

October 02, 2023

A regular monthly meeting of the Russell County Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, October 03, 2023 beginning at 6:00 pm at the Russell County Government Center in Lebanon, Virginia.

The Clerk 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
Vicki Porter, Deputy Clerk
Katie Patton, County Attorney

Absent:

None

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion made by David Eaton, second Steve Breeding and duly approved by the Board of Supervisors to approve the agenda as presented.

The vote was:

Aye: David Eaton, Steve Breeding, Tim Lovelace, Lou Wallace, Carl Rhea, Rebecca Dye and Oris Christian
Nay: None

Presentations

Dr. Kim Hooker, Superintendent of Russell County Schools gave a brief presentation on teacher retention and salary discrepancies in Russell County as compared to the rest of the state.

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 05, 2023 MINUTES

Motion made by Steve Breeding, Second David Eaton and duly approved by the Board of Supervisors to approve the September 05, 2023 minutes and dispense with the reading thereof.

The vote was:

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

Nay: None

Committee Appointments

DR. KIM HOOKER APPOINTED TO THE SWCC LOCAL COLLEGE ADVISORY BOARD

Motion made by David Eaton, second Rebecca Dye and duly approved by the Board of Supervisors to appoint Dr. Kim Hooker to the SWCC Local College Advisory Board to fill the unexpired term of Kathryn Easton, said term ending June 30, 2025.

The vote was:

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

Nay: None

GARY DOTSON, JOHNNY B. JESSEE, EUGENE FERGUSON, BARBARA COX, TONY MAXFIELD AND HENRY STINSON, JR. TO THE HIGHWAY & SAFETY COMMISSION

Motion made by Rebecca Dye, second Oris Christian and duly approved by the Board of Supervisors to re-appoint Gary Dotson, Johnny B. Jessee, Eugene Ferguson, Barbara Cox, Tony Maxfield and Henry Stinson, Jr. to the Highway & Safety Commission for (2) two-year terms, said terms ending October 12, 2025.

The vote was:

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

Nay: None

CHARLES EDMONDS AND JOHN MASON RE-APPOINTED TO THE RC PLANNING COMMISSION

Motion made by Oris Christian, second Carl Rhea and duly approved by the Board of Supervisors to re-appoint Charles Edmonds and John Mason to the Russell County Planning Commission for (4) four-year terms, said terms ending October 02, 2027.

The vote was:

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

Nay: None

FRANK HORTON, TONY LAMBERT AND RON BLANKENSHIP RE-APPOINTED TO THE CPEDC

Motion made by Rebecca Dye, second Carl Rhea and duly approved by the Board of Supervisors to re-appoint Frank Horton, Tony Lambert, and Ron Blankenship to the Cumberland Plateau Economic Development Commission for (1) one-year terms, said terms ending October 12, 2024.

The vote was:

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

Nay: None

Citizens' Comment

The Chair opened citizens' comment period.

Jim Lyttle, Castlewood commented that we needed to be stewards of the community and be against the proposed landfill.

Wanda Burke, Lebanon thanked the Board for the \$6000 that was taken from opioid settlement funds for the Mark Mero presentation. She also commented that it was not a political ploy.

Tony Smith, Cleveland stated that he thought an industrial park would be located in the county, not a trash dump. He was against the landfill and didn't want trash from New York coming to our county.

Jackie Yates, Cleveland stated that his business has struggled, he tries to do the right thing and asked the Board if there was any way to help him with the disposal fee for tires.

Mike White stated that he is 150% against the landfill as he owns property near the Moss III site.

Jarrold Ring, Castlewood commented that he wanted to live and work here in Russell County. There is a real lack of jobs, and a landfill adds insults to injury when he thinks of the impact it could have on the county.

Linda Fletcher, Lebanon opposes the landfill. She asked if they would want a landfill across from their homes or farms, would it be worth the cost down the road?

Vickie Kitts, Virginia Education Association advised the Board that Russell County was at the bottom of the list for salaries in the region.

Jennifer Chumbley, Cleveland stated that she owns land near the proposed landfill site and her family did not want this. She also stated that she didn't appreciate being threatened.

Angie McGlothlin, Honaker said that a private landfill would contaminate our water and air, leaks would eventually happen. She feels that this would be a big mistake.

David Miller, Honaker stated that he has an issue with the PSA. He feels that the \$100 fee to turn his water back on was unfair.

Thomas Reed, Lebanon is opposed to the landfill and feels that the Board needs to think about this and not let it happen.

Jeremiah Neal, Cleveland totally opposes the landfill and doesn't like everything being so secretive.

Chris Axxom, Cleveland lives ¼ mile from the proposed landfill, he will have to move if it comes.

Nate Kiser, Lebanon wants the Board to let everyone know the status of the proposed landfill since everyone knows about it and were making lots of assumptions.

Ty Harris, Cleveland is 100% against the landfill and he will not stand by and let it happen. He also stated that he was threatened when he commented about the landfill.

Flora Farmer, Cleveland stated that she doesn't want this landfill near Cleveland.

Linda Couch, Mayor of the Town of Cleveland is totally against the landfill.

The Chair closed citizens' comment period.

County Administrator Reports & Requests

APPROVAL OF ROBINSON, FARMER AND COX AUDIT ENGAGEMENT FOR FY 2023 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$75,000

Motion made by Steve Breeding, David Eaton and duly approved by the Board of Supervisors to approve the FY 2023 Audit Engagement with Robinson, Farmer & Cox in the amount of \$75,000.

The vote was:

Aye: Steve Breeding, David Eaton, Tim Lovelace, Lou Wallace, Carl Rhea, Rebecca Dye and Oris Christian
Nay: None

APPROVAL TO UPGRADE THE COUNTY'S FINANCIAL SYSTEM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$40,279

Motion made by Oris Christian, second Carl Rhea and duly approved by the Board of Supervisors to upgrade the County's financial system software & maintenance in the amount of \$40,279.00.

The vote was:

Aye: Oris Christian, Carl Rhea, Tim Lovelace, Steve Breeding, Lou Wallace, David Eaton and Rebecca Dye
Nay: None

APPROVAL OF THE FY 24 FIRE PROGRAM AGREEMENT & GRANT

Motion made by David Eaton, second Rebecca Dye and duly approved by the Board of Supervisors to approve and appropriate the FY 24 Fire Program Agreement & Grant in the amount of \$95,029.

The vote was:

Aye: David Eaton, Rebecca Dye, Carl Rhea, Tim Lovelace, Lou Wallace, Steve Breeding and Oris Christian
Nay: None

APPROVAL OF FY23/24 GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUDGET AMENDMENT THAT INCLUDES A 2% SALARY INCREASE FOR EMPLOYEES

Motion made by Tim Lovelace, second Lou Wallace and duly approved by the Board of Supervisors to approve a General Assembly Budget Amendment that includes a 2% salary increase for employees.

The vote was:

Aye: Tim Lovelace, Lou Wallace, Carl Rhea, David Eaton, Steve Breeding, Rebecca Dye and Oris Christian
Nay: None

APPROVAL OF AN APPROPRIATION ADVANCE REQUEST FROM THE CLINCH RIVER LITTLE LEAGUE

Motion made by David Eaton, second Oris Christian and duly approved by the Board of Supervisors to approve an appropriation request for FY2024/2025 from the Clinch River Little League.

The vote was:

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

Nay: None

APPROVAL OF A TRAVEL REQUEST FROM THE RCPL

Motion made by Carl Rhea, second Oris Christian and duly approved by the Board of Supervisors to approve a travel request from the Russell County Public Library.

The vote was:

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

Nay: None

APPROVAL OF PLANNING COMMISSION PLATS

Motion made by Rebecca Dye, second Carl Rhea and duly approved by the Board of Supervisors to approve plats as recommended by the Russell County Planning Commission.

The vote was:

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

Nay: None

APPROVAL TO ISSUE A WAIVER FOR TIRE DISPOSAL

Motion made by David Eaton, second Steve Breeding and duly approved by the Board of Supervisors to authorize the County Administrator to issue a waiver for tire disposal.

The vote was:

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

Nay: None

APPROVAL TO SET THE NEXT BOARD MEETING FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2023 AT 6:00 PM

Motion made by Steve Breeding, second Oris Christian and duly approved by the Board of Supervisors to schedule the November Board of Supervisors meeting on Monday, November 13, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

The vote was:

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

Nay: None

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair.

Clerk of the Board

Chairperson