

VIRGINIA: At the Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors held at the Bland County Courthouse, Bland, Virginia, on the twenty-second day of October 2024 at 5:00 p.m., the following duly elected and qualified members were present or absent:

PRESENT: Keith Costello, Patrick Groseclose, Randy Johnson, and Stephen Kelley

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Cameron Burton, County Administrator; Paul Cassell, County Attorney; and Linda Miller, Board Secretary

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG AND INVOCATION

The pledge of allegiance to the United States flag was led by Chairman Keith Costello. The invocation was offered by Cameron Burton.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Keith Costello called the October 22, 2024, Board of Supervisors' monthly meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

OCTOBER 22, 2024, AMENDED MEETING AGENDA

*****MOTION to approve the October 22, 2024, meeting agenda as amended with the addition of a presentation by a FEMA representative, a request to appropriate funds from Capital Improvement to Buildings and Grounds, and a request to amend the 2024 Holiday and Meeting Calendar was made by Randy Johnson and seconded by Patrick Groseclose. Motion carried unanimously.

OCTOBER 22, 2024, CONSENT AGENDA/SOCIAL SERVICES/SCHOOLS APPROVED

*****MOTION to approve the October 22, 2024, consent agenda which consisted of the minutes of the September 24, 2024 regular meeting and the minutes of the October 9, 2024 continued meeting; payroll issued September 30, 2024 in the amount of \$164,760.71 and payroll issued October 16, 2024 in the amount of \$141,210.17; bills for the month of September in the amount of \$111,683.26; bills for the month of October in the amount of \$267,050.91; reports from the Treasurer, Sheriff's Office, Animal Control, Building Official, Clerk's Office, Zoning, and E911 Coordinator; appropriate the August 2024 Social Services' report in the amount of \$15,908.24 local allotment; and appropriate the Bland County School Board's November 2024 requisition in the amount of \$1,066,358.75; and approve the minutes for the September 12, 2024 regular meeting; approve payroll and vendor payments for September 2024 was made by Stephen Kelley and seconded by Randy Johnson. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kelley – yea; Mr. Johnson – yea; Mr. Groseclose – yea; and Mr. Costello – yea. Motion carried unanimously.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS REPORTS

Cindy Wright, Commissioner of the Revenue, updated the board regarding the re-assessment of RFP applicants: Wampler-Eanes Appraisal Group, LLC and Pearson's Appraisal Service.

Haley Painter, Library, updated the board on the library's fall events.

Randy Johnson, Board member, updated everyone regarding the SOL standings with where Bland County Schools ranked out of 132 school divisions in the State as follows:

- Number 1 for World History I taught by Mr. Shirey and Mrs. Sarver.
- Number 2 for Biology taught by Mr. Larkin.
- Number 3 for Writing 11 taught by Mr. Williamson.
- Number 4 for Algebra I taught by Mr. Hart.
- Number 7 for World Geography taught by Mr. Shirey.
- Number 10 for Reading taught by Miss Hall.

Mr. Johnson expressed appreciation to the School System for what they are doing.

Sheriff Jason Ramsey updated the board regarding SRO grants, the Helene storm response by the locality, photo enforcement, and that one of the officers in the department will receive the MADD award.

Adam Kidd, Treasurer, reviewed the treasurer's reports and delinquent collections.

Joshua Neal, Youth Sports Coordinator, updated the board concerning youth sports with football ending, cheerleading competition and basketball beginning.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Gordon, HR for Mount Rogers Community Services, thanked the board for their support to the MRCS.

Dreama Hatcher requested uniforms for the maintenance workers.

Hunter Romano, Extension Agent – Agriculture and Natural Resources, reported that 59 farms have reported mostly fencing damages and timber loss. He stated that there have been 25 buildings damaged, forage loss of hay and 2 reports for livestock loss. A total loss of 1.5 million has been reported. A survey can be filled out online or a report can be filled out in person at the Extension Office.

PRESENTATION

Maura Hannigan-Pierce, FEMA representative, updated the board regarding FEMA services. She will be in the County for thirty days and she has been here for two weeks already.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S ITEMS

PERMIT FEES WAIVED FOR GIGA BEAM NETWORK

*****MOTION to approve and waive all fees for an electrical permit for the power meters to serve fiber internet in the amount of \$51.00 was made by Randy Johnson and seconded by Patrick Groseclose. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Johnson – yea; Mr. Groseclose – yea; Mr. Kelley – yea; and Mr. Costello – yea. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROPRIATION OF WYTHE-BLAND FOUNDATION GRANT APPLICATIONS

*****MOTION to approve and appropriate Wythe-Bland Foundation grants in the amount of \$55,000 (Bland County Farmers' Market: 2025 operation \$15,000 and Youth Sports Coordinator \$40,000) was made by Stephen Kelley and seconded by Patrick Groseclose. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kelley – yea; Mr. Groseclose – yea; Mr. Johnson – yea; and Mr. Costello – yea. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION DECLARING A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY

*****MOTION to adopt the resolution certifying the beginning of the local state of emergency declared on September 27, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. by the Deputy County Administrator was made by Randy Johnson and seconded by Stephen Kelley. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Johnson – yea; Mr. Kelley – yea; Mr. Groseclose – yea; and Mr. Costello – yea. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROPRIATION TO BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

*****MOTION to appropriate \$50,000 from the Capital Improvement fund to Buildings and Grounds fund for the renovation of the Community Building was made by Patrick Groseclose and seconded by Stephen Kelley. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Groseclose – yea; Mr. Kelley – yea; Mr. Johnson – yea; and Mr. Costello – yea. Motion carried unanimously.

2024 HOLIDAY AND MEETING CALENDAR AMENDED

*****MOTION to adopt the amended 2024 Holiday and Meeting Calendar with adding ½ day local holiday to the ½ day state holiday on November 27, 2024, adding a local holiday on December 31, 2024, and changing the Board of Supervisors' December meeting to December 17, 2024, was made by Patrick Groseclose and seconded by Randy Johnson. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Groseclose – yea; Mr. Johnson – yea; Mr. Kelley – yea; and Mr. Costello – yea. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

*****MOTION to adjourn was made by Randy Johnson and seconded by Stephen Kelley. Motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 26, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.


Keith Costello, Chairman


Cameron B. Burton, Clerk of the Board