

October 11, 2022

A regular monthly meeting of the Russell County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 6:00 pm at the Russell County Government Center in Lebanon, Virginia.

The Chair called the meeting to order.

**Roll Call by the Clerk:**

**Present:**

Tim Lovelace  
Lou Wallace  
Carl Rhea  
David Eaton  
Steve Breeding  
Rebecca Dye  
Oris Christian

Lonzo Lester, Clerk  
Katie Patton, County Attorney  
Loretta Vance, Secretary

**Absent:**

None

Invocation by Caleb Johnson followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Motion made by Rebecca Dye, second Oris Christian and duly approved by the Board of Supervisors to approve the agenda as amended.

The vote was:

Aye: Rebecca Dye, Oris Christian, Steve Breeding, David Eaton, Carl Rhea, Tim Lovelace and Lou Wallace

Nay: None

**Presentations**

**Dr. Michelle Meister & Sheriff Steve Dye** addressed the Board about the current situation at the Russell County Animal Shelter. They asked that the county move forward with building a new shelter to better accommodate the animals and to make sure state regulations are followed.

**April Morefield** representing the Harper House Project explained the Care Center and how they support children that are victims of abuse. She also discussed the medical care that these children receive and how this care helps to get convictions when these cases go to court. She explained how the Harper House in Tazewell County was being utilized by Russell County and the need for a local facility.

**AP**

**PROVAL TO ACCEPT PROPERTY FROM THE REDBUD FESTIVAL**

Moton made by David Eaton, second Steve Breeding and duly approved by the Board of Supervisors to accept a piece of property back from the Redbud Festival.

The vote was:

Aye: David Eaton, Steve Breeding, Carl Rhea, Rebecca Dye, Oris Christian, Tim Lovelace and Lou Wallace

Nay: None

**Lonzo Lester, County Administrator** did a presentation on the Personal Property Tax Relief Credit (PPTR).

**New Business**

**PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 26, 2022 TO AMEND THE COUNTY BUDGET AND TRANSFER OF PROPERTY FROM THE REDBUD FESTIVAL**

Motion made by Rebecca Dye, second Steve Breeding and duly approved by the Board of Supervisors to set a public hearing for Wednesday, October 26, 2022 at 6:00 pm to amend the County Budget and to advertise the proposed amendment to the budget and to hold a public hearing pertaining to the Redbud property.

The vote was:

Aye: Rebecca Dye, Steve Breeding, Tim Lovelace, Carl Rhea, David Eaton, Oris Christian and Lou Wallace

Nay: None

**APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2022 MINUTES**

Motion made by Rebecca Dye, second Oris Christian and duly approved by the Board of Supervisors to approve the September 12, 2022 minutes and dispense with the reading thereof.

The vote was:

Aye: Rebecca Dye, Oris Christian, Steve Breeding, Tim Lovelace, David Eaton and Lou Wallace

Nay: None

Abstain: Carl Rhea

**APPROVAL OF GENERAL COUNTY INVOICES**

Motion made by Rebecca Dye, second Tim Lovelace and duly approved by the Board of Supervisors to approve general county invoices in the amount of \$1,695,945.88 including withholdings and reoccurring.

The vote was:

Aye: Rebecca Dye, Tim Lovelace, Steve Breeding, David Eaton, Oris Christian and Lou Wallace

Nay: None

Abstain: Carl Rhea

**Board Appointments**

### **ROGER SWORD RE-APPOINTED TO THE RUSSELL COUNTY IDA**

Carl Rhea nominated Roger Sword  
David Eaton nominated Nate Kiser

The vote was:

Nate Kiser- (3) three votes: David Eaton, Steve Breeding and Tim Lovelace

Roger Sword – (4) four votes: Carl Rhea, Rebecca Dye, Lou Wallace and Oris Christian

Roger Sword was re-appointed to the Russell County Industrial Development Authority for a (4) four-year term, said term ending October 11, 2026.

### **FRANK HORTON, TONY LAMBERT, RON BLANKENSHIP AND JAMES EATON RE-APPOINTED TO THE CUMBERLAND PLATEAU ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

Motion made by Carl Rhea, second Tim Lovelace and duly approved by the Board of Supervisors to re-appoint Frank Horton, Tony Lambert, Ron Blankenship and James Eaton to the Cumberland Plateau Economic Development Commission for (1) one-year terms, said terms ending October 12, 2023.

The vote was:

Aye: Carl Rhea, Tim Lovelace, Steve Breeding, Rebecca Dye, Oris Christian and Lou Wallace

Nay: None

Abstain: David Eaton

### **SHERRY LYTTLE RE-APPOINTED TO THE RUSSELL COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Motion made Tim Lovelace, second Steve Breeding and duly approved by the Board of Supervisors to re-appoint Sherry Lyttle to the Russell County Library Board of Trustees for a (3) three-year term, said term ending October 11, 2025.

The vote was:

Aye: Tim Lovelace, Steve Breeding, Carl Rhea, David Eaton, Rebecca Dye, Oris Christian and Lou Wallace

Nay: None

### **Citizens' Comment**

The Chair opened citizens' comment.

**Michelle Vance**, Lebanon requested that the money the county will be getting from the Opioid lawsuit be allocated to Cumberland Mountain and The Laurels Recovery Center. She stated that something needs to be done for the kids, there is nothing here for them and they often turn to drugs. Mental health is the other problem, they also turn to drugs because they can't get help.

**Wanda Burke, Lebanon** stated that Mark Mero had a tremendous impact on the kids in Russell County when he visited this past month. He had over 500 messages before he left. She asked that a portion of the opioid lawsuit money be set aside for the children of the county.

**Donnie Tackett** commented that a small portion of the road he lives on is not paved and is almost impassable and needs work. He thought it was added to the Six-Year plan several years ago and asked the status of this.

**Cody Jackson**, Cleveland thanked the Board for passing the Pro-Life Resolution and reminded them that he had emailed them some information on a potential ordinance. He invited the Board to the Christian Coalition of Churches meetings.

**Cameron Shelton**, Swords Creek presented a Resolution passed by the Christian Coalition of Churches in support of the Harper's Home project in Russell County. He stated that he and Cody Jackson are co-coordinators of the Coalition and urged the board to support this project.

**Sandy Hess**, Swords Creek commented with a disclaimer that she is not representing the Department of Social Services. She commented on the status of the county bonus and the attorney general opinion. She has not received a copy of the amended ordinance pertaining to the proposed bonus. She also stated that she had attended all the budget workshops and the letter from the Commissioner was not mentioned. These higher county assessed values could impact potential Medicaid eligibility.

**Nate Kiser**, Lebanon stated that there is an apparent lack of leadership in this county. The board should have adjusted the assessed values earlier in the year. It will cost the county more money to fix the issue now. He commented that this is a complete failure that should have been taken care of months ago.

**Annie Stevens**, New Garden Rescue Squad commented that the costs associated with running the squad have doubled. The fentanyl crisis is in the county, Narcan is needed but the cost is so high. She stated that they need more than \$1000 extra per month.

**Larry Hughes**, Lebanon commented that tax relief should have been discussed during the budget process. Board members should honor their oath as elected officials.

**Jennifer Chumbley**, Cleveland stated that she is saddened that the county has become so divided. She thanked the Board for all the things that they have accomplished. She stated that she hopes that the county can get back to tourism after all the other issues have been settled.

Citizens' Comment was closed.

### **County Attorney Reports and Requests**

**The Chair** set the public hearing for the Honaker Redbud Festival property transfer for Wednesday, October 26, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

**The Chair** set the public hearing for the Honaker pool property transfer to Russell County School Board for Monday, November 07, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

### **APPROVAL OF THE FINNEY DISPOSAL SITE LEASES**

Motion made by Carl Rhea, second by David Eaton and duly approved by the Board of Supervisors to approve (2) two leases for the Finney Disposal Site.

The vote was:

Aye: Carl Rhea, Tim Lovelace, Steve Breeding, David Eaton, Rebecca Dye, Oris Christian and Lou Wallace

Nay: None

**TRANSFER OF THE RUSSELL COUNTY PSA CONTRACTS FOR SALE OF WATER**

Motion made by David Eaton, second Carl Rhea and duly approved by the Board of Supervisors to transfer Russell County Public Service Authority contracts for sale of water to Washington County, Tazewell County, Scott County, Town of Honaker, Town of Lebanon and Town of Richlands.

The vote was:

Aye: David Eaton, Carl Rhea, Tim Lovelace, Steve Breeding, Rebecca Dye, Oris Christian and Lou Wallace

Nay: None

**ACCEPTANCE OF \$218,683.28 IN OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS**

Motion made by Rebecca Dye, second Steve Breeding and duly approved by the Board of Supervisors to accept Opioid Settlement funds in the amount of \$218,683.28.

The vote was:

Aye: Rebecca Dye, Steve Breeding, David Eaton, Carl Rhea, Tim Lovelace, Oris Christian and Lou Wallace

Nay: None

**APPROVAL OF A DANTE RESCUE SQUAD MEMBERSHIP VARIANCE RESOLUTION**

Motion made by Oris Christian, second Carl Rhea and duly approved by the Board of Supervisors to approve a Dante Rescue Squad Membership Variance Resolution.

The vote was:

Aye: Oris Christian, Carl Rhea, Tim Lovelace, Steve Breeding, David Eaton, Rebecca Dye and Lou Wallace

Nay: None

**APPROVAL OF A VDOT RESOLUTION FOR RURAL ADDITIONS TO THE SECONDARY SYSTEM OF STATE HIGHWAYS -RTE. 1055**

Motion made by Steve Breeding, second David Eaton and duly approved by the Board of Supervisors to approve a VDOT Resolution for Rural Additions to the Secondary System of State Highways: Rte. 1055 – Jim Kiser Road.

The vote was:

Aye: Steve Breeding, David Eaton, Carl Rhea, Tim Lovelace, Rebecca Dye, Oris Christian and Lou Wallace

Nay: None

**APPROVAL OF RUSSELL COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION PLATS**

Motion made by Steve Breeding, second David Eaton and duly approved by the Board of Supervisors to approve plats as requested by the Russell County Planning Commission.

The vote was:

Aye: Steve Breeding, David Eaton, Carl Rhea, Tim Lovelace, Rebecca Dye, Oris Christian and Lou Wallace

Nay: None

**APPROVAL TO ADJOURN TO RECONVENE ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2022**

Motion made by Rebecca Dye, second Tim Lovelace and duly approved by the Board of Supervisors to adjourn to reconvene on Thursday, October 13, 2022 at 6:00 pm at the Russell County Government Center.

The vote was:

Aye: Rebecca Dye, Tim Lovelace, Carl Rhea, David Eaton, Steve Breeding, Oris Christian and Lou Wallace

Nay: None

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Clerk of the Board

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Chairperson