

The Smyth County Board of Supervisors held a special called meeting on Thursday, June 6th, 2024 at 5p.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:** 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- Operations Lisa Richardson; 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

**6/6/2024 5:00 PM** Chair, Atkins District Supervisor Charles Atkins called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Mr. Atkins then entertained a motion to allow Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener to join the Board of Supervisors meeting electronically.

- A motion was made by Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call to allow Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener to join the meeting electronically. North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings seconded the motion.

**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, and  
North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings.*

**NAYS:** *None.*

**ABSTAINERS:** *None.*

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

**6/6/2024 5:03 PM** Smyth County Schools Superintendent Dr. Dennis Carter presented the projected School Board Budget for FY24/25. Dr. Carter addressed initiatives including competitive salaries to recruit and retain quality staff, adding required reading specialists to the Middle Schools, and addressing rising utility costs. Mr. Carter shared efforts to address

each challenge and thanked Mr. Utt and the Board for a great working relationship.

**6/6/2024 5:21 PM** Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener entered in person.

**6/6/2024 5:23 PM** County Administrator Shawn Utt reviewed the draft budget for FY24/25 with goals to continue to implement recommendations from Davenport & Associates with a proposed utilities increase of up to 5%, as well as following the state's lead with a proposed 3% salary increase for County positions. He noted the Real Estate reassessment resulted in an overall increase of 39.3% in taxable values which will result in a decrease to the tax rate. Mr. Utt also mentioned large increases in funding related to Public Safety (Fire, EMS and Sheriff) due additional funding requirements and a vastly expanded EMS operation. Mr. Utt noted the next step in the budget development process would be to hold public hearings on the following items at the June 13<sup>th</sup> Board meeting: (1) County Operations & CIP; (2) School Board Operations and CIP; (3) Proposed increases to the Water and Sewer Rate Structure and (4) Real Estate Equalization Rate.

**6/6/2024 5:35 PM**

- *Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener made a motion to enter into closed session under Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(a)7 Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation regarding the Jericho suit. 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,  
Rye Valley District Supervisor Jason Parris,  
Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call,  
North Fork District Supervisor Rick Billings,  
Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener.*

**NAYS:** *None.*

**ABSTAINERS:** *None.*

**ABSENT:** *Park District Supervisor Kristopher Ratliff.*

**6/6/2024 6:02 PM** Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener made a motion to adopt the following resolution and enter back into open session. Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call seconded the motion.

### **RESOLUTION CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION**

WHEREAS, the Smyth County Board of Supervisors has convened in a closed session on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Smyth County Board of Supervisors that such a meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Smyth County Board of Supervisors hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed or considered by the Smyth County Board of Supervisors.

*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,  
Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener.*

*NAYS: None.*

*ABSTAINERS: None.*

*ABSENT: Park District Supervisor Kristopher Ratliff.*

**6/6/2024 6:03 PM**

- *Saltville District Supervisor Roscoe Call made a motion to agree to enter into a settlement agreement with Jericho and authorize County Administrator n to sign all documentation. 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: Royal Oak District Supervisor Courtney Widener.*

*ABSTAINERS: None.*

*ABSENT: Park District Supervisor Kristopher Ratliff.*

**6/6/2024 6:05 PM** *With no other business to discuss The Board of Supervisors meeting adjourned*