

The regular meeting of the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, February 25, 2020, in Room 212 of the Greenfield Education and Training Center in Daleville, Virginia, beginning at 12:30 P. M.

PRESENT: Members: Mr. Billy W. Martin, Sr., Chairman
Dr. Donald M. Scothorn, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Steve Clinton
Mr. I. Ray Sloan
Dr. Richard G. Bailey

ABSENT: Members: None

Others present at the meeting:

Mr. Michael Lockaby, County Attorney
Mr. David Moorman, Deputy County Administrator
Mr. Gary Larrowe, County Administrator

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 12:30 P. M.

On motion by Dr. Scothorn, seconded by Mr. Sloan, and carried by the following recorded vote, the Board went into Closed Session pursuant to the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, to discuss the following: Section 2.2-3711.A. 1, Discussion on personnel issues regarding the County Administrator's performance evaluation; Section 2.2-3711.A. 3, Discussion on the acquisition or disposition of real property for public purposes where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body namely in the Valley and Blue Ridge (EastPark) and Amsterdam (Greenfield) districts; Section 2.2-3711.A. 5, Discussion on prospective businesses or industries or the expansion of existing businesses or industries where no previous announcement has been made of their interest in locating or expanding facilities in the community namely in the Blue Ridge (EastPark), Buchanan, and Amsterdam (Greenfield) districts; and Section 2.2-3711.A. 8, Consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring legal advice regarding jurisdictional boundary and status transitions. (Resolution Number 20-02-01)

AYES: Mr. Clinton, Mr. Martin, Dr. Scothorn, Dr. Bailey, Mr. Martin

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINING: None

The Chairman called the meeting back to order at 2:03 P. M.

On motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Dr. Scothorn, and carried by the following recorded vote, the Board returned to regular session from Closed Session and adopted the following resolution by roll-call vote. (Resolution Number 20-02-02)

AYES: Mr. Sloan, Mr. Clinton, Dr. Scothorn, Dr. Bailey, Mr. Martin

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINING: None

BE IT RESOLVED, that to the best of the Board members' knowledge only public business matters lawfully exempt from open meeting requirements and only such matters as were identified in the motion to go into Closed Session were heard, discussed or considered during the Closed Session.

Mr. Martin then welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the members of the Board.

Dr. Bailey then led the group in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

Mr. Martin then asked for a moment of silence.

Mr. Clinton then introduced Mr. David Marcum and Mrs. Judy Morris to the Board. He noted that Mr. Marcum is the previous Chair and Mrs. Morris is the current Chair of the Historic Greenfield Committee. He noted that this group, which consists of 15 members, has implemented a successful initiative for the advisory committee's oversight of the Greenfield historical property.

Mr. Clinton noted that Mr. Marcum was the group's Chair from its formation and has worked diligently to get the committee organized and set parameters for their work. Mr. Clinton stated that he asked Mr. Marcum to attend today's meeting to recognize him for his service on this committee. Mr. Clinton then thanked Mr. Marcum for his service.

Mr. Clinton stated that Mrs. Morris took over as the Committee's Chairman earlier this year. He noted that she has been involved in the group since it was formed.

Dr. Scothorn stated that he has known Mr. Marcum for a long time and he also educated his (Dr. Scothorn's) children. He noted that Mr. Marcum is in contact with the Supervisors' members on a regular basis and he cannot express his appreciation for Mr. Marcum's service and hard work on the Historic Greenfield Committee.

Dr. Scothorn also thanked Mrs. Morris for taking on the Committee's chairmanship role.

Mr. Martin thanked Mr. Marcum for his service and wished Mrs. Morris good luck.

Mrs. Morris thanked Mr. Marcum for all of the background work that he has done for the Committee. Mrs. Morris stated that she is hopeful that over the next year and into the future the Committee will make some significant progress including having the two historic structures restored.

Mr. Marcum noted that he has had a relationship with the County for over 20 years and has enjoyed every minute.

Chief of Fire and EMS Jason Ferguson then introduced six new employees to the Board. He noted that these six individuals are in their second day of training at the Roanoke Regional Fire/EMS Academy. He further noted that the Department has seven full-time vacancies and these recruits will fill those vacancies upon completion of their training and graduation from the Academy on July 10.

Chief Ferguson then provided biographies of each of the individuals: Nathan Newville, Hunter Smith, William Ferguson, Joseph Mackie, Nathan Shields, and Benjamin Meadows.

He stated that their Academy classes are five days a week, 8 – 10 hours a day and there are a total of 34 recruits from all over the Roanoke Valley participating in these classes.

Mr. Martin stated that they all look young. He thanked them for their willingness to complete this training and welcomed them to employment with Botetourt County. Mr. Martin further stated that he hopes that they remain with the County for a long time. He noted that firefighting is not easy and is a dangerous profession.

Mr. David Moorman, Deputy County Administrator, then noted that the County recently had two employees complete the Dale Carnegie Program to develop their public speaking and professional development skills. He noted that these employees were Brian Bower with Technology Services and Rhonda Bandy, the Fincastle Library's Branch Manager. Mr. Moorman noted that Mr. Bower was in attendance at today's meeting.

Mr. Martin congratulating Mr. Bower for completing this program.

Mr. Bower thanked Mr. Martin for his comments. He noted that this is a good program and he is using the skills he learned in his Technology Services job.

Mr. Martin then presented a framed commemoration from U. S. House of Representatives' member Ben Cline to the County Administrator. He noted that this commemoration recognizes the County's 250th anniversary in 2020.

Mr. Larrowe stated that he would find a suitable location to post this plaque.

Mr. Martin also congratulated the four co-chairs of the Sestercentennial Committee for their work in planning the Sestercentennial kick-off event on February 1 at Lord Botetourt High School.

Mr. Martin then asked Mr. Paul Fitzgerald to come forward.

Mrs. Paul Fitzgerald stated that her husband was incapacitated and unable to be present at today's meeting.

Mr. Martin welcomed Mrs. Fitzgerald to the meeting. He noted that a proclamation of appreciation had been framed for presentation to Mr. Fitzgerald for his years of service on the Botetourt County Electoral Board. He then read the proclamation as follows:

WHEREAS, in March 2014, Mr. Paul E. Fitzgerald, on nomination by the Botetourt County Democratic Party, was appointed to the Botetourt County Electoral Board by the judges of the 25th Judicial Circuit of Virginia, and has served as vice chairman and secretary during that time; and,

WHEREAS, during Mr. Fitzgerald's tenure on the Electoral Board, the County consolidated seventeen voting precincts into eleven to provide more cost-effective elections and provided assistance to the other members of the Electoral Board in the decision to be one of the first localities in Virginia to purchase newly-certified optical scan voting equipment in order to ensure a more-secure election process; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Fitzgerald has chosen not to seek reappointment to the Electoral Board after six years of service;

WHEREAS, as a long-time resident and active member of the Botetourt County community, Mr. Fitzgerald has enhanced the quality of life for its citizens through his many efforts; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of Botetourt County, Virginia, on behalf of the Electoral Board, the Director of Elections and General Registrar, and all citizens of Botetourt County, does hereby extend sincere appreciation to Mr. Paul E. Fitzgerald for his service to the County as a member of the Botetourt County Electoral Board from 2014 until 2020.

On her husband's behalf, Mrs. Fitzgerald thanked Mr. Martin and the Board for this proclamation.

Mr. Martin then opened the floor for public comment.

Mr. James Pauley of Davis Road then stated that he would save his comments for a later date.

Mr. Jim Crawford of 13th Street, SW, in Roanoke then stated that he has an interest in the environment and supports the Rocky Forge wind farm project.

Ms. Mary Bishop of Roanoke stated that she is a member of the Sierra Club and applauds the Board for working with Apex Clean Energy to install Virginia's first industrial wind

farm in Botetourt County. Ms. Bishop noted that the Apex project will “get us closer to a clean energy future” and she hopes that Apex’s upcoming permit review process goes smoothly.

Mr. Charlie Johnson of Apex Clean Energy stated that he understands that the County is currently working through the Wind Energy Ordinance review process. He noted that Apex has also submitted an application to revise the previously-approved Special Exceptions Permit (SEP) for the Rocky Forge project.

Mr. Johnson stated that he thinks it is in the best interest of the County to consider hiring a third party consultant who has the expertise in the wind energy industry to review this proposed application.

Mr. Herb Beskar of Knollwood Road stated that he is in support of the wind farm project. He noted that climate scientists have stated that we cannot exceed the limit of 350 parts per million (ppm) of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere; however, the most recent testing showed that there is currently 415 ppm of CO₂ in the earth’s atmosphere with no indication that this is leveling off. Mr. Beskar stated that, once CO₂ is in the atmosphere, it stays there until it is absorbed by trees.

He noted that “all of the indicators are going in the wrong direction” and storms, hurricanes, flooding are getting worse. Mr. Beskar asked that the Board support the Apex project, which is the first commercial wind farm in Virginia. He further stated that South Dakota currently gets almost 1/3 of its energy from wind farms and Virginia is significantly behind that percentage. Mr. Beskar stated that he is concerned about the world we are leaving for his grandchildren.

After questioning by Dr. Scothorn, Mr. Beskar stated that he obtained his CO₂ figures from a book entitled “Environmental Failure” which includes many statistics on our carbon footprint.

Mr. Dan Crawford of Kibly Street in Roanoke stated that he is the volunteer chair of the Roanoke Sierra Club. He stated that the most productive, renewable energy option is from wind. He noted that Virginia is one of nine states that do not currently have any wind farms while West Virginia has several wind energy facilities.

Mr. Crawford stated that he has respect and appreciation for Apex. He noted that some people have not seen a wind farm much less live near one. Mr. Crawford stated that also he holds the County in high regard for opening up the County for wind development. He noted that the Board did their homework and determined that this will be a good project for the County.

Mr. Crawford requested that the Board move the wind farm project along as soon as possible.

Mr. John Cooper of Hollymeade Lane in Daleville asked that the Board allow for the independent review of the Rocky Forge application. He noted that this is a positive project for Botetourt County and will provide a lot of economic opportunity. Mr. Cooper stated that there is no better time than now to move forward with this project as “time is of the essence.”

Mr. Jonathan Miles of Harvest Farms Lane in Crozet, Virginia, stated that he is the director of James Madison University’s Center for the Advancement of Sustainable Energy. Mr. Miles stated that he attended the Board’s December 2019 meeting when this topic was last discussed.

Mr. Miles stated that he and the Center have been in contact with a North Carolina organization that supports the deployment of wind energy in this region of the country. Mr.

Miles further stated that he is also willing to help organize a tour of a comparable wind farm by the Supervisors and Planning Commission members.

Mr. Miles stated that the Apex project is at the leading edge of wind energy in this part of the country as there are few wind projects in the southeastern portion of the United States. He noted that the Rocky Forge project is recognized as “novel” by its use of the most current technology and this can only be done by the review and revision of the County’s current Wind Energy Ordinance. Mr. Miles also encouraged the Board to consider hiring a third party consultant to review this proposal in further detail.

Mr. Teddy Wolford of Andrew Drive in Troutville stated that a developer has proposed to construct 1,500 apartments and approximately 175 houses on approximately 70 acres on Etzler Road. He noted that many years ago the same property was considered for the development of only 59 homes.

Mr. Wolford stated that this property is located in the floodplain. He then questioned how the local 2-lane roads are going to handle that many additional vehicles. Mr. Wolford noted that there was a four car accident this morning at the Route 220/779 intersection near the Sheetz. He noted that the 220/779 area currently has a lot of traffic when school is in or letting out and when there are sports events at Lord Botetourt High School.

After discussion, Mr. Wolford asked the Board to consider these issues before making any decision on the proposed Etzler Road development project.

Mr. Gary McFarland of McFarland Road then stated that he is having problems with property damage caused by vultures which roost on his house. He stated that the vultures are attracted to his area because of the nearby Hollins Motel which does not properly close their dumpsters.

Mr. McFarland stated that it is illegal to shoot vultures and he has discussed this problem with both the Sheriff’s and Zoning departments; however, the issue has been passed back and forth with nothing being done to solve the problem. He questioned if the Health Department should also be involved as the hotel disposes of old mattresses which probably have bedbugs.

He then noted that deputies are called to the property a couple of times each week for various issues and something needs to be done about this situation.

After questioning by Dr. Scothorn, Mr. McFarland presented the Board with photographs of the problem.

After questioning by Dr. Scothorn as to whether this issue can be resolved under the County’s nuisance laws, Mr. Michael Lockaby, County Attorney, stated that he and County staff have looked into this issue and can review this situation further with the Sheriff’s Department and the Commonwealth’s Attorney.

Regarding the consent agenda items, Mr. Martin stated that a Board member has requested that item #5 (Resolution of support for a proposed I-81 lighting project) be removed from the consent agenda and tabled until the March Supervisors meeting.

On motion by Dr. Bailey, seconded by Dr. Scothorn, and carried by the following recorded vote, the Board approved the following consent agenda items. (Resolution Number 20-02-03)

AYES: Mr. Clinton, Mr. Sloan, Mr. Martin, Dr. Bailey, Dr. Scothorn

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINING: None

Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held on January 28, 2020; and

Approval of a 36 month lease agreement with Bravo Properties for the Recreation and Facilities Department's office space, authorized the County Administrator to sign the lease on the County's behalf, subject to review by the County Attorney.

Consideration was then held on approval of transfers and additional appropriations. Mr. Tony Zerrilla, Director of Finance, stated that there is one transfer and four pass-through appropriations for the Board's consideration. He noted that these are for salary adjustments effective January 1, expenditure reimbursements, and rebates.

There being no discussion, on motion by Mr. Clinton, seconded by Mr. Sloan, and carried by the following recorded vote, the Board approved the following transfers and additional appropriations: (Resolution Number 20-02-04)

AYES: Mr. Clinton, Mr. Sloan, Mr. Martin, Dr. Bailey, Dr. Scothorn

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINING: None

Transfer budgeted funds of \$550,428.00 from Salary Adjustments, 100-4091000-91000-1100, to various departments. This transfer will place the effect of the market- and performance-based salary adjustments that were effective January 1, 2020, into the impacted County and Constitutional departments' expenditure lines.

Additional appropriation in the amount of \$269.00 to Fire & EMS – Repair & Maintenance – Vehicles, 100-4035500-35500-3312. These are Fire and EMS reimbursed funds.

Additional appropriation in the amount of \$5,671.01 to the following Correction and Detention accounts: \$5,215.01 to Medical & Lab Supplies, 100-4033100-33100-6004; and \$456.00 to Food Supplies & Services, 100-4033100-33100-6002. The former is for medical co-pays and Craig County reimbursements and the latter is for rebates and Social Security incentive payments.

Additional appropriation in the amount of \$919.39 to Sheriff's Department – various accounts, 100-4031200-31200. This appropriation is for extradition reimbursement, providing security at high school ballgames, restitution proceeds, and telecommunication costs.

Additional appropriation in the amount of \$62.50 to Dispatch – Uniforms, 100-4031400-31400-6011. These funds are from contract payments.

Consideration was then held on approval of the Accounts Payable and ratification of the Short Accounts Payable List. Mr. Tony Zerrilla, Director of Finance, stated that this month's accounts payable totaled \$1,735,016.87. He noted that this month's large expenditures include an ambulance for the Buchanan Fire/EMS career staff and an ambulance for the Eagle Rock Volunteer Rescue Squad at a cost of \$276,979 each; \$174,676 to Sheehy Auto Stores for five new Sheriff's Department vehicles; \$32,966 to S3 Integration for 16 Jail security cameras; \$31,694 to the Roanoke Valley Juvenile Detention Center for the County's monthly detention activity; and \$85,489 to WillScot for work regarding the two mobile classrooms at the Greenfield Education and Training Center.

After questioning by Mr. Clinton, Mr. Larowe stated that these mobile classrooms are being used by Virginia Western Community College's welding classes until other provisions are made for these classes. He noted that VWCC has mentioned extending their Greenfield class schedule/options so these classrooms will be on site for an extended period of time.

There being no further discussion, on motion by Dr. Scothorn, seconded by Mr. Sloan, and carried by the following recorded vote, the Board approved the accounts payable and ratified the Short Accounts Payable List as submitted. (Resolution Number 20-02-05)

AYES: Mr. Clinton, Mr. Sloan, Mr. Martin, Dr. Bailey, Dr. Scothorn

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINING: None

Consideration was then held on approval of a School Capital Reserve Fund expenditure for replacement of two chillers at Read Mountain Middle School. Dr. Lisa Chen, Superintendent of Schools, stated that two HVAC chiller units at Read Mountain have been determined to be past their useful life, unrepairable, and use a refrigerant that is no longer being manufactured.

She noted that pricing for new 130 and 120 ton units (\$236,816) was obtained through a partnership purchasing agreement that the State school system has with The Cooperative Purchasing Network (TCPN). Dr. Chen noted that this network is a national organization that provides governmental and public entities opportunities for greater efficiency and economy in procuring goods and services, provides competitive price and bulk purchasing, etc.

Dr. Chen stated that the contract bid for these units was obtained from Daikin Applied America, Inc., and requested that School Capital Reserve Fund monies be used for this project.

After questioning by Mr. Clinton, Dr. Chen stated that TCPN meets all of the State's procurement requirements. After further discussion with Mr. Clinton, Dr. Chen stated that Daikin has also been contracted to supply the HVAC system for the new Colonial Elementary School. She further noted that Johnson Controls was responsible for the HVAC upgrades at Central Academy Middle School several years ago.

After further questioning by Mr. Clinton, Dr. Chen stated that she would provide the Board with additional information about TCPN but noted that this group merged with other purchasing cooperatives that the School System has worked with in the past. She further noted that the County will sign a contract with Daikin for this project.

Dr. Bailey stated that, according to the information provided for this request and Dr. Chen's comments, it appears that the chiller units at Read Mountain have exceeded their life expectancy.

Dr. Chen stated that Dr. Bailey's statement is correct as the replacement parts for these units due to their age are very expensive and this proposal is the most cost-effective manner to complete this project.

There being no further discussion, on motion by Dr. Scothorn, seconded by Mr. Sloan, and carried by the following recorded vote, the Board approved an allocation in the amount of \$236,816 from the School Capital Reserve Fund to replace two chillers at Read Mountain Middle School. (Resolution Number 20-02-06)

AYES: Mr. Clinton, Mr. Sloan, Mr. Martin, Dr. Bailey, Dr. Scothorn

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINING: None

Mr. Ray Varney, Resident Engineer, and Ms. Ashley Smith, Assistant Resident Engineer, with the Virginia Department of Transportation, were then present to speak to the Board.

Mr. Varney noted that a work session on updating the Secondary System Six Year Plan will need to be scheduled with the Board in the next two months.

Ms. Smith then reviewed VDoT's monthly report. She stated that the Route 220 safety improvement project is continuing and a detour was implemented last week at the Locust Bottom Road/Route 220 intersection to allow a new culvert to be installed. She noted that this entire project should be completed in the fall of 2021.

Regarding the Ballpark Road bridge rehabilitation project, Ms. Smith stated that work is continuing from 9AM to 3PM to accommodate the residents' work schedules and this project should be completed at the end of the summer. She noted that VDoT is putting together a list of roadways to be paved this summer; however, State funding has not yet been designated for this project. Ms. Smith stated that, under Land Development Projects, VDoT is working with the County and the developer of Fieldstone Subdivision on site plan modifications. She further noted that six utility permits, three private entrance permits, and one special event permit (Troutville Trail Days Banner) have been issued in the past month.

Regarding Residency Projects, Ms. Smith stated that the Zimmerman Road drainage/ditch improvement project has been completed except for final paving which is scheduled for later this spring.

Mr. Martin stated that he is glad that this project is almost completed.

Ms. Smith stated that some channel work still needs to be done on the Archway Road pipe replacement project and the bank stabilization work on Nace Rod has been completed. Regarding Murray Drive, Ms. Smith stated that VDoT is working with the County and its engineer on this project and noted that coordination of the road construction project with the school construction project will be critical. She then stated that area headquarters projects include brush cutting, pipe replacements, patching work, grading gravel roads, etc.

Mr. Varney stated that there is a roadway shoulder issue on Glen Wilton Road approximately 0.2 mile west of the Route 220 intersection which will require VDoT to soil nail the dirt bank.

Dr. Bailey thanked Mr. Varney and VDoT staff for their assistance in modifying the contractor's work schedule on the Ballpark Road bridge project to accommodate the residents' work and school schedules.

Mr. Sloan stated that he would like to talk with Mr. Varney after the meeting on an issue regarding Purgatory Mountain Road. He noted that there are some maintenance issues on this road on which 19 – 20 families live.

After questioning by Mr. Martin, Ms. Smith stated that the work on Welches Run Road is being done by Roanoke Gas Company to install a gas line to the new colonial Elementary School site.

Mr. Varney stated that, in reviewing this project, he had suggested to Roanoke Gas that it would probably be more convenient to install this new gas line along Laymantown Road but, after meeting with company representatives on site, he agreed that Welches Run Road was the better option.

After questioning by Dr. Scothorn, Ms. Smith stated that VDoT will begin patching work on various roadways as soon as weather permits.

There being no further discussion, the Board thanked Mr. Varney and Ms. Smith for their report.

Consideration was then held on a request for a no through-truck restriction on Lithia Road (Route 640). Chief of Fire and EMS Jason Ferguson stated that his staff has been work-

ing with the Sheriff's Department, VDoT, and the Virginia State Police to try to improve the traffic congestion issues that arise on area roadways when a detour occurs on Interstate 81. He noted that these discussions began after a major tractor trailer incident on I-81 late last year detoured tractor trailer and other traffic onto many of the narrow Secondary System roadways that parallel the interstate near Buchanan which caused further traffic congestion and emergency response problems.

Chief Ferguson stated that these discussions with VDoT, Sheriff, and State Police personnel identified Lithia Road, which is narrow, curvy, and includes a railroad crossing with a steep elevation, as one of the roadways in need of a no through-truck restriction.

He requested that the Board direct VDoT to begin work to implement a study on Lithia Road for this potential restriction.

There being no discussion, on motion by Dr. Scothorn, seconded by Mr. Sloan, and carried by the following recorded vote, the Board directed VDoT to begin work on the process to implement a study on a potential no through-truck restriction on Lithia Road (State Route 640).
Resolution Number 20-02-07)

AYES: Mr. Clinton, Mr. Sloan, Mr. Martin, Dr. Bailey, Dr. Scothorn

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINING: None

Consideration was then held on approval of a Fire and EMS Capital Reserve Fund expenditure to rebuild a brush truck chassis. Chief of Fire and EMS Jason Ferguson stated that it was mentioned during FY 21 budget meetings with the volunteer fire departments that spring work was needed on the chassis of a brush truck housed at the Fincastle Volunteer Fire Station. He noted that after review of the vehicle it was determined that the truck was 2,000 pounds over its recommended gross vehicle weight limit when it was fully loaded with the skid unit/equipment (water, foam, hose, tools, saws, etc.) needed to fight brush fires. He noted that this truck was taken out of service and a makeshift brush unit has been assembled using existing resources.

Chief Ferguson stated that he has worked with Fincastle Fire Chief Dustin Ware on a proposal to the Fire and EMS Commission to use \$45,000 in Fire and EMS Capital Reserve Funds to re-chassis and rebuild this brush truck which has a total estimated cost of \$55,000. Chief Ferguson noted that it has also been requested that \$10,000 in Department of Fire Programs' Aid-to-Localities (ATL) funds allocated to the Town of Fincastle be used to complete the project's funding.

Chief Ferguson stated that the Fire and EMS Commission's Executive Board (himself, Gary Larowe, Zach Beckner, Darryl Johns, and Supervisors Billy Martin and Ray Sloan) have agreed to this proposal. He noted that the Fincastle Fire Department has previously expressed concern about using ATL monies for this project however, they have been asked to reconsider this request.

After questioning by Mr. Clinton, Chief Ferguson stated that volunteer fire departments are required to spend their ATL monies each year and the next year's allocation is not paid by the State until the previous year's monies have been spent.

Mr. Clinton noted that today's request is the first use of Fire and EMS Capital Reserve Fund monies since it was implemented late last year.

After questioning by Dr. Bailey, Chief Ferguson stated that ATL funds are sent to the localities, including towns, to support local fire department operations and these monies can

only be spent on certain types of firefighting equipment and certain initiatives such as training. He noted that traditionally these monies are considered "pass through;" however, the County is required to receipt these funds in order to complete the Department of Fire Programs' annual expenditure report.

There being no further discussion, on motion by Dr. Scothorn, seconded by Dr. Bailey, and carried by the following recorded vote, the Board approved a transfer in the amount of \$45,000 from the Fire and EMS Capital Reserve Fund to the General Fund-Undesignated Fund Balance for the re-chassis and rebuild of a brush truck located at the Fincastle Volunteer Fire Department. (Resolution Number 20-02-08)

AYES: Mr. Clinton, Mr. Sloan, Mr. Martin, Dr. Bailey, Dr. Scothorn

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINING: None

On motion by Dr. Scothorn, seconded by Dr. Bailey, and carried by the following recorded vote, the Board approved a regular appropriation in the amount of \$45,000 to Fire and EMS-Capital Outlay-Motor Vehicle/Vehicle Equipment, 100-4035500-35500-8005, to complete the re-chassis and rebuild of a brush truck utilizing existing components, such as the skid unit and equipment, to minimize the financial impact. (Resolution Number 20-02-09)

AYES: Mr. Clinton, Mr. Sloan, Mr. Martin, Dr. Bailey, Dr. Scothorn

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINING: None

After questioning by Mr. Sloan, Chief Ferguson stated that it would cost approximately \$80,000 to purchase a new brush truck so rebuilding the existing vehicle will be a cost savings to the County.

Dr. Scothorn stated that he appreciated the staff researching other funding stream routes to accomplish this truck rehabilitation project.

Consideration was then held on approval of the use of Virginia Department of Fire Programs' funds for an air bottle truck and compressor project. Chief of Fire and EMS Jason Ferguson stated that since 1997 the Blue Ridge Fire Department has had a mobile air unit that provides compressed air for self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) at emergency scenes. He noted that mobile air units are not as widely used as modern SCBA apparatus/tanks hold a maximum of 4,500 pounds of pressure and are made of lighter materials.

Chief Ferguson stated that over the years there have been discussions on replacing the current mobile air unit. He noted that the Fire and EMS Commission has determined that the most operationally-efficient and most fiscally-responsible option is to implement a bottle truck concept. He noted that this entails putting a camper shell on an existing pickup truck to house 20 SCBA bottles and a mobile compressor unit which is estimated to cost \$15,000.

Chief Ferguson stated that they would also like to install a fixed compressor (\$50,000) at the Troutville fire training center as the demand for air compressing is greater during training activities than at an emergency call. He then noted that fixed compressor systems are already in place at the Read Mountain and Buchanan fire stations.

Chief Ferguson stated that he is not requesting any local funds for this project as they would like to use \$90,000 in unexpended Virginia Department of Fire Programs' Aid-to-Locality (ATL) funds. He stated that most of the County's volunteer fire departments agree with this proposal.

After questioning by Mr. Sloan, Chief Ferguson stated that, during a normal structure fire, there are 20 – 25 responders on scene using air packs. He further stated that currently each piece of fire apparatus carries SCBAs containing a primary bottle and a spare, so each firefighter should have two full bottles of air upon arrival at the scene. After further questioning, Chief Ferguson stated that the bottle truck would be used for replenishment of partially or fully expended bottles and would return used air tanks to the station to be refilled after the fire.

After further questioning by Mr. Sloan, Chief Ferguson noted that the Roanoke City Fire Department primarily uses a bottle truck but also has a mobile air unit and Roanoke County uses a self-contained mobile unit but has started to transition to a different concept with bottles being carried on their shift commander vehicles.

There being no further discussion, on motion by Dr. Scothorn, seconded by Mr. Sloan, and carried by the following recorded vote, the Board approved a Regular Appropriation in the amount of \$90,000 to Fire & EMS – Capital Outlay – Motor Vehicles/Equipment, 100-4035500-35500-8005-000, for the purpose of completing an air bottle truck and air compressor upgrade project using existing Department of Fire Programs' Aid-to-Locality monies. (Resolution Number 20-02-10)

AYES: Mr. Clinton, Mr. Sloan, Mr. Martin, Dr. Bailey, Dr. Scothorn

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINING: None

Mrs. Beth Doughty, Executive Director of the Roanoke Regional Partnership, was then present to give the Partnership's annual report. Mrs. Doughty noted that Mr. Pete Eshelman, representing Roanoke Outside, was also present.

Mrs. Doughty stated that, from December 2018 through December 2019, the Roanoke region had a robust 2% rate of job growth with 3,300 new jobs created. She noted that this rate was higher than northern Virginia, Lynchburg, Hampton Roads, etc., and was the area's highest job growth rate since 1998.

Mrs. Doughty stated that since 2016, and through the impact of new business announcements and expansions in Botetourt County by Eldor, Ballast Point, Harkness Screens, etc., six of the most impactful regional economic development announcements were in Botetourt County. She noted that there have already been two regional announcements this year (Roanoke County and Franklin County) and the Partnership's staff look forward to continuing this momentum in 2020.

Mrs. Doughty stated that once the new internal access road is constructed in Greenfield, it will open new product (parcels) for economic development marketing purposes.

Regarding the business investment standpoint, Mrs. Doughty stated that she and her staff are working with the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) on an IT initiative to grow other business sectors in this area. She stated that the Roanoke region is the most economically diverse region in the State and their work with VEDP will help position the region for future growth.

Regarding employee talent, Mrs. Doughty stated that Erin Burcham is in charge of developing programs to build and strengthen the worker talent pipeline for the region's businesses. She noted that the Partnership is holding a Talent Solutions Summit on March 25 to help businesses put in place the pieces they need to compete for employees in the talent market.

She noted that the Partnership is also working on programs for mid-career professionals and are expanding their talent website. She noted that they have begun a summer intern program and have an on-line portal for businesses/governments to list their internship opportunities. Mrs. Doughty stated that later this year they will also include full-time job listings on the portal.

After discussion, Mrs. Doughty stated that a conference is scheduled for June 4 – 5 for young professionals in the area and those that are considering locating here. She noted that there will be nationally-known speakers at this conference.

Regarding outdoor assets, Mrs. Doughty stated that Mr. Eshelman has been working for the Partnership for over 10 years and has greatly expanded their community narrative to advertise the area as an active, outdoor region. She noted that the availability of outdoor amenities/activities affects business attraction, tourism, and our global narrative of exposing people to our message and to our community. She noted that a part of these outdoor offerings is the Blue Ridge Marathon which is scheduled for April 18. Mrs. Doughty stated that the marathon alone has generated exponential growth in its regional economic impact since it was first run in 2010.

Mrs. Doughty stated that, through sponsorship of this event, relationships are created with the outdoor community which results in referrals to Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge for other events that can be held in this area such as the upcoming Ironman triathlon in June. She noted that they are working together with many other organizations for a greater economic impact in the region. Mrs. Doughty stated that they are also involved in crowdfunding projects such as the Gala Boat Ramp to obtain donations for outdoor projects.

She then stated that the Partnership continues to enhance their relationship with the County as "it takes a village" to be successful in economic development.

She further noted that a group of James Madison University students visited several County businesses last year to see what products they make and obtain information on employment opportunities.

Mrs. Doughty then thanked the Board for the opportunity to present this report and noted that she looks forward to another great year for the County.

Mr. Martin thanked Mrs. Doughty for her report.

Dr. Bailey thanked Mrs. Doughty and her staff for all that they do and noted that their cooperative work with the various governments and businesses is important to the region's and the County's success.

After questioning by Dr. Bailey, Mrs. Doughty stated that it is correct that since 2016 six out of 10 of the most economic impactful announcements were located in Botetourt County. Dr. Bailey thanked the Board, County staff, and Mrs. Doughty for their hard work in this regard.

After further questioning, Mrs. Doughty stated that there is a limited inventory of available sites in the region at this time. She noted that the County's foundation of success in economic development locations/expansions is due to the availability of property that is ready for business locations. Mrs. Doughty stated that, with the upcoming completion of West Center Drive in Greenfield, new product will be available to market for site locations.

Dr. Scothorn also thanked Mrs. Doughty and her staff for their work and questioned their work with students, industrial technology, and the area's colleges/universities to give them the opportunity to work for area businesses.

Mrs. Doughty stated a major aspect of employment recruitment is exposure of the area's assets and opportunities.

Mr. Clinton stated that the most recent information on the region's statistical population growth was not very good with Botetourt's growth only being 2%. He noted that this is troubling and noted that the outdoor programs do not seem to produce any verifiable/noticeable results.

Mrs. Doughty stated that she believes that the outdoor programs have been very effective even though in some ways it is anecdotal. She noted that, according to their information, there has been job growth in the region's outdoor industry; however, the conclusion from the low population growth figure is that we need to continue the narrative to attract new citizens.

Mr. Clinton stated that government should be able to ask questions about what can be done and what can we do in the region.

Mrs. Doughty stated that Botetourt County has done a very good job in allowing additional, affordable, housing options since it conducted a housing study and held a housing summit three years ago. She noted that other parts of the region are considering doing the same.

She noted that economic development is like "spinning plates" and there are many irons in the fire, e. g., entrepreneurship, remote workers, housing, etc.

After questioning by Mr. Clinton, Mrs. Doughty stated that transportation-related manufacturing is still a good business for the Partnership and the region, as well as food and beverage industries, particularly natural products.

Dr. Scothorn stated that most pharmaceuticals/pills (90%) are made in China and questioned why we are not bringing those types of companies to this country.

Mrs. Doughty stated that it is a strategy of the pharmaceutical companies to have their medicines made outside of the country. She noted that with the new Fralin Biomedical Research Institute in Roanoke there is the potential to have medical-related industries locate in the region.

After questioning by Mr. Clinton regarding trying to improve the region's 2% growth rate, Mrs. Doughty stated that in a competitive sense this growth rate is better than most large regions in Virginia. She noted that the GDP numbers will be updated next year and those figures more reflect the region's job impact.

There being no further discussion, the Board thanked Mrs. Doughty for her report.

The Chairman then called for a 10 minute break.

The Chairman called the meeting back to order at 3:45 P. M.

County Attorney Michael Lockaby then gave an update on recent actions by the Virginia General Assembly. He noted that crossover day, when General Assembly legislation originally filed in the House of Delegates is transferred to the Senate for consideration and vice versa, was two weeks ago and yesterday both houses finished work on amendments to the biennial State budget.

Mr. Lockaby stated that his nonpartisan presentation today on actions by the General Assembly that will impact the County is current as of last night. Mr. Lockaby noted that he reviewed over 500 bills that were filed for consideration during the 2020 General Assembly session and will report on a few of them that directly impact the County's budget and regulations. Mr. Lockaby further noted that many different topics are included in the bills that are submitted for consideration each year.

He stated that initial legislation was submitted to increase the statewide minimum wage to \$15/hr. over the next year or two; however, the legislation was revised to implement step

increases: current: \$7.25/hr.; FY 22 \$9.50/hr.; FY 23 \$10.50/hr.; FY 24 \$11.50/hr., with CPI increases to be implemented after that time, and based on the region of the State, and other factors until it reaches \$15/hr.

Mr. Lockaby stated that many General Assembly members said that immediately doubling the minimum wage did not make sense, would cause financial pain for many businesses, and result in employee layoffs. He noted that \$11/hr. in northern Virginia, where it is more expensive to live, may be a good idea but not in southwest Virginia. He further noted that these discussions resulted in the current proposal to have stepped increases in the minimum wage over a period of several years based on regional economies.

Regarding workers' compensation and the Line of Duty Act (LODA), Mr. Lockaby stated that legislation to significantly increase coverage of local government workers' compensation insurance will result in an increase in the County's insurance premiums in the next couple of years. He noted that LODA-related legislation proposes to add correctional officers to those eligible for coverage, adds coverage of certain cancers to the list of presumptively-eligible illnesses, coverage rises for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) cases, and reduction in years of service eligibility requirements.

Regarding personnel and labor issues, Mr. Lockaby stated that a Senate bill was submitted to allow local governments to adopt an ordinance to authorize collective bargaining with public employees while a House bill mandates that local governments collectively bargain with their employees and creates a State version of the National Labor Relations Board. He noted that variants of these bills have passed both chambers and are probably headed to a conference committee to resolve the differences. Mr. Lockaby stated that this would likely be expensive legislation for the County to implement.

He noted that legislation was also submitted to eliminate requirements for wage and salary history and criminal background checks on employment applications.

Regarding renewable energy-related legislation, Mr. Lockaby stated that legislation to cap the Public Service Corporation tax for wind turbines at 20¢ over the real estate rate has passed both chambers. He noted that this would only impact those wind farms that applied for grid interconnection before July 1, 2020.

Mr. Lockaby noted that Delegate Ronnie Campbell of Rockbridge County submitted legislation restricting construction of any building more than 50 feet tall at any elevation within 100 feet of the crest of a vulnerable mountain ridge, with an exception for construction that complies with a county or city ordinance adopted to mitigate the effect of such structures on views of the ridge, and directs the Department of Conservation and Recreation to produce maps showing vulnerable mountain ridges in Virginia and to develop a model ridge conservation ordinance. He noted that Delegate Campbell also submitted legislation that any proposed wind energy project with a boundary located less than two miles from a jurisdictional boundary is not qualified for a 'permit by rule' from the Department of Environmental Quality and lists several requirements, e.g., engineering certification stating the amount of energy projected to be generated by the facility, on an annual average basis, based on wind studies conducted at the proposed project site for a minimum of two years; requires DEQ to hold a public hearing; limits eligibility for wind-powered generation facilities to make use of the 'permit by rule' process to those that have a rated capacity not exceeding 100 megawatts and disturb fewer than 50 acres including the site and access roads. He noted that both of these bills were left in committee.

Regarding solar-related bills, Mr. Lockaby stated that legislation was passed that tapers down an existing 80% tax exemption for solar farms and allows cash payments as a condition of approval of the project's Special Exceptions Permit; legislation to phase out the 80% exemption of Machinery and Tools Taxes for existing solar facilities by 2030; and allows localities to execute solar facility siting agreements similar to solid waste facility siting agreements similar to the County's agreement with County Waste for its new transfer station operation.

Mr. Lockaby stated that discussion is still occurring on the Virginia Energy Plan which requires the State's economy to have 100% renewable electric energy generation (carbon neutral) by 2040.

After discussion, Mr. Lockaby stated that legislation regarding county/city tax parity appears to have been passed by both houses with some differences that need to be resolved in a conference committee. Regarding planning, zoning, and clean water legislation, Mr. Lockaby stated that the Zoning Administrators, like Sheriff's deputies, will likely be allowed to issue criminal summonses for ordinance violations. He further stated that previously a subdivision plat approved by the Planning Commission expired after 5 years if the site was not developed; however, this restriction was removed in 2010 for any plat that conveys a property interest to a locality. Mr. Lockaby stated that, effectively, the new legislation states that, unless the Board of Supervisors takes action to vacate such plat, it is now valid indefinitely.

Regarding procurement and County operations legislation, Mr. Lockaby stated that a bill submitted by Delegate Bill Stanley of Franklin County to require the Department of Education to adopt regulations requiring modernization of school buildings is still in limbo. He noted that legislation has also passed both chambers that the chair of the Board may choose whether to be called "chair," "chairperson," or some other appropriate designation.

Mr. Lockaby stated that legislation was submitted pertaining to convenience store 'skill' games, which look similar to slot machines. He noted that these types of gambling devices are in a legal 'gray' area; however, legislation has been submitted declaring the devices gambling machines and illegal in the State. Mr. Lockaby noted that this legislation has been reported to the opposite chamber for consideration.

Regarding the State budget, Mr. Lockaby stated that the current budget is proposed to total \$70 billion; however, raises for constitutional officer employees were cut, \$35 million in funding has been included for the Virginia Technology Initiative (VATI) program with requirements that increase the upfront capital investment by private partners involved in those projects, and there is possible funding being considered for school capital improvement initiatives.

After questioning by Dr. Scothorn regarding the proposed collective bargaining legislation, Mr. Lockaby stated that, if the Senate Bill is approved by the General Assembly, the County would have to decide if it wants to allow collective bargaining. He noted this legislation is not forcing private businesses located in the County to allow collective bargaining with their employees; it is regarding collective bargaining with County employees.

After questioning by Mr. Clinton, Mr. Lockaby stated that the tax parity legislation is proposed to give counties equal taxing authority to that which cities now have. After further questioning by Mr. Clinton, Mr. Lockaby stated that this tax parity does not include towns and noted that some cities, such as Roanoke, Charlottesville, Richmond, have charter provisions that let them have the ability to assess certain taxes that no other jurisdiction can have.

There being no further discussion, the Board thanked Mr. Lockaby for his presentation.

A staff update was then given on the recent citizen input meeting on proposed text amendments to the Utility-Scale Wind Farm Ordinance. Mrs. Nicole Pendleton, Director of Community Development, stated that the Planning Department staff conducted a community input meeting on February 10 at Eagle Rock Elementary School on proposed text amendments to the Wind Farm Ordinance. She noted that this meeting was an open house format to which approximately 45 citizens attended.

Mrs. Pendleton stated that displays included the existing Wind Energy Ordinance, the SEP application requirements, permitting and compliance, safety and construction, site design, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning regulations, and staff answered questions and received feedback from the attendees on proposed ordinance amendments. She noted that an on-line survey was also created and posted to the County website earlier this month to obtain input and, as of yesterday, 95 responses had been received. She further noted that the survey's results will be posted on the County's website.

Mrs. Pendleton then reviewed the survey's questions/responses. She noted that all of the questions were framed around the current ordinance's language and included questions on how the respondent had heard about the revised regulations; do the current regulations promote/prevent wind energy development; do the current regulations protect/not protect the public's health and safety and, if they do not, indicate why; is the environmental impact of such wind farms protected or not protected by the current ordinance, and if not, what resources are harmed; do the current regulations protect/not protect wildlife and which wildlife would be most vulnerable; do the current regulations offer scenic protection; in what zoning districts should wind farms be allowed; what sections of the ordinance should be amended; what district the respondent lives in; and other comments.

She stated that responses to public safety concerns regarding the ordinance's provisions were split 50/50. Mrs. Pendleton noted that responses to the question on what environmental resources aren't being protected included forest lands; creeks, rivers, and surface waters; native and/or endangered plant species; farm lands, etc.; however, approximately 32% of the respondents who answered the question about which resources were being harmed indicated that they did not believe the environment would be harmed. She noted that 37% of the respondents stated that the current regulations protect wildlife and 49% said that they do not. She further noted that the wildlife most vulnerable to harm was reported to be birds, bats, and other flying/avian wildlife.

After discussion, Mrs. Pendleton stated that 52% of the respondents stated that the current wind energy regulations do offer scenic protection. She further stated that respondents stated that the top-ranked zoning districts in which wind farms should be located were Agricultural, Forest, and Industrial, with 35% responding that they should not be allowed in any zoning districts. Mrs. Pendleton stated that 41% of the respondents generally supported the ordinance and 40% generally opposed it, with 14% undecided.

Mrs. Pendleton further stated that some responses to question number 12 (If you do not support the existing wind energy regulations, what sections of the regulations do you believe should be amended.) expressed concern about the ability of staff to provide oversight for wind energy projects.

She noted that survey comments not otherwise listed included addressing property values, disposing of materials at the end of the turbine's life, siting for utility-scale wind energy system; allow newer technology, renewable energy, and new studies need to be required. Mrs.

Pendleton stated that at least 16 calls or letters have been received by her office outside of the community meeting since the applications were filed to amend the Code and the SEP.

Mrs. Pendleton noted that proposed ordinance amendments will be drafted for the Planning Commission's and Supervisors' consideration. She noted that the next steps will include a tour of a wind farm consisting of newer technology and taller turbines located in a mountainous area. Mrs. Pendleton noted that staff has discussed potential locations in Pennsylvania and Maryland with James Madison University, the Southeast Wind Coalition, and other associated groups. She stated that most wind energy farms are privately owned and do not allow on-site visitors so there may be accessibility issues.

Mrs. Pendleton stated that text amendments to the Wind Energy Ordinance have not yet been slated for public hearing as the staff is still reviewing citizen feedback and comments from the community meeting.

Regarding hiring a third-party consultant to review the revised Apex proposal, Mrs. Pendleton stated that the County issued a request for proposals (RFP) for consultant services to which only one response was received. She noted that this response was from Antares Group, Inc., who conducted the review of Apex's original wind farm proposal in 2015.

Mrs. Pendleton stated that the RFP included the list of review parameters as mentioned by the Board at their January regular meeting, e.g., financial feasibility, noise, infrasound, decommissioning planning, etc. She noted that Antares responded that they are comfortable with the scope of the project and the budget that they submitted in their proposal and can revise any areas of emphasis that the Board desires.

After questioning by Dr. Bailey, Mrs. Pendleton stated that the third-party review should evaluate how changes in technology and in other areas of the wind industry are impacting the revised project.

After further questioning by Dr. Bailey, Mrs. Pendleton stated that staff believes that the list of parameters provided in the RFP is comprehensive and complete and will allow for a thorough review of Apex's request for revisions to their 2016 Special Exceptions Permit. She noted that Antares has international experience in the wind energy field.

Dr. Scothorn then asked that Mr. Charlie Johnson with Apex Clean Energy to come forward.

Dr. Scothorn stated that it has been said that time is of the essence and any delays in the County's review of these Code amendments and SEP revisions would impact the project's construction schedule. Dr. Scothorn stated that the County has been involved in this project since 2014. He then questioned if Apex has obtained a right-of-way or a proposal on a right-of-way to access the site as access is an important issue in a determination on this proposal.

Mr. Johnson stated that Apex has made a lot of progress in discussions with the adjacent landowners on access to the wind farm site since December 2019 and there is a path for agreement on the access.

After questioning by Dr. Scothorn, Mrs. Pendleton then reviewed the parameters included in the third-party RFP (financial feasibility, noise, land values, environmental impacts, decommissioning plan, and mechanical abilities of the project). Dr. Scothorn suggested that a review of the right-of way's engineering plan to the site be included in Antares' review.

Mr. Johnson stated that he has no objections to this review being included.

Dr. Scothorn stated that one of the biggest issues in this matter is how long it will take to complete the right-of-way to allow the project to move forward and equipment/turbines to be delivered to the site.

Mr. Johnson stated that one of Apex's criteria to move this project forward is to secure the right-of-way.

After questioning by Dr. Scothorn, Mr. Johnson stated that Apex is targeting April 2020 as the date by when the right-of-way issues have to be resolved for the project to stay on schedule. Dr. Scothorn then questioned that, if there are further issues that delay this project, what would be the date when Apex determines that this project is not going to work/be able to proceed.

Mr. Johnson stated that this is a difficult question to answer but they are confident that if approval is received from the County in the next two months they can stay on schedule. He noted that the construction industry works in cycles.

After discussion by Dr. Scothorn on language for a proposed motion, Mr. Michael Lockaby, County Attorney, suggested that the Board authorize the County Administrator to execute a contract with Antares Group, Inc., upon the Zoning Administrator's finding that the application from Apex Clean Energy is complete which will allow staff to begin processing the request.

Mr. Lockaby stated that the Zoning Administrator has not determined as of this time that the Apex application for Zoning Ordinance and Special Exceptions Permit amendments is complete due to the Wind Energy Ordinance's provisions not being up-to-date and there is also no definite access to the site. He noted that staff can begin to process the application in hopes that, by the time the Commission's and Supervisors public hearings are scheduled, these issues are resolved. He noted that a clock has to start sometime on this request.

After questioning by Mr. Clinton, Mrs. Pendleton stated that the third-party consultant RFP was advertised for bids, posted on-line, and the proposal package was sent out to those firms who replied to the RFP in 2015. She noted that only one response was received—from Antares.

After discussion, Mrs. Pendleton stated that wind farms are a unique segment of the consultant industry and there are a lot of different, moving parts to this proposal for interested firms to review.

After questioning by Mr. Clinton, Mrs. Pendleton stated that Antares is the same firm who reviewed Apex's original proposal in 2014.

Mr. Larowe stated that Antares completed their review based on the Board's direction in 2014; however, the Board is asking for more details to be reviewed in the current proposal.

On motion by Dr. Scothorn, seconded by Dr. Bailey, and carried by the following recorded vote, the Board authorized the County Administrator to execute a contract with Antares Group, Inc., for third-party consultant services on the parameters as previously discussed regarding the Apex Clean Energy request, upon the Zoning Administrator's finding that the application from Apex is complete in order to allow staff to begin processing the request. (Resolution Number 20-02-11)

AYES: Mr. Clinton, Mr. Sloan, Mr. Martin, Dr. Bailey, Dr. Scothorn

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINING: None

Consideration was then held on a request for advertisement of a public hearing on proposed amendments to the Sign Ordinance from RPT, Inc. Mr. Drew Pearson, County Planner, stated that his office has received a request from RPT, Inc., which operates the 604 Minute Market on Cloverdale Road, that the Zoning Ordinance's commercial district signage provisions be amended.

He noted that there are several businesses located on the parcel owned by RPT including a convenience store, restaurant, salon, and a car wash. Mr. Pearson stated that the signage requirement for B-2 zoned districts is a maximum of 120 square feet (sf) and the 604 Minute Market currently has 119 sf of permitted signage.

Mr. Pearson stated that there is no current signage for the site's car wash and the applicant is requesting that the Sign Ordinance be amended to increase the amount of signage allowed on multi-tenant parcels.

He noted that over the past year or so the Planning Department staff has received feedback from the community and citizens regarding needed amendments to this ordinance and believes that there is a need for a comprehensive, participatory process to evaluate the current ordinance and recommend revisions for Planning Commission and Board consideration. Mr. Pearson stated that staff can conduct a review of the entire Sign Ordinance with input from citizens and various stakeholders this fall, or, if the Board desires, they can look at possible revisions over the next couple of months to offer a more-immediate solution to RPT's specific request which would entail revisions to and scheduling public hearings on Section 25-462 Sign standards and regulations of the Zoning Ordinance at the April Planning Commission and Supervisors' meetings.

Dr. Scothorn stated that he has discussed the RPT request with the Community Development Director and believes that the staff should be directed to proceed with drafting revisions to Section 25-462 of the Zoning Ordinance which would be brought before the Commission and Board for public hearings in April.

There being no further discussion, on motion by Dr. Scothorn, seconded by Mr. Sloan, and carried by the following recorded vote, as per the request from RPT, Inc., the Board referred proposed amendments to Section 25-462 Sign standards and regulations of the County Zoning Ordinance, to the Planning Commission for its review and recommendation to the Board of Supervisors at their regular April meeting. (Resolution Number 20-02-12)

AYES: Mr. Clinton, Mr. Sloan, Mr. Martin, Dr. Bailey, Dr. Scothorn

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINING: None

Consideration was then held on a request for advertisement of a public hearing on proposed Comprehensive Plan amendments from Greenfield Meadows, LLC, for a proposed development project on Etzler Road. Mr. Drew Pearson, County Planner, stated that Greenfield Meadows, on behalf of two property owners, is requesting that the Board consider amendments to the Comp Plan's future land use and water and sewer maps to change Tax Map Section 87, Parcels 95 & 96, to a medium density future residential land use designation.

Mr. Pearson stated that these parcels total 108 acres, are currently designated in the Comp Plan as both medium density and low density residential usage, and the applicants are requesting that both parcels be designated as medium density residential. Mr. Pearson stated

that the applicants want to eventually rezone this property from Agricultural A-1 to a Traditional Neighborhood Use District (TND).

Mr. Pearson stated that the Code of Virginia requires that a traffic impact analysis be conducted when a property's density is proposed to be increased. He noted that Greenfield Meadows is proposing that 175 single family dwellings, 618 multi-family units, and 70,000 square feet of commercial/retail use be located on these two parcels. Mr. Pearson stated that VDOT has reviewed this proposal and their report's executive summary, which was included in this agenda item, contains anticipated traffic data and concerns regarding traffic impacts along the affected roadways (Etzler Road, Catawba Road) and at the U. S. Route 220/779 intersection.

Mr. Pearson stated that, based on VDOT's report's results, staff is recommending that the Comprehensive Plan amendment public hearing be tabled until the applicant satisfactorily addresses VDOT's comments and provides solutions to address the traffic impacts from this proposed development. He noted that the Board can either approve, deny, or table the applicant's request for a public hearing and, should the Board approve or table the request, it is at their discretion as to when the request would be heard.

After questioning by Mr. Clinton, Mr. Pearson stated that the State Code allows the Board to set the time period as to when this request has to be brought back before the Commission and Supervisors for consideration.

Mr. Clinton stated that based on VDOT's analysis of this development proposal's impacts on the area's roadways, he does not think the Board can make a quick decision on this Comprehensive Plan amendment request.

There being no further discussion, on motion by Mr. Clinton, seconded by Dr. Scothorn, and carried by the following recorded vote, the Board tabled the request from Greenfield Meadows, LLC, for consideration of advertisement of a public hearing on proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan for a proposed development project on Etzler Road for 60 days to allow the developer to review/respond to VDOT's traffic impact analysis. (Resolution Number 20-02-13)

AYES: Mr. Clinton, Mr. Sloan, Mr. Martin, Dr. Bailey, Dr. Scothorn

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINING: None

Regarding committee reports, Dr. Bailey stated that the Courthouse Renovation Committee met last week and the staff is drafting a request for proposals from engineering firms to study this project and make recommendations.

Regarding Board member comments, Mr. Sloan noted that, on behalf of the Fire and EMS Committee, the proposal approved earlier today regarding an air bottle/compressor truck is a good solution to this issue. He noted that this will be a more efficient system and provide a means to solve various problems that have occurred.

Mr. Sloan further stated that there has been an increased working relationship between Fire/EMS, VDOT, and the State Police in dealing with I-81 corridor issues. He further noted that there are future table-top exercises planned "to make these problems a little more livable."

Mr. Sloan stated that the region's job growth as mentioned earlier today by Beth Doughty is encouraging. Mr. Sloan noted that he believes that a designated 4-H/FFA facility is

needed in the County and residential housing units are needed in areas of the County other than Daleville, Troutville, and Blue Ridge.

Mr. Martin noted that there have been a lot of changes to the County's fire and EMS operations over the past few years.

There being no further discussion, on motion by Dr. Bailey, seconded by Dr. Scothorn, and carried by the following recorded vote, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 P. M. (Resolution Number 20-02-14)

AYES: Mr. Clinton, Mr. Sloan, Mr. Martin, Dr. Bailey, Dr. Scothorn

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINING: None