Smyth County.

8/8/2024 7:06 PM With no further business to discuss, Chair, Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins adjourned the meeting.