

MINUTES

A continued meeting of the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors was held on the 2nd day of February, 2026 starting at 2:00 o'clock p.m. in the Board of Supervisors Meeting Room, 3rd floor of the Buchanan County Government Center, 4447 Slate Creek Road, Grundy, Virginia 24614. Also, this meeting was conducted by electronic communication (Zoom). The media and public were invited to participate.

PRESENT: Tim Hess, Chairman
Jeff Cooper
Trey Adkins
Craig Stiltner
G. Roger Rife
David Rose
Lee Dotson

Robert Craig Horn, County Administrator
L. Lee Moise, County Attorney

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The meeting was called to order with Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

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IN RE: PUBLIC HEARING – 2:00 P.M. – TO HEAR PUBLIC COMMENTS CONCERNING AMENDING THE BUDGET TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION TO BUCHANAN COUNTY’S BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026 IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF UP TO SIX MILLION DOLLARS (\$6,000,000.00) AND CONSIDER THE POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF THE BOOTH CENTER FROM THE APPALACHIAN SCHOOL OF LAW (ASL)

Trey Adkins, Knox District Supervisor requested each board meeting to refrain in asking any questions until the end. Also, he requested each speaker at today’s public hearing to limit their time to 3 minutes each. Please raise your hand if you want to speak so you can be recognized by the chairman, he stated. Thank you for attending today and we are all trying to do the best for Buchanan County, he commented.

Tim Hess, Chairman stated we received a letter from the Virginia General Assembly supporting the action to ensure the Appalachian School of Law remains in Buchanan County. Below is a copy of the letter from Delegate Will Morefield, Senator Todd Pillion and Senator Travis Hackworth.

The Buchanan County Board of Supervisors
447 Slate Creek Road
Grundy, VA 24614

Re: Support for Actions to Ensure the Appalachian School of Law Remains in Buchanan County

Dear Members of the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors:

We write jointly, in our official capacities as members of the Virginia General Assembly representing Buchanan County and the surrounding region, to express our unequivocal support for any and all lawful actions undertaken by the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors to ensure that the Appalachian School of Law (“ASL”) remains located in Buchanan County, Virginia.

Buchanan County faces many of the same economic and demographic challenges confronting communities throughout far Southwest Virginia. At the same time, Appalachian School of Law, an institution founded to serve this very region, has advised the Board that it is facing financial pressures attributable to the nationwide decline in law school applications over the past decade. These challenges are not unique to ASL, but the consequences of inaction here would be uniquely devastating to Buchanan County and far Southwest Virginia.

We are aware that the Board has been advised that, absent from local assistance, parties may wish to relocate the law school outside of far Southwest Virginia to another institution that has offered it a new home. We believe such an outcome would represent a profound loss not only for Buchanan County, but for the broader region ASL was created to serve.

The facts surrounding ASL’s impact on Buchanan County are compelling and indisputable. From 2003 through 2013, the law school grew substantially, but national enrollment declines after 2013 affected law schools across the country, ASL has continued to serve as a major economic, educational, and civic anchor in Buchanan County. Today, ASL enrolls approximately 184 students, employs 41 individuals, and supports numerous local vendors providing essential services.

Since its founding, ASL has graduated more than 2,100 attorneys—many of whom practice in Central Appalachia and far Southwest Virginia. In 2020, the American Bar Association identified rural Appalachia as a “legal desert,” which is defined as counties who have fewer than one lawyer for every 1,000 constituents. ASL has directly addressed this problem with approximately 62% of all new attorneys practicing in the seven counties surrounding ASL are alumni of the school, with the next highest contributing law school only accounting for 6% of the new lawyers in the same seven counties. ASL brings a much-needed contribution to the people of rural Appalachia, expanding access to justice in some of Virginia’s most underserved communities.

An independent 2016 economic impact study conducted by CHMURA Economics & Analytics of Richmond, Virginia, estimated that ASL generated approximately \$250 million in economic impact for Buchanan County. For almost a decade since that study, the law school has continued to inject substantial resources into the local economy, extrapolating that study into the present the economic impact is upward of \$400 million to the Buchanan County economy.

Beyond economics, ASL has brought students, faculty, and staff from across the nation and around the world to Buchanan County, showcasing what is possible when higher education is invested in rural Appalachia. ASL students, faculty, and staff have contributed hundreds of thousands of community service hours, and the school has consistently provided tuition waivers to Buchanan County students, ensuring local access to legal education.

We firmly believe that Appalachian School of Law's location, mission, and program of legal education promote justice, equality, and respect for the rule of law in a region that needs these values more than ever. We also believe, as generations of coal miners have proven, that with Appalachian ingenuity and determination, Buchanan County can accomplish whatever it sets out to do. The sons and daughters of those same coal miners have become—and will continue to become—outstanding lawyers, doctors, pharmacists, and professionals of every kind.

For these reasons, we fully support the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors in any and all lawful efforts it is necessary to ensure that Appalachian School of Law remains in Buchanan County and continues to serve the people of the Great Southwest.

Mr. Hess opened the public hearing for comments.

Tom Scott, Attorney stated he was not here as a representative of the ASL, but as a citizen of Buchanan County. There are two options: one is the county to purchase the Booth Center for \$6 million or the second option would do nothing and let ASL die.

In 1988 ASL became into existence, which was about 28 years ago, he stated. We did an economic impact study then and it showed the law school will contribute \$10 million each year to the economy. In 28 years, it would be \$280 million and if you only counted half that it would still be \$140 million, he stated.

ASL has contributed to the community by providing salaries for employees, rental, students spending on food and gas, stated Mr. Scott. The Town of Grundy would've been dead 10 years ago without the law school. Then it would fall on the residents in the county, he stated.

There are private donors who wants to see if the county is going to assist with ASL, stated Mr. Scott.

Leon Boyd, resident thanked the board for what they do for Buchanan County. I know this is going to be a tough decision. I am here to support ASL, he stated. I've watched businesses leave the county, but Noah Horn Well Drilling has over 102 employees now, he stated. We are blessed to live here, he commented.

Frannie B. Minton, resident, thanked the board too. You all are hero's too, she stated. I'm here to support ASL. What would the county be if we didn't get ASL and ACP here? Do the staff and students pay taxes? Yes, they do. Keeping ASL here in the county is a win win. These people will give you the shirt off their backs, she stated. These schools are important, stated Ms. Minton.

Brad Ratliff, resident stated I was born in Buchanan County in 1969. My dad was a coal truck driver and he raised me under a coal truck. In 2003, I was accepted at ASL. After I graduated, I went to work for Randy Bolling, Esquire and now I am out on my own practicing law, he stated. When it comes to economic development, the number of hours that ASL students gives back to the community is numerous. I'm asking for your support for ASL, stated Mr. Ratliff.

Eddie Townsend, resident stated she supports ASL. I think when parents leave their kids here to go to ASL, they feel their kids are safe.

Brandon Goins, Chief Deputy Commonwealth Attorney for Tazewell County stated I graduated in 2006 from ASL. ASL has shaped each one of us that attended, he stated. I'm originally from Wise, but ASL gave me the opportunity to go to law school. My wife attended and graduated from ACP, he stated. Now, we have chosen to stay in the area. The impact ASL has had on this community and if ASL leaves it will hurt the county, he stated.

Jerry Ward, resident, thanked the board for what they've done over the weekend in removing the snow. I started to work for the county as a Litter Control Officer and with the assistance from ASL and ACP volunteers helped in getting the streams cleaned etc.

Several years ago, the Backpack Ministry was formed and started helping to provide backpacks for kids on the weekends that might not have food, while they're out of school, stated Mr. Ward. ASL and ACP would bring food to any sporting event they would have and donate it to the Backpack Program, he stated.

I've seen people invest in the county and building places to rent for ASL and ACP, commented Mr. Ward. These people are still paying on their loans. We can pull the law school out and we can have a bright future, he stated.

Terry Colley, resident, stated ASL has brought over \$200 to \$300 million into Buchanan County. I hope you vote in favor to keep ASL, but make sure they agree to stay here and don't leave within the year, he stated.

Jason McGlothlin, President of Buchanan County Chamber stated I'm here to request the board to support and keep ASL here. I worked for ASL for nine years and for the past 24 years, I've been employed by ACP.

Diane Cantrell, resident, stated I've lived in Buchanan County most of my life. I hope this board hasn't made their minds up. Buchanan County shouldn't put anymore money in ASL, she stated. ASL has already decided they're moving. How can bailing them out, help them to stay, she stated.

Susan Mayhew, Dean of Appalachian College of Pharmacy (ACP) stated ASL's success is our success at ACP. Admissions rates for law schools across the nation dipped in 2021. Then in 2025/2026 there was a surge in admission rates. Early data shows there will be a 33% increase in admissions in the upcoming year, she stated. ASL is in recovery mode and please help support this recovery, she commented.

Jeff Taylor, Owner of Town Center Urgent Care stated the last two paragraphs of the above letter from Delegate Morefield, Senator Pillion and Senator Hackworth says a whole lot. If the county gives \$6 million to ASL, we at ASL are not going to do the same

thing they are doing today. The board at ASL has identified places to make cuts to their budget and we're quite confident it's going to make an impact for ASL, he stated.

Mary McGeorge, resident and former student at ASL stated ASL was the only law school that I applied for, because it's where my father went. I want to live here in Buchanan County and raise my family here too, she stated. If my daughter decides to go to law school, I hope she would be able to go here in Buchanan County, stated Ms. McGeorge. It would be three generations of my family to attend ASL.

I hate to see businesses close in the county, stated Ms. McGeorge. I bought a home here and pay taxes here. Please give the law school what it needs to succeed, she stated.

Dennis Ramey, Town Manager stated I'm here as a citizen and we have all the facts. The county has been up and down with industry. Give these people hope so the link and chain will not break, make it a seven and zero vote today and keep this school, he stated.

Chris Mitchell, Mayor of the Town of Grundy and resident stated what's going to be the cost to give another opportunity here. We have ASL and need to keep it.

Doug Shortridge, Business Owner in Buchanan County stated I've listened to the citizens of Buchanan County speak here today. Keep ASL here, it helps the economy, which makes it a no brainer. I'm a proud citizen of Buchanan County, he stated.

Ben Mayhew, a Junior at Twin Valley High School stated one day I hope I have the option to attend ASL. ASL is a good thing and I request the board to fund ASL and continue with higher education in the county, he stated.

Michael McGlothlin, President of ACP stated before we had ASL and ACP, it was very difficult to get Buchanan County citizens into law school or pharmacy school. Everywhere I look I see a son or daughter that is a lawyer or pharmacist. Today, there are over 2,100 people that have attended and graduated from ASL and are a practicing attorney and over 1,127 that attended ACP and are now a practicing pharmacist.

ASL and ACP have provided and promoted health care in the area, stated Mr. McGlothlin. These schools have required their students to do hundreds of thousands of community service hours in the county.

Jason Gallager, Attorney stated I'm a 2011 graduate of ASL. I love it here and if I had gone to another law school, I wouldn't be here, he commented. Now, I'm President of the Buchanan County Bar Association. If you don't have lawyers, you don't have businesses that'll come here. We need ASL and if the school goes, our legal community dies, he stated.

Wade McGeorge, resident thanked the board for all they do for the county. I'm on the Buchanan County IDA Board, and when you look at the demography of the county in 2050 if something doesn't change the number of residents will decline. I'm thankful

for all these students moving here, he stated. We can't lose our population, Mr. McGeorge commented.

Tass Robertson, resident stated we need more accountability. The county needs to do everything they can to keep ASL here.

Jennifer Conley, stated I live outside Buchanan County, but my daughter attended ASL. ASL is a rare institution, she stated. My daughter pursued a professional education and was able to stay close to home. The economic benefits are beneficially beyond the numbers given. ASL offers an opportunity to build a professional career, she commented.

James Shookley, resident, stated my daughter plans to attend ASL in a couple years.

Savanah Stiltner, resident stated I was born and raised in Buchanan County. I respect the commitment to keep ASL here. I have an important question, what is the strategy and how are they going to maintain enrollment and keep moving forward with ASL staying here, she asked?

Sarah P., stated I'm a 1L student at ASL and I grew up about 1 hour away. There's a great amount of diversity in Buchanan County and now this board has to consider taking a leap. I request the county invest in this small town, she stated.

Michael Rowe, stated I'm a 1L student at ASL. Many of us are so grateful to be here. Seems clear to me there's no more options, he stated.

Upon motion by Trey Adkins seconded by Lee Dotson and with a roll call vote of seven (7) yeas, Trey Adkins, Lee Dotson, Craig Stiltner, Tim Hess, Jeff Cooper, David Rose, G. Roger Rife and zero (0) nays, this board did hereby approve to close the public hearing.

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IN RE: CLOSED SESSION 2.2-3711 1950 CODE OF VIRGINIA

Upon a motion by Trey Adkins seconded by Lee Dotson and with a roll call vote of seven (7) yeas, Jeff Cooper, Lee Dotson, Craig Stiltner, Tim Hess, David Rose, G. Roger Rife, Trey Adkins and zero (0) nays, this board agreed to convene in closed session as permitted by Virginia Code Section, 2.2-, 2.2-3711 (8), consultation with legal counsel regarding the contract between the Appalachian School of Law and the Buchanan County Industrial Development Authority.

Motion was made by Trey Adkins to return from closed session seconded by Jeff Cooper and with the following roll call vote of seven (7) yeas, Trey Adkins, Jeff Cooper, Lee Dotson, David Rose, Tim Hess, G. Roger Rife, Craig Stiltner and zero (0) nays, this board did hereby approve to return from closed session.

A motion by Trey Adkins seconded by Craig Stiltner that the Board certify that in the closed session just concluded, nothing was discussed except the matter specifically identified in the motion to convene in closed session and lawfully permitted to be so discussed under the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act cited in that motion. The motion was agreed upon by the following roll call vote seven (7) yeas, Lee Dotson, Tim Hess, G. Roger Rife, Craig Stiltner, David Rose, Trey Adkins, Jeff Cooper and zero (0) nays.

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**IN RE: CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS TO A COMMITTEE REGARDING
AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE APPALACHIAN SCHOOL OF
LAW, BUCHANAN COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY AND THE BUCHANAN COUNTY BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS AND SCHEDULE A CONTINUED MEETING**

After a general discussion by the board upon motion by Trey Adkins seconded by Jeff Cooper and with a roll call vote of six (6) yeas, Trey Adkins, Lee Dotson, G. Roger Rife, David Rose, Jeff Cooper, Tim Hess and one (1) nay, Craig Stiltner, this board did hereby approve to form a committee of two (2) board of supervisor members (Lee Dotson, Trey Adkins), two (2) members from the Appalachian School of Law Board of Trustees to meet with the Buchanan County Industrial Development Authority (IDA) to prepare agreements between the three (3) entities regarding a transfer up to \$6 million to the IDA for the law school. Also, request the IDA to call a special called meeting for Tuesday, February 10th, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. to discuss the agreements with the Board of Supervisors in a joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors in the Board of Supervisors meeting room on the Third floor of the Government Center Building. These agreements would not include the purchase of the Booth Center.

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IN RE: CONTINUED MEETING

The board approved to continue this meeting until Tuesday, February 10th, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

Tim Hess, Chairman of the
Buchanan County Board of Supervisors

Robert Craig Horn, County Administrator

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors was held on the 2nd day of February 2026 starting at 6:00 o'clock p.m. in the Board of Supervisors Meeting Room, 3rd floor of the Buchanan County Government Center, 4447 Slate Creek Road, Grundy, Virginia 24614. **This meeting was conducted by electronic communication (Zoom). The media and public were invited to participate.**

PRESENT: Tim Hess, Chairman
Trey Adkins
G. Roger Rife
David Rose
Lee Dotson
Jeff Cooper
Craig Stiltner

Robert Craig Horn, County Administrator
L. Lee Moise, County Attorney

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The meeting was called to order with Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

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IN RE: CONSIDER NOMINATING WILLIAM P. HARRIS, FORMER SUPERVISOR FOR THE HURRICANE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT TO THE BUCHANAN COUNTY HALL OF FAME

Tim Hess, Chairman stated William P. Harris, former Supervisor of the Hurricane Magisterial District of Buchanan County served on the board of supervisors for over 33 years. Mr. Harris had many accomplishments while he was supervisor, one was securing Keen Mountain as the site for the region's first maximum security prison. Also, he worked many years in making the William P. Harris Park as a beautiful park that many families enjoy, he stated.

Trey Adkins, Knox District Supervisor stated one of things I will remember the most is that Mr. Harris had a unique laugh. I came on the board of supervisors when I was just 31 years old. Mr. Harris tried to show me the ropes. I owe him all my success, he stated. He was not only a board member with me, but a friend, stated Mr. Adkins.

Craig Stiltner, Rocklick District Supervisor stated I came on the board of supervisors at the same time as Mr. Adkins. Mr. Harris and I wouldn't always agree on the same subject, but if he gave you his word, you could take it to the bank, he stated. Mr. Harris was a good board member.

G. Roger Rife, South Grundy District Supervisor stated I served with Mr. Harris for 30 years on the Cumberland Plateau Planning District. Also, I served on several boards with him throughout the years. Mr. Harris was a good supervisor and was always

looking out for his district, he stated. God Bless you William, you have a heavenly home now, stated Mr. Rife.

After a general discussion by the board upon motion of Trey Adkins seconded by Craig Stiltner and with a roll call vote of seven (7) yeas, Tim Hess, Jeff Cooper, Craig Stiltner, Trey Adkins, David Rose, Lee Dotson, G. Roger Rife and zero (0) nays, this board did hereby approve to nominate William P. Harris, former supervisor for induction in the Buchanan County, Virginia Hall of Fame.

William P. Harris, former Supervisor for the Hurricane Magisterial District of Buchanan County served the people in his district, as well as Buchanan County for over 33 years. He was a lifelong resident of Buchanan County and graduated from Council High School and was a United States Army Veteran. He was a former coal mine owner and operator and contractor.

Mr. Harris served on the Buchanan County Public Service Authority Board for over twenty-four years and served over twenty-eight years on the Cumberland Plateau Planning District (CPPD). He was inducted into the CPPD Hall of Fame.

Mr. Harris had many accomplishments while he was Supervisor of the Hurricane District. One was securing Keen Mountain as the site of the region's first maximum security prison in the late 1980's. He worked for many years in making the William P. Harris Park one of Buchanan County's largest recreational parks, which includes a community center, swimming pool, shelters for family reunions, playground areas and softball fields.

Each year he worked to see that Oktoberfest was one of the best festivals in the area to give residents in the county as well the surrounding counties something to do.

Mr. Harris cared deeply about the people in his district as well as the county. He dedicated his life in serving the people and made many contributions to the county during his time as supervisor. He had an authentic personality and a strong sense of integrity. He had an abundance of friends and admirers; he leaves behind a legacy of service and the influence on the many lives that he has touched.

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IN RE: CONSENT AGENDA

After a general discussion by the board upon motion by Trey Adkins seconded by Jeff Cooper and with the following roll call vote of seven (7) yeas, Jeff Cooper, Craig Stiltner, Trey Adkins, Tim Hess, David Rose, Lee Dotson, G. Roger Rife and zero (0) nays, this did hereby approve the following consent agenda:

- a. Approve minutes for January 5th and 20th, 2026;
- b. Ratifying payroll after review;
- c. Ratifying the payment of bills by Resolution adopted on January 5th, 2026.
(Including the Buchanan County Head Start ratified bill list and bill list)

- d. Approve the attached list of coyote claims in the amount of \$100.00 per claim and to issue checks.

Terry Booher	One Claim
Jacob Tyler Ward	Two Claims
Donald Austin	One Claim
Billy Souleyrette	One Claim
Logan Looney	One Claim
Bobby L. Justus	One Claim
Keith Stiltner	Twelve Claims
Alyssa Sawyers	One Claim
James Mitchell	One Claim
Cecil Blankenship	One Claim
Franklin McCormick	Two Claims
Elisha Ball	One Claim
Anthony Hensley	One Claim
Jack W. Ball	Two Claims
Eddie Blake Lockhart	One Claim
Garman Lee Rice	Three Claims
Parker Snead	One Claim
Jimmy Lester	One Claim
Billy Owens	Two Claims
Isaac Cole	Two Claims
Daniel Blankenship	One Claim
Benjamin Keen	Two Claims
John Boyd	Two Claims
Kenny Horn	Two Claims
Ethan Swiney	One Claim
Chris Wolford	One Claim
Ethan Kiser	Three Claims
Lukas Shortt	Four Claims
Jerry Lockhart	One Claim
Anthony Scarberry	One Claim
Morgan Owens	One Claim
Tim Sisk	Two Claims

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**IN RE: CONSIDER ADOPTING THE RESOLUTION NAMING THE
BRIDGE ON ROUTE 609, BULL CREEK ROAD, OVER THE
LEVISA RIVER AT THE “FRANCIS GARY POWERS
MEMORIAL BRIDGE”**

After a general discussion by the board upon motion by Craig Stiltner seconded by Jeff Cooper and with a roll call vote of seven (7) yeas, Jeff Cooper, Craig Stiltner, Trey Adkins, Tim Hess, David Rose, Lee Dotson, G. Roger Rife and zero (0) nays, this board did hereby adopt the following Resolution naming the bridge on Route 609, Bull Creek Road, over the Levisa River at the “Francis Gary Powers Memorial Bridge.”

RESOLUTION

Title: Bridge Naming on Route 609 – Bull Creek Road - over Levisa Fork River in Buchanan County as the “Francis Gary Powers Memorial Bridge”

WHEREAS, Captain Francis Gary Powers was a Buchanan County resident and a 1946 Grundy High School graduate. He was born August 17th, 1929 in Jenkins, Kentucky and the son of Oliver Winfield Powers, a coal miner and his wife Ida Melinda Powers. After graduating with a bachelor’s degree from Milligan College in Tennessee in June 1950, he enlisted in the United States Air Force in October 1950.

WHEREAS, Captain Powers was an American pilot in the United States Air Force Officer and a CIA employee. He was best known for his involvement in the 1960 U-2 incident, when he was shot down while flying a secret CIA spying mission over the Soviet Union. Captain Powers survived, but was captured and sentenced to 10 years in a Soviet prison for espionage. He served 21 months of his sentence before being released in a prisoner swap in 1962.

WHEREAS, after Captain Powers returned to the United States, he worked at Lockheed as a test pilot for the U-2 and later as a helicopter pilot for Los Angeles news station KNBC. Captain Powers died in 1977.

WHEREAS, Section 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia* authorizes the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) to give suitable names to state highways, bridges, interchanges, and other transportation facilities and change the names of any highways, bridges, interchanges, or other transportation facilities forming a part of the systems of state highways; and

WHEREAS, Section 33.2-213 provides that the Virginia Department of Transportation shall place and maintain appropriate signs indicating the names of highways, bridges, interchanges, and other transportation facilities named by the CTB and requires that the costs of producing, placing, and maintaining such signs shall be paid by the localities in which they are located.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Buchanan County, in accordance with the requirements of Section 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, does hereby request that the Commonwealth Transportation Board name the bridge on Route 609 Bull Creek Road over Levisa Fork River in Buchanan County as the “Francis Gary Powers Memorial Bridge”;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Buchanan County agrees to pay the costs of producing, placing, and maintaining the signs calling attention to this naming.

This resolution was adopted on 2nd day of February, 2026 by the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors.

Chairman of the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors

Date

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IN RE: CONSIDER ADOPTING THE RESOLUTION FOR ADDITIONS TO THE SECONDARY SYSTEM OF VIRGINIA STATE HIGHWAYS: SOUTHERN GAP PHASES 1B,1C AND 1D

After a general discussion by the board upon motion by Craig Stiltner seconded by David Rose with a roll call vote of seven (7) yeas, Jeff Cooper, Craig Stiltner, Trey Adkins, Tim Hess, David Rose, Lee Dotson, G. Roger Rife and zero (0) nays, this board did hereby adopt the following Resolution for additions to the secondary system of Virginia State Highways:

The Board of Supervisors of Buchanan County, in regular meeting on Monday, February 2, 2026, adopted the following:

**RESOLUTION FOR ADDITIONS TO THE SECONDARY SYSTEM OF STATE
HIGHWAYS: SOUTHERN GAP PHASES 1B, 1C, AND 1D**

WHEREAS, the street(s) described on the attached sketch and Form AM4.3, fully incorporated herein by reference, are shown on plats recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Buchanan County, and

WHEREAS, the Resident Engineer for the Virginia Department of Transportation has advised this Board the street(s) meet the requirements established by the Secondary Street Acceptance Requirements of the Virginia Department of Transportation, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, this Board requests the Virginia Department of Transportation to add the street(s) described on the attached sketch and Form AM4.3 to the secondary system of state highways, pursuant to §33.2-705, Code of Virginia, and the Secondary Street Acceptance Requirements of the Virginia Department of Transportation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this Board guarantees a clear and unrestricted right-of-way, as described, and any necessary easements for cuts, fills and drainage; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Resident Engineer for the Virginia Department of Transportation.

Recorded Vote

Moved By: Craig Stiltner

Seconded By: David Rose

Yeas: Seven

Nays: Zero

A Copy Teste:

Robert C. Horn, County Administrator

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**IN RE: PUBLIC HEARING – 6:10 A.M. – TO HEAR PUBLIC COMMENTS
CONCERNING THE LEASE OF THE COUNTY’S RACE TRACK
PROPERTY AT SOUTHERN GAP TO DANNY AND LINDA
BOYD, (SOUTHERN GAP DIRT DRAGS, LLC)**

Tim Hess, Chairman opened the public hearing for comments.

Craig Stiltner, Rocklick District Supervisor stated I want to clarify exactly what area is Mr. and Mrs. Boyd wanting to lease?

David Rose, Prater District Supervisor stated they plan to have go-karts for kids to rent on the weekends. Also, they are wanting the drag strip in front of the salt bins,

I know someone who's wanting to have races on Saturday night at the race track, stated Mr. Stiltner. If Mr. and Mrs. Boyd want to have drag races and use the go-kart they need to work out times for the events, he stated.

Linda Boyd with Southern Gap Dirt Drags, LLC stated we have run a drag strip before in Kentucky. Also, we're planning on having small fun go-karts for kids. The drag strip would be used for ATV's, motorcycles, etc. We're just trying to provide something that kids could do here in the county, she stated. We're not planning on messing up the go-kart track, stated Ms. Boyd.

Trey Adkins, Knox District Supervisor stated it's going to be hard for two groups to try and lease the go-kart track. If the one Mr. Stiltner is wanting is going to put on a bigger race, they need to try and work together, he commented.

I was told Mr. and Mrs. Boyd only wanted the drag strip, stated Mr. Stiltner. You cannot have motorcycles on the racetrack, because it'll destroy it, he stated.

G. Roger Rife, South Grundy District Supervisor asked about insurance.

Each of the people that rides the go-karts or uses the drag strip is required to sign a liability form and wear a wrist band, stated Mr. Stiltner. I thought you all were going to use the drag strip only.

Mrs. Boyd stated I think both will be beneficial to us.

I think the gentleman I'm talking about wanting to use the race track on Saturday night, would work for both of you, stated Mr. Stiltner.

I don't think we need two leases, let them work it out between the two of them, stated Mr. Stiltner.

Upon motion by Trey Adkins seconded by David Rose and with a roll call vote of seven (7) yeas, Jeff Cooper, Craig Stiltner, Trey Adkins, Tim Hess, David Rose, Lee Dotson, G. Roger Rife and zero (0) nays, this board did hereby approve to close the public hearing.

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IN RE: CONSIDER APPROVING THE LEASE BETWEEN BUCHANAN COUNTY, VIRGINIA AND DANNY AND LINDA BOYD, (SOUTHERN GAP DIRT DRAGS, LLC) AND AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO EXECUTE THE LEASE AGREEMENT WITH APPROVAL AS TO FORM BY THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

After a general discussion by the board upon motion by David Rose seconded by Trey Adkins and with a roll call vote of seven (7) yeas, David Rose, Lee Dotson, G. Roger Rife, Trey Adkins, Tim Hess, Jeff

Cooper, Craig Stiltner, with Mr. Stiltner stating he would vote yes providing Southern Gap Dirt Drags works with the other entity wanting to utilize the race track and zero (0) nays, this board did hereby approve the following Lease between Buchanan County, Virginia and Danny and Linda Boyd, (Southern Gap Dirt Drags, LLC) and authorized the county administrator and chairman of the board of supervisors to execute the lease agreement with approval as to form by the county attorney.

THIS Lease ("Lease") made this 2nd day of February, 2026, between **BUCHANAN COUNTY, VIRGINIA**, a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, ("Lessor") and **DANNY BOYD & LINDA BOYD d/b/a SOUTHERN GAP DIRT DRAGS, LLC**. ("Lessees"), whose address is 3045 Hoot Owl Road, Grundy, Virginia 24614.

W I T N E S S E T H:

THAT WHEREAS, Lessor is a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia that is continuing to diversify and grow the local economy for the benefit of its citizens.; and

WHEREAS, Lessor is seized and possessed of, and the owner of that certain tract or parcel of land known as the Buchanan County Go-Kart Race Track with improvements thereon located in the Poplar Gap/Southern Gap area of Prater Magisterial District of Buchanan County, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Lessees has an interest in operating the Buchanan County, Va. Go-Kart Race Track; and

WHEREAS, Lessor desires to Lease the Buchanan County, Va. Go-Kart Race Track to Lessee to operate; and

WHEREAS, the Lessor believes that the Lessee's operation of the Buchanan County, Va. Go-Kart Race Track will result in increased economic activity in the County that will benefit local businesses and the County in general; and

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the aforementioned premises and the mutual covenants conveyed herein, the parties agree as follows:

1. **Premises:**

Lessor hereby leases to Lessees and Lessees leases from Lessor, at the rental, and upon all of the conditions set forth herein, that portion of a parcel of property owned by Buchanan County, Va. with improvements and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Buchanan County in Deed Book 428, page 529, in Plat Book 12, page 188, and known as the Buchanan County, Va Go-Kart Race Track, (hereinafter known as "The Race Track or Premises") as designated and shown on Exhibit "A" 271615,2 square feet (the "Premises") which is attached hereto and incorporated herein, together with adequate parking to accommodate the vehicles of Lessee's employees and invitees. There will be one exemption regarding a piece of the property that is leased between Buchanan County, Virginia and Pat Skeens d/b/a/Just Breakin Bread (food vendor) for placement of Ms. Skeens food truck on County property along with access for power and water hookup for the food truck. A copy of said lease with Pat Skeens is attached and incorporated by reference into this lease as Exhibit "A" to provide a carve out to this lease.

2. **Term:**

Lessor agrees to Lease the above Premises to Lessees for a period of one (1) year commencing on the 1st day of April, 2026. The term of this contract shall be for an initial one-year term contract April 1st, 2026 through March 31, 2027. This lease may be extended for up to three additional one-year terms upon mutual agreement of the parties.

3. **Rent:**

Lessee shall pay (\$250.00) per month beginning April 1st, 2026 through October 31st, 2026 during the term of this Lease of the race track and property.

4. **Compliance with Law:**

Lessees shall, at Lessees' expense, comply promptly with all applicable statutes, ordinances, rules, regulations, orders, covenants and restrictions of record, in effect during the term or any part of the term hereof, regulating the use of the Premises. Lessees shall not use not permit the use of the Premises in any manner that will tend to create waste or a nuisance.

5. **Use:**

The Premises shall be used and occupied for Lessees' operation of the Race Track. The Lessees shall not sublet or assign this lease without the prior written consent of the Lessor's Board of Supervisors.

6. **Utilities:**

Lessor shall pay for all utilities.

7. **Condition of Premises:**

Lessee acknowledges that costs and expenses may be needed to be incurred in order to operate the Race Track. Lessee agrees to operate the Race Track at its sole cost and expense and accepts the Race Track described herein in its current "AS IS" condition existing as of the date hereof. Lessee takes on all responsibility of the track including but not limited to the maintenance of the track and the premises; this includes preparations needed prior, during, or post to races. Lessees shall obtain the approval of Lessor prior to the renovations to the Race Track and Lessor shall not unreasonably withhold consent to the renovations in order to accommodate Lessees' operation of the Race Track. The Lessees shall be responsible for providing insurance to drivers. The Lessees shall be responsible for all documentation in regard to driver's insurance and liabilities in which lessee must provide to Park Manager for documentation as well as to the insurance company in which provides insurance to drivers. Lessee shall be responsible for all rewards or payback to drivers. Lessees will be responsible for all finances obtained and making certain rent is paid per race on site.

8. **Maintenance, Repairs, and Alterations:**

8.1 **Lessees' Obligations.** Lessees at their sole expense shall keep the Race Track in good order, condition and repair during the term of this Lease and any extension thereof and every part thereof including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, all maintenance of the Race Track. Lessees shall be responsible for all costs and expenses necessary to improve or maintain the Race Track to accommodate or configure the same for its operation of the Race Track.

8.2 **Surrender.** On the last day of the term or any extension hereof, or on any sooner termination, Lessees shall surrender the Premises to Lessor in the same condition as when received, ordinary wear and tear excepted, clean and free of debris. Lessees shall repair any damage to the Race Track occasioned by the installation or removal of Lessee's trade fixtures, furnishing and equipment. Repair of damages to the facility is the sole responsibility of the lessee.

8.3 **Lessor's Rights.** If Lessees default to perform Lessees' obligations under this Section 8 or under any other paragraph of this agreement and within 30 days after written notice from Lessor fails to cure such defaults, Lessor may at its option (but shall not be required to) enter upon the Premises (except in the case of an emergency, in which case no notice shall be required or to obtain rent from each race) perform such obligations on Lessees' behalf and put the same in good order, condition and repair, and the cost thereof together with interest thereon at the legal rate per annum as designated by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia shall become due and payable as additional rent to Lessor.

9. **Indemnification:**

Lessees expressly agree, to indemnify and save Lessor and Lessor's Board of Supervisors, officers, agents, attorneys, and employees harmless from and against any and all claims for loss, damage,

injury, death, liability, or expense (including without limitation reasonable attorneys' fees and court costs), however caused, resulting from, arising out of, alleged to arise out of, or in any way connected with: the operations, activities, or business of Lessees. The indemnity of this Section shall survive the expiration or other termination of this Lease.

10. **Severability:**

The invalidity of any provision of this Lease as determined by a court of competent jurisdiction, shall in no way effect the validity of any other provision thereof.

11. **Notices:**

Any notice required or permitted to be given hereunder shall be in writing and may be given by personal delivery or by certified mail, and if given personally or by mail, shall be deemed sufficient given if addressed to Lessees or to Lessor at the address noted on the first page of this Lease, as the case may be. Either party may by notice to the other specify a different address for notice purposes. A copy of all notices required or permitted to be given to either party hereunder shall be concurrently transmitted to such other party or parties at such addresses as Lessor or Lessees may from time-to-time hereafter designate by notice to the other.

12. **Binding Effect; Choice of Law:**

Subject to any provisions hereof restricting assignment or subletting by Lessee and subject to the provisions of Section 13, this Lease shall bind the parties, their personal representatives, successors and assigns. This Lease shall be governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Any disputes arising hereunder, resulting in litigation, shall be resolved by the Circuit Court of Buchanan County, Virginia.

13. **Termination:**

County may cancel this Lease at any time based upon a decision by County that such cancellation is in the best interest of County. Any such decision shall be a discretionary decision of County.

Witness the following signatures and seals, all duly authorized, effective as of the date first above written:

**Lessees Danny Boyd & Linda Boyd d/b/a
Southern Gap Dirt Drags, LLC.**

By : _____ (SEAL)
Danny Boyd

By: _____ (SEAL)
Linda Boyd

BUCHANAN COUNTY, VIRGINIA

By: _____ (SEAL)
Print Name: Tim Hess
Title: Chairman of Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

By: _____ (SEAL)
Print Name: Robert C. Horn
Title: County Administrator

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**IN RE: PUBLIC HEARING – 6:15 P.M. - TO HEAR PUBLIC COMMENTS
REGARDING ON THE PROPOSED ADOPTING OF AN
AMENDED ORDINANCE ENTITLED: “AMENDED ORDINANCE
COUNTY CODE SECTION 77-13 REPAIR OR REMOVAL OF
DANGEROUS STRUCTURES AND PUBLIC NUISANCE
STRUCTURES”**

If the Board of Supervisors, through its own agents or employees, removes, repairs, or secures any building, wall or any other structure after complying with the notice provisions of this section, the cost or expenses thereof shall be chargeable to and paid by the owners of such property and may be collected by the County as taxes and levies are collected.

D.

Every charge authorized by this section with which the owner of any such property shall have been assessed and which remains unpaid shall constitute a lien against such property ranking on a parity with liens for unpaid local taxes and enforceable in the same manner as provided in Articles 3 and 4 of Chapter 39 of Title 58.1 of the Code of Virginia. A locality may waive such liens in order to facilitate the sale of the property. Such liens may be waived only as to a purchaser who is unrelated by blood or marriage to the owner and who has no business association with the owner. All such liens shall remain a personal obligation of the owner of the property at the time the liens were imposed.

E.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, with the written consent of the property owner, a locality may, through its agents or employees, demolish or remove a derelict nonresidential building or structure, provided that such building or structure is neither located within nor determined to be a contributing property within a state or local historic district nor individually designated in the Virginia Landmarks Register. The property owner's written consent shall identify whether the property is subject to a first lien evidenced by a recorded deed of trust or mortgage and, if so, shall document the property owner's best reasonable efforts to obtain the consent of the first lienholder or the first lienholder's authorized agent. The costs of such demolition or removal shall constitute a lien against such property. In the event the consent of the first lienholder or the first lienholder's authorized agent is obtained, such lien shall rank on a parity with liens for unpaid local taxes and be enforceable in the same manner as provided in Subsection **D.** In the event the consent of the first lienholder or the first lienholder's authorized agent is not obtained, such lien shall be subordinate to that first lien but shall otherwise be subject to Subsection **D.**

F.

In addition to the remedies set forth above, any owner of such property in violation of Subsections **A** and **B** herein who fails to take the action required in the notice within the thirty-day period shall be subject to a civil penalty of \$1,000.

G.

In regard to structures that constitute a menace to the health and safety of the occupants thereof or the public, such structures are deemed a public nuisance as set forth in Va. Code section 15.2-900. Furthermore, if such structures as public nuisances present an imminent and immediate threat to life or property the County may abate, raze or remove such public nuisance and may bring an action against the responsible party to recover the necessary costs incurred for the provision of public emergency services reasonably required to abate any such public nuisance. If the owners of such structures can be identified the County shall seek a right of entry to abate the public nuisance. **If the property owner(s) consent to the demolition of the public nuisance structure by executing the right of entry document, the County may exercise its discretion in not requiring the costs of the demolition to be paid by the consenting land owner or land owners.** However, if such owner(s) refuse to provide a right of entry and the Board of Supervisors determines that the threat to the public health and /or public safety is an immediate risk, the Board may order the immediate abatement of the structure constituting the public nuisance.

H.

In the event that the some or all of the owners are unknown, the County may proceed to abate said public nuisance after running a notice in a paper of general circulation in the County for two successive weeks. **If one land owner of a group of owners, such as heirs, consents to the demolition of the public nuisance structure, the Board of Supervisors may proceed with the demolition of the public nuisance structure without running a notice in a paper of general circulation.** If in the determination of the Board of Supervisors that the threat to the public health and/or public safety is an **immediate risk**, the Board may waive the requirement for publication of the notice in the newspaper and the County may take immediate action to abate the structure constituting a public nuisance. **If it is determined that there is no first lien (a recorded mortgage or a recorded Deed of Trust) against the property upon which the public nuisance structure is located, there shall be no requirement to obtain the consent of other lien creditors, such as creditors with recorded judgments and recorded financing statements, prior to demolition of the public nuisance structure.**

This amended section shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

This Amended Ordinance was adopted on this the 2nd day of February, 2026 by the Buchanan County, Va., Board of Supervisors.

Recorded Roll Call Vote:

Moved by: Jeff Cooper
Seconded by: Trey Adkins
Trey Adkins: yea
Jeff Cooper: yea
Tim Hess: yea
Roger Rife: yea
Lee Dotson: yea
Craig Stiltner: yea
David Rose: yea

Tim Hess, Chairman of the
Buchanan County, Va. Board of Supervisors

Robert C. Horn, County Administrator

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IN RE: CONSIDER APPROVING EXHIBIT A TO THE CONTRACT FOR SNOW REMOVAL WITH RURAL SATELLITE SERVICES FOR AN ADDITIONAL 2006 CHEVROLET TRUCK AT \$110 PER HOUR

After a general discussion by the board upon motion by Trey Adkins seconded by Jeff Cooper and with a roll call vote of seven (7) yeas, Jeff Cooper, Craig Stiltner, Trey Adkins, Tim Hess, David Rose, Lee Dotson, G. Roger Rife and zero (0) nays, this board did hereby approve Exhibit A to the Contract for Snow Removal with Rural Satellite for an additional 2006 Chevrolet Truck at \$110 per hour.

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IN RE: CONSIDER APPROVING EXHIBIT A TO THE CONTRACT FOR SNOW REMOVAL WITH ANDRE DEEL FOR AN ADDITIONAL FORD F250 TRUCK AT \$110.00 PER HOUR

After a general discussion by the board upon motion by Trey Adkins seconded by Jeff Cooper and with a roll call vote of seven (7) yeas, Jeff Cooper, Craig Stiltner, Trey Adkins, Tim Hess, David Rose, Lee Dotson, G. Roger Rife and zero (0) nays, this board

did hereby approve Exhibit A to the Contract for Snow Removal with Andre Deel for an additional Ford F250 Truck at \$110.00 per hour.

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IN RE: CONSIDER APPROVING INVOICE COAL000156 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$483.86 FROM VDOT FOR CST PROJECTS 124452 REGARDING CURVE IMPROVEMENT ON ROUTE 645 AND TO ISSUE A CHECK FROM ACCOUNT NUMBER CST 05-41080-7012

After a general discussion by the board upon motion by Trey Adkins seconded by Jeff Cooper and with a roll call vote of seven (7) yeas, Jeff Cooper, Craig Stiltner, Trey Adkins, Tim Hess, David Rose, Lee Dotson, G. Roger Rife and zero (0) nays, this board did hereby approve Invoice COAL000156 in the amount of \$483.86 from VDOT for CST projects 124452 regarding curve improvement on Route 645 and to issue a check from account number CST 05-41080-7012.

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IN RE: CONSIDER APPROVING REQUEST #2 FROM BUCHANAN COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$122,843.76 FROM THE COAL HAUL ROAD FY 2025-2026 (VARIOUS INVOICES) TO BE PAID FROM ACCOUNT #05-41080-7015

After a general discussion by the board upon motion by Trey Adkins seconded by Lee Dotson and with a roll call vote of five (5) yeas, Jeff Cooper, Craig Stiltner, Trey Adkins, Lee Dotson, G. Roger Rife, zero (0) nays and two (2) abstention, Tim Hess and David Rose, this board did hereby approve request #2 from Buchanan County Public Service Authority in the amount of \$122,843.76 from the Coal Haul Road FY 2025-2026 (various invoices) to be paid from account #05-41080-7015.

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IN RE: CONSIDER APPROVING TO AMEND FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026 COAL HAUL ROAD PLAN TO ALLOW ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE WATER PROJECT ON GREAT OAKS ROAD

After a general discussion by the board upon motion by G. Roger Rife seconded by Trey Adkins and with a roll call vote of five (5) yeas, Jeff Cooper, Craig Stiltner, Trey Adkins, Lee Dotson, G. Roger Rife, zero (0) nays and two (2) abstentions, Tim Hess and David Rose, this board did hereby approve to amend fiscal year 2025/2026 Coal Haul Road Plan to allow additional funding for the water project on Great Oaks Road, as presented by the Buchanan County Public Service Authority.

IN RE: CONSIDER APPROVING TO REQUEST FUNDING UP TO \$130,900 FOR ENGINEERING, PERMITTING, DESIGN EXPENSES ETC. FROM COAL AND GAS ROAD IMPROVEMENT FUND REGARDING THE FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECT AT THE VERNER BLANKENSHIP PARK

After a general discussion by the board upon motion by Trey Adkins seconded by Lee Dotson and with a roll call vote of seven (7) yeas, Jeff Cooper, Craig Stiltner, Trey Adkins, Tim Hess, David Rose, Lee Dotson, G. Roger Rife and zero (0) nays, this board did hereby approve to request funding up to \$130,900 for engineering, permitting, design expenses etc. from Coal and Gas Road Improvement Fund regarding the flood mitigation project at the Verner Blankenship Park, pursuant to Va. Code section 58.1-3713(A), subject to the approval of the county attorney.

IN RE: CONSIDER APPROVING TO ADD ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2026/2027 BUDGET EARMARKED FOR ADDITIONS (12 X 20) TO EACH OF THE SALT BINS FOR GRAVEL WITH A GARAGE DOOR

After a general discussion by the board upon motion by Craig Stiltner seconded by G. Roger Rife and with a roll call vote of seven (7) yeas, Jeff Cooper, Craig Stiltner, Trey Adkins, Tim Hess, David Rose, Lee Dotson, G. Roger Rife and zero (0) nays, this board did hereby approve to add additional funding to the fiscal year 2026/2027 budget earmarked for additions (12 x 20) to each of the salt bins for gravel with a garage door.

IN RE: CONSIDER ADOPTING THE RESOLUTION REGARDING THE \$1.2 MILLION FROM THE VIRGINIA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) URGENT NEED PROGRAM FOR THE FLOOD PREPAREDNESS PROJECT

After a general discussion by the board upon motion by Lee Dotson seconded by Trey Adkins and with a roll call vote of seven (7) yeas, Jeff Cooper, Craig Stiltner, Trey Adkins, Tim Hess, David Rose, Lee Dotson, G. Roger Rife and zero (0) nays, this board did hereby adopt the following Resolution regarding the \$1.2 million from the Virginia Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Urgent Need Program for the Flood Preparedness Project.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Buchanan County, Virginia has been obligated, contingent on certain conditions, \$1,200,000.00 from the Virginia Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Urgent Need Program for the Flood Preparedness Project;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Buchanan County hereby appropriates sum of \$1,200,000.00 to this project contingent on receiving the funds from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development.

This 2nd day of February, 2026.

Tim Hess, Chairman
Buchanan County Board of Supervisors

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IN RE: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rhonda Griffey, former Education Manager with Buchanan County Head Start stated she would like to discuss an issue with the board in closed session.

L. Lee Moise, County Attorney stated the board of supervisors cannot go into closed session regarding her issue, since the board had not been her employer. The BOS only has jurisdiction over Head Start personnel issues in regard to the Director’s position and the CFO’s position.

Ms. Griffey stated I’ve worked for the head start for over 30 years. The director of head start sent me to the Council Head Start Center and had a policy council meeting while I was gone, she stated. I filed a grievance last year in March for defamation of character and it couldn’t get resolved, she stated.

This board can only discuss personnel issues regarding the Director of Buchanan County Head Start and the CFO of Head Start, stated Mr. Moise.

I want to try and resolve this issue on the county level before I contact the Office of Head Start, stated Ms. Griffey.

Craig Stiltner, Rocklick District Supervisor stated Ms. Griffey called me and I told her she could come to the meeting today. I told her to just get a lawyer.

According to the Head Start Handbook, it states that employment with Head Start is at will employment but there can also be grounds for dismissal, stated Mr. Moise.

I would talk to an attorney if you feel like you were wrongfully fired, stated Mr. Stiltner. We can’t override the policy council’s decision. My advice to you as a friend, is to contact an attorney, he stated.

Jess Stacy, resident stated he lived on Horse Branch Road, Route 3060 in the

North Grundy District. There is a pull-off area that I have to use when the weather is bad and it's snowing to be able to get in and out from my home, he stated. There is a neighbor that is complaining about this.

Marcus Stiltner, Coal Haul Road Engineer stated there's no problem with you parking there as long as it doesn't get in the way of snow plow trucks, emergency vehicles and doesn't violate state law.

After a general discussion by the board upon motion by Lee Dotso seconded by Trey Adkins with a roll call vote of seven (7) yeas, Jeff Cooper, Craig Stiltner, Trey Adkins, Tim Hess, David Rose, Lee Dotson, G. Roger Rife and zero (0) nays, this board did hereby approve to allow residents to use the lower wide paved section on Horse Branch Road, county road 3060 located in the North Grundy District as temporary parking during the winter months as long as it doesn't interfere with snow plow trucks and emergency vehicles.

Upon motion by Jeff Cooper seconded by Trey Adkins and with a roll call vote of seven (7) yeas, Jeff Cooper, Craig Stiltner, Trey Adkins, Tim Hess, David Rose, Lee Dotson, G. Roger Rife and zero (0) nays, this board did hereby approve to close public comments.

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**IN RE: CONSIDER APPOINTMENT TO THE SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL BOARD OF
DIRECTORS WITH A TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 2026**

Josh McGlothlin, with Davenport Lifesaving Crew stated I think someone with an EMS background should be on the Southwest Virginia Emergency Medical Services Council Board. It's been years since there was someone from Buchanan County on the council board. I've been on the fire and EMS for over 13 years, stated Mr. McGlothlin.

After a general discussion by the board upon motion by Trey Adkins seconded by Craig Stiltner and with a roll call vote of seven (7) yeas, Jeff Cooper, Craig Stiltner, Trey Adkins, Tim Hess, David Rose, Lee Dotson, G. Roger Rife and zero (0) nays, this board did hereby appoint Josh McGlothlin to the Southwest Virginia Emergency Medical Services Council Board of Directors with a term ending December 31st, 2026.

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**IN RE: CONSIDER APPROVING TO INCLUDE \$50,000 IN THE FISCAL
YEAR 2026/2027 BUDGET FOR THE BREAKS COMMUNITY
CENTER PAVING**

After a general discussion by the board upon motion by Craig Stiltner seconded

by G. Roger Rife and with a roll call vote of seven (7) yeas, Jeff Cooper, Craig Stiltner, Trey Adkins, Tim Hess, David Rose, Lee Dotson, G. Roger Rife and zero (0) nays, this board did hereby approve to include \$50,000 in the fiscal year 2026/2027 budget for the Breaks Community Center paving.

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IN RE: CONSIDER APPROVING THE CONTRIBUTION REQUEST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250,000 FOR SOUTHERN GAP HIGH SCHOOL, WHICH WILL BE USED FOR BAND UNIFORMS, CHEERLEADING UNIFORMS, WEIGHT ROOM EQUIPMENT AND ATHLETIC FIELDS MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT AND TO ISSUE A CHECK

Upon motion by Craig Stiltner seconded by David Rose for an additional appropriation to Buchanan County Public Schools in the amount of \$250,000.

Trey Adkins, Knox District Supervisor asked if the school system was going to have roll-over money at the end of this fiscal year?

Robert C. Horn, County Administrator stated we can do that, the lessens their budget so there's no roll over money.

Their roll over funds was supposed to be used for furniture, stated Mr. Stiltner.

There was a roll call vote of two (2) nays, Trey Adkins, Lee Dotson and one (1) yea, Craig Stiltner.

Mr. Adkins stated I don't care to help them, but I want to see if they have any roll over funds left this fiscal year. I think the motion should include the school system will pay the funding back if they have any roll over funds this year, he stated.

Mark Cooper, Principle at Grundy High School stated everything with Southern Gap High School has been taken care of, but these items. The contribution in the amount of \$250,000 will be used to purchase new band uniforms, cheerleading uniforms, weight work equipment and athletic field maintenance equipment. These items will help all districts kids in the county, he stated.

Mr. Stiltner asked Mr. Cooper how long would it take to these items here?

It could take two to three months, stated Mr. Cooper. Also, around nine to ten weeks for the weight-room equipment. We'll have 57 acres to take care of at the new school, he commented. Currently, we have only one mower between the three high schools.

G. Roger Rife, South Grundy District Supervisor stated we're spending a lot of money right now. We're losing tax revenue, due to the homes that are being purchased from the army corp in connection with the Flood Proofing Project., he stated.

After the discussion by the board the following roll call vote was taken, three (3) yeas, G. Roger Rife, Craig Stiltner, David Rose and four (4) nays, Tim Hess, Jeff Cooper, Lee Dotson and Trey Adkins, the motion failed.

After a general discussion by the board upon motion by Trey Adkins seconded by Lee Dotson and with a roll call vote of five (5) yeas, Lee Dotson, Trey Adkins, Craig Stiltner, G. Roger Rife, David Rose and two (2) nays, Jeff Cooper and Tim Hess, this board did hereby approve an additional appropriation in the amount of \$250,000 for Southern Gap High School, which will be used for band uniforms, cheerleading uniforms, weight room equipment and athletic fields maintenance equipment and to issue a check. Also, this is providing that Buchanan County Public Schools repays the \$250,000 back to the county if the school system has a carry-over balance for fiscal year 2025/2026.

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**IN RE: CONSIDER APPOINTMENT TO THE SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (CLEO BOARD)**

After a general discussion by the board upon motion by Trey Adkins seconded by Lee Dotson and with a roll call vote of seven (7) yeas, Jeff Cooper, Craig Stiltner, Trey Adkins, Tim Hess, David Rose, Lee Dotson, G. Roger Rife and zero (0) nays, this board did hereby appoint Lee Dotson to the Southwest Virginia Workforce Development Board (CLEO Board).

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**IN RE: CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS (TWO) TO THE APPALACHIAN
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY FOR A THREE (3) YEAR TERM**

This issue was tabled, no action taken.

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**IN RE: CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE
BUCHANAN COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY BOARD
OF DIRECTORS FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM EFFECTIVE
FEBRUARY 2, 2026**

After a general discussion by the board upon motion by Trey Adkins seconded by Lee Dotson with a roll call vote of five (5) yeas, Jeff Cooper, Craig Stiltner, Trey Adkins, Lee Dotson, G. Roger Rife, zero (0) nays, and two (2) abstained, Tim Hess and David Rose, this board did hereby appoint the following to the Buchanan County Public Service Authority Board of Directors effective February 2nd, 2026 for a four-year term:

- Lee Dotson, Representative for the North Grundy District;
- Greg Fletcher, Representative for the Rocklick District;
- Jeff Cooper, Representative for the Garden District;
- Wendell Harris, Representative for the Hurricane District;
- Trey Adkins, Representative for the Knox District;

- Terry Colley, Representative for the Prater District.

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IN RE: CONSIDER DECLARING THE GEN 5, GLOCK 17 SERVICE HANDGUN SURPLUS PROPERTY AND APPROVE TO SELL HANDGUN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1.00 TO FORMER SHERIFF JOHN MCCLANAHAN, PURSUANT TO VIRGINIA CODE SECTION 59.1-148.3(III)

After a general discussion by the board upon motion by Trey Adkins seconded by Jeff Cooper with a roll call vote of seven (7) yeas, Tim Hess, David Rose, Jeff Cooper, Craig Stiltner, Trey Adkins, Lee Dotson, G. Roger Rife and zero (0) nays, this board did hereby declare the Gen 5, Glock 17 service handgun surplus property and approved to sell the handgun in the amount of \$1.00 to Former Sheriff John McClanahan, pursuant to Virginia Code Section 59.1-148.3(III).

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IN RE: CONSIDER APPROVING THE IRS STANDARD MILEAGE RATES FOR 2026 AT 72.5 CENTS PER MILE EVERY MILE OF BUSINESS TRAVEL DRIVEN

After a general discussion by the board upon motion by Jeff Cooper seconded by David Rose with a roll call vote of seven (7) yeas, Tim Hess, David Rose, Jeff Cooper, Craig Stiltner, Trey Adkins, Lee Dotson, G. Roger Rife and zero (0) nays, this board did hereby approve the IRS Standard Mileage Rates for 2026 at 72.5 cents per mile every mile of business travel driven.

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IN RE: CONSIDER APPROVING THE BUCHANAN COUNTY'S REASSESSMENT INFORMATION TO BE PUT ON THE COUNTY'S WEBSITE, LOCAL NEWSPAPERS AND FACEBOOK

After a general discussion by the board upon motion by Jeff Cooper seconded by David Rose with a roll call vote of seven (7) yeas, Tim Hess, David Rose, Jeff Cooper, Craig Stiltner, Trey Adkins, Lee Dotson, G. Roger Rife and zero (0) nays, this board did hereby approve the Buchanan County's Reassessment information to be put on the county's website, local newspapers and Facebook.

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IN RE: CONSIDER APPROVING THE LETTER TO RHYLI DRAKE, PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REGARDING HURLEY PHASE X1 AND X11 WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

After a general discussion by the board upon motion by Trey Adkins seconded by

Jeff Cooper with a roll call vote of seven (7) yeas, Tim Hess, David Rose, Jeff Cooper, Craig Stiltner, Trey Adkins, Lee Dotson, G. Roger Rife and zero (0) nays, this board did hereby approve the letter to Rhyli Drake, Program Administrator with the Department of Housing and Community Development regarding Hurley Phase X1 and X11 waterline replacement project.

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IN RE: CONSIDER RATIFYING THE NOTICE OF DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

After a general discussion by the board upon motion by Trey Adkins seconded by Lee Dotson with a roll call vote of seven (7) yeas, Tim Hess, David Rose, Jeff Cooper, Craig Stiltner, Trey Adkins, Lee Dotson, G. Roger Rife and zero (0) nays, this board did ratify the following Notice of Declaration of Local Emergency.

NOTICE OF DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

That the Robert Craig Horn, County Administrator and Director of Emergency Services for Buchanan County, Virginia, has declared a local emergency in Buchanan County as of 5:00 p. m. on Friday, January 23, 2026 in regard to anticipated storm damage from Winter Storm Fern. Winter Storm Fern is expected to bring snow, sleet, freezing rain and ice into Buchanan County, Va. during the period of Saturday, January 24, 2026 through Sunday, January 25, 2026. Power outages are extremely possible. Roads will become extremely hazardous over the next several days. With severe cold weather to occur the week following Winter Storm Fern conditions are expected to be extremely dangerous. This declaration of a local emergency is made in conjunction with state of emergency declared by the Governor of Virginia on Thursday, January 22, 2026 in anticipation of Winter Storm Fern.

Robert Craig Horn
County Administrator
Director of Emergency Services
Buchanan County, Virginia

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IN RE: ERICA MILLER, RESIDENCY ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (VDOT) AND JEFF BUCHANAN WITH VDOT

G. Roger Rife, South Grundy District Supervisor stated I've received a letter from a citizen on Hoot Owl Road regarding tractor trailers coming over Hoot Owl Road and having accidents blocking the roadway. I've seen the message board that VDOT installed with a warning.

Jeff Buchanan with VDOT stated we've ordered permanent signs to install in this area. We'll see what else we can do, he stated.

Craig Stiltner, Rocklick District Supervisor stated there was a 48-to-52-foot box truck that went across Hoot Owl that got stuck. I don't think there's anything you can do that will stop it, he commented.

Erica Miller, Residency Administrator stated we'll continue to work on this issue.

Regarding the purchase of salt, we've not been able to get any and deliveries are slow, stated Ms. Miller. We're being very cautious with what we have, she stated.

Trey Adkins, Knox District Supervisor stated the roads are looking good in Buchanan County. We appreciate all you do.

Jeff Cooper, Garden District Supervisor agreed with Mr. Adkins and commented the roads are being taken good care of.

Mr. Stiltner agreed with Mr. Adkins and Mr. Cooper and that Kenneth Ratliff at the Big Rock VDOT Office is doing a great job.

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**IN RE: CONSIDER APPROVING TO END THE DECLARATION OF
LOCAL EMERGENCY WHEN THE GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA
ENDS THE LOCAL EMERGENCY FOR THE STATE OF
VIRGINIA**

After a general discussion by the board upon motion by Trey Adkins seconded by Lee Dotson with a roll call vote of seven (7) yeas, Tim Hess, David Rose, Jeff Cooper, Craig Stiltner, Trey Adkins, Lee Dotson, G. Roger Rife and zero (0) nays, this board did hereby approve Ending the Declaration of Local Emergency when the Governor of Virginia ends the local emergency for the State of Virginia.

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**IN RE: CONSIDER ADOPTING THE RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE
UNCONSTITUTIONAL RESTRICTIONS ON THE RIGHT TO
KEEP AND BEAR ARMS THROUGH SUCH LEGAL MEANS AS
MAY BE EXPEDIENT, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION
COURT ACTION AND DECLARING BUCHANAN COUNTY,
VIRGINIA AS A "SECOND AMENDMENT SANCTUARY
COUNTY"**

After a general discussion by the board upon motion by G. Roger Rife seconded by Craig Stiltner with a roll call vote of seven (7) yeas, Tim Hess, David Rose, Jeff Cooper, Craig Stiltner, Trey Adkins, Lee Dotson, G. Roger Rife and zero (0) nays, this board did hereby adopt the following Resolution in opposing the unconstitutional restrictions on the right to keep and bear arms through such legal means as may be expedient, including without limitation court action and declaring Buchanan County, Virginia as a "Second Amendment Sanctuary County."

RESOLUTION OF BUCHANAN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

WHEREAS, the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution reads: "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." and,

WHEREAS, Article I, Section 13, of the Constitution of Virginia provides "that a well-regulated militia, composed of the body of the people, trained to arms, is the proper, natural, and safe defense of a free state, therefore, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed; that standing armies, in time of peace, should be avoided as dangerous to liberty; and that in all cases the military should be under strict subordination to, and governed by, the civil power;" and,

WHEREAS, certain legislation introduced in the 2026 session of the Virginia General Assembly, could have the effect of infringing on the rights of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms, as guaranteed by the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution and the Constitution of Virginia; and,

WHEREAS, the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors is concerned about the passage of any bill containing language which could be interpreted as infringing the rights of the citizens of Buchanan County to keep and bear arms or could begin a slippery slope of restrictions on the Second Amendment rights of the citizens of Buchanan County; and,

WHEREAS, the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors wishes to express its deep commitment to the rights of all citizens of Buchanan County to keep and bear arms; and,

WHEREAS, the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors wishes to express opposition to any law that would unconstitutionally restrict the rights of the citizens of Buchanan County, Va. to bear arms under both the Second Amendment of United States Constitution and Article I, Section 13 of the Virginia Constitution; and,

WHEREAS, the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors wishes to express its intent to stand as a Sanctuary County for Second Amendment rights and to oppose, within the limits of the Constitutions of the United States and the Commonwealth of Virginia, any efforts to unconstitutionally restrict such rights, and to use such legal means at its disposal to protect the right of the citizens to keep and bear arms, including through legal action, the power of appropriation of public funds, and the right to petition for redress of grievances.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF BUCHANAN COUNTY, VIRGINIA:

That the Board of Supervisors hereby expresses its intent to uphold the Second Amendment rights of the citizens of Buchanan County and its intent that public funds of the County not be used to restrict Second Amendment rights or to aid in the unnecessary and unconstitutional restriction of the rights under the Second Amendment of the citizens of Buchanan County to bear arms; and

That the Board of Supervisors hereby declares its intent to oppose unconstitutional restrictions on the right to keep and bear arms through such legal means as may be expedient, including without limitation court action; and,

That the Board of Supervisors hereby declares Buchanan County, Virginia, as a "Second Amendment Sanctuary County."; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Administrator is directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Governor of Virginia and to Delegate Will Morefield and Senator Todd Pillion and to other localities which may be interested in also adopting a similar resolution.

CERTIFICATION OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION

The undersigned Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Buchanan, Virginia hereby certifies that the Resolution set forth above was adopted during an open meeting on February 2, 2026, by the Board of Supervisors by roll call vote as follows:

Recorded vote:

Motion made by: G. Roger Rife

Motion seconded by: Craig Stiltner

David Rose: yea

Jeff Cooper: yea

Craig Stiltner: yea

Tim Hess: yea

Lee Dotson: yea

Trey Adkins: yea

Roger Rife: yea

Signed this 2nd day of February, 2026.

Tim Hess, Chairman
Buchanan County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Robert C. Horn, Clerk and County Administrator

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IN RE: CONSIDER ADOPTING THE RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED HOUSE BILL 1374, WHICH WOULD AMEND TITLE 23.1 OF THE VIRGINIA CODE TO EFFECTUATE THE DISSOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS OF THE VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE AND PLACE THE GOVERNANCE OF THE VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE UNDER THE BOARD OF VISITORS OF VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

After a general discussion by the board upon motion by David Rose seconded by G. Roger Rife with a roll call vote of seven (7) yeas, Tim Hess, David Rose, Jeff Cooper, Craig Stiltner, Trey Adkins, Lee Dotson, G. Roger Rife and zero (0) nays, this board did hereby adopt the following Resolution in opposition to proposed House Bill 1374, which would amend Title 23.1 of the Virginia Code to effectuate the dissolution of the Board of Visitors of the Virginia Military Institute and place the Governance of the Virginia Military Institute under the Board of Visitors of Virginia State University.

RESOLUTION
IN RE: OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED HOUSE BILL 1374
WHICH WOULD AMEND TITLE 23.1 OF THE VIRGINIA CODE TO
EFFECTUATE THE DISSOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS OF THE
VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE AND PLACE THE GOVERNANCE OF
THE VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE UNDER THE BOARD OF VISITORS
OF VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

WHEREAS, House Bill 1374 has been introduced in the 2026 General Assembly Session which in sum dissolves the Board of Visitors of the Virginia Military Institute and places the Virginia Military Institute under the governance of the Board of Visitors of Virginia State University; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Military Institute (hereinafter VMI) was founded in 1839 as America's first state-sponsored and -supported military college and is the oldest public senior military college in the United States. In keeping with its founding principles and unlike any other senior military college in the United States, VMI enrolls cadets only and awards [bachelor's degrees](#) exclusively. The institute grants degrees in disciplines in engineering, science, and the liberal arts; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Military Institute has produced approximately 26,000 graduates during its 186 years of existence many of which have served the United States of America in the U.S. Navy, U.S. States Army, U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Marine Corps including over 285 graduates who have obtained the rank of general or flag officer; and

WHEREAS, VMI has over the years produced many citizen soldiers that have served not only in the military but have been leaders and contributors in medicine, law, engineering, liberal arts and business; and

WHEREAS, VMI as a treasured part of the history of the Commonwealth of Virginia has more than earned the right to govern itself under its own Board of Visitors as it has done for over 186 years;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Buchanan County, Virginia Board of Supervisors that it states and confirms its strong opposition to the House Bill 1374 amending Title 23.1 of the Virginia. Code dissolving the VMI Board of Visitors and placing VMI under the governance of the Board of Visitors of Virginia State University and accordingly urges the General Assembly to reject said legislation, a copy of which is attached to this resolution. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Administrator is directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Governor of Virginia, to all the members of the Virginia General Assembly and to any other locality which might consider adopting a similar resolution in support of VMI.

This Resolution was adopted by the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors on t h i s the 2ⁿd day of February 2026.

Recorded vote:

Moved: David Rose

Seconded: G. Roger Rife

Yeas: Seven

Nays: Zero

Tim Hess, Chairman

Buchanan County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Robert Craig Horn

County Administrator

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IN RE: CONSIDER ADOPTING THE RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO
PROPOSED HOUSE BILL 1377, WHICH WOULD CREATE A
TASK FORCE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE VIRGINIA
MILITARY INSTITUTE SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE A STATE-
SPONSORED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

After a general discussion by the board upon motion by Craig Stiltner seconded by David Rose with a roll call vote of seven (7) yeas, Tim Hess, David Rose, Jeff Cooper, Craig Stiltner, Trey Adkins, Lee Dotson, G. Roger Rife and zero (0) nays, this board did hereby adopt the following Resolution in opposition to proposed House Bill 1377, which would Create a task force to determine whether the Virginia Military Institute should continue to be a state-sponsored institution of higher education.

RESOLUTION
IN RE: OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED HOUSE BILL 1377 WHICH WOULD
CREATE A TASK FORCE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE VIRGINIA
MILITARY INSTITUTE SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE A STATE-SPONSORED
INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

WHEREAS, House Bill 1377 has been introduced in the 2026 General Assembly Session which in sum creates a task force to determine whether the Virginia Military Institute should continue to be a state-sponsored institution of higher education in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Military Institute (hereinafter VMI) was founded in 1839 as America's first state-sponsored and -supported military college and is the oldest public senior military college in the United States. In keeping with its founding principles and unlike any other senior military college in the United States, VMI enrolls cadets only and awards [bachelor's degrees](#) exclusively. The institute grants degrees in disciplines in engineering, science, and the liberal arts; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Military Institute has produced approximately 26,000 graduates during its 186 years of existence many of which have served the United States of America in the U.S. Navy, U.S. States Army, U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Marine Corps including over 285 graduates who have obtained the rank of general or flag officer; and

WHEREAS, VMI has over the years produced many citizen soldiers that have served not only in the military but have been leaders and contributors in medicine, law, engineering, liberal arts and business; and

WHEREAS, VMI has more than proven itself worthy of the Commonwealth of Virginia's investment of public funds in producing citizens soldiers who have served the Commonwealth and the Republic of the United States of America for over 186 years; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Buchanan County, Virginia Board of Supervisors that it states and confirms its strong opposition to the House Bill 1377 which proposes to create a task force to determine if VMI should continue to be a state-sponsored institution of higher education in the Commonwealth of Virginia and accordingly urges the General Assembly to reject said legislation, a copy of which is attached to this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Administrator is directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Governor of Virginia, to all members of the Virginia General Assembly, and to any other locality that might wish to adopt a similar resolution in support of VMI.

This Resolution was adopted by the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors on t h i s t h e 2nd day of February 2026.

Recorded vote:

Moved: Craig Stiltner

Seconded: David Rose

Yeas: Seven

Nays: Zero

Tim Hess, Chairman

Buchanan County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Robert Craig Horn

County Administrator

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IN RE: CONSIDER APPROVING PART-TIME SEASONAL EMPLOYEES TO WORK OVER 28 HOURS PER WEEK, BUT IT MUST BE FOR EMERGENCY SNOW REMOVAL

After a general discussion by the board upon motion by Trey Adkins seconded by Craig Stiltner with a roll call vote of seven (7) yeas, Tim Hess, David Rose, Jeff Cooper, Craig Stiltner, Trey Adkins, Lee Dotson, G. Roger Rife and zero (0) nays, this board did hereby approve part-time seasonal employees to work over 28 hours per week, but it **MUST** be for emergency snow removal only as a seasonal employee and they will be exempt according to the Affordable Care Act. **This is only for the months from December 1st through March 31st.**

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IN RE: CONSIDER SCHEDULING A PUBLIC HEARING FOR MONDAY, MARCH 2ND, 2026 AT 6:15 P.M. TO HEAR PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO INCREASE TO THE PRODUCT PRICE LIST FOR THE BUCHANAN COUNTY TRANSFER STATION

After a general discussion by the board upon motion by Lee Dotson seconded by Jeff Cooper with a roll call vote of seven (7) yeas, Tim Hess, David Rose, Jeff Cooper, Craig Stiltner, Trey Adkins, Lee Dotson, G. Roger Rife and zero (0) nays, this board did hereby approve to schedule a public hearing for **Monday, March 2nd, 2026 at 6:15 p.m.** to hear public comments regarding the proposed ordinance to increase to the product price list for the Buchanan County Transfer Station.

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IN RE: CONSIDER APPROVING AND ISSUING PAYMENT FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

After a general discussion by the board upon motion by Lee Dotson seconded by G. Roger Rife and with a roll call vote of seven (7) yeas, Tim Hess, David Rose, Jeff Cooper, Craig Stiltner, Trey Adkins, Lee Dotson, G. Roger Rife and zero (0) nays, this board did hereby approve a contribution in the amount of \$8,000.00 to Twin Valley High School and to issue a check.

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IN RE: CONSIDER CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session.

IN RE: GENERAL DISCUSSION REGARDING PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

Craig Stiltner, Rocklick District Supervisor stated I had a discussion with one of the school board members over the weekend regarding long-term substitutes. I've had a problem with long-term substitutes for many years, because they are taking away jobs from our kids that we encourage to go to school and get a degree then we don't hire them once they get out of college, he stated. In my mind, we are taking away full-time positions, he commented.

It's kind of the same thing in the county's situation, we have two or three part-time employees that's retired and is now working part-time for the county, he stated. With an additional \$10 to \$15 thousand we could hire a full-time younger person to do these jobs. This person would live here, stay here and raise a family here, he commented. We need to take a closer look at this.

Myself and Jeff Cooper could take a closer look at these numbers to see if it would save some funding, stated Mr. Stiltner.

Trey Adkins, Knox District Supervisor asked Mr. Stiltner if he wanted to dismiss our older employees and hire young people to take their place?

Mr. Stiltner stated that's not what I said.

So, we are going to hire someone younger, then we're going to tell the older employees that we're going to hire someone younger, stated Mr. Adkins.

L. Lee Moise, County Attorney stated this sounds like that may be age discrimination, since you're wanting to hire someone younger.

Robert C. Horn, County Administrator stated this issue could be discussed during our budget work sessions.

IN RE: CONSIDER SCHEDULING A PUBLIC HEARING TO DECREASE THE REAL ESTATE TAX RATE

Upon motion by Craig Stiltner to schedule a public hearing to decrease the real estate tax rate for the county to \$.34 cents per \$100 of assessed value from \$.39 cents per \$100.00 of assessed value. With no second to his motion, the motion failed.

Robert C. Horn, County Administrator stated if this was approved the county would lose over \$1 million in revenue.

IN RE: ADJOURNMENT

After a general discussion by the board upon motion by Jeff Cooper seconded by David Rose and with a roll call vote of seven (7) yeas, Jeff Cooper, Lee Dotson, David Rose, Craig Stiltner, Tim Hess, G. Roger Rife, this board did hereby approve to adjourn the meeting.

Tim Hess, Chairman of the
Buchanan County Board of Supervisors

Robert Craig Horn, County Administrator

MINUTES

A continued meeting of the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors was held on the 12th day of February, 2026 starting at 5:00 o'clock p.m. in the Board of Supervisors Meeting Room, 3rd floor of the Buchanan County Government Center, 4447 Slate Creek Road, Grundy, Virginia 24614. Also, this meeting was conducted by electronic communication (Zoom). The media and public were invited to participate.

PRESENT: Tim Hess, Chairman
Jeff Cooper
Trey Adkins
Craig Stiltner
G. Roger Rife
David Rose
Lee Dotson

Robert Craig Horn, County Administrator
L. Lee Moise, County Attorney

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The meeting was called to order with Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

Tim Hess, Chairman welcomed everyone to the joint meeting between the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors and the Buchanan County Industrial Development Authority.

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IN RE: CLOSED SESSION 2.2-3711 1950 CODE OF VIRGINIA

Upon a motion by Trey Adkins seconded by Lee Dotson and with a roll call vote of seven (7) yeas, Jeff Cooper, Lee Dotson, Craig Stiltner, Tim Hess, David Rose, G. Roger Rife, Trey Adkins and zero (0) nays, this board agreed to convene in closed session as permitted by Virginia Code Section, 2.2-, 2.2-3711 (8), consultation with legal counsel regarding the contract between the Appalachian School of Law (ASL) and the Buchanan County Industrial Development Authority (IDA) with Buchanan County being a third-party beneficiary to provide a grant to assist ASL.

Motion was made by Trey Adkins to return from closed session seconded by Lee Dotson and with the following roll call vote of seven (7) yeas, Trey Adkins, Jeff Cooper, Lee Dotson, David Rose, Tim Hess, G. Roger Rife, Craig Stiltner and zero (0) nays, this board did hereby approve to return from closed session.

This board meeting resumed in open session after being in executive session two (2) hours and twenty-one (21) minutes.

A motion by Trey Adkins seconded by Lee Dotson that the Board certify that in the closed session just concluded, nothing was discussed except the matter specifically identified in the motion to convene in closed session and lawfully permitted to be so discussed under the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act cited in that motion. The motion was agreed upon by the following roll call vote six (6) yeas, Lee Dotson, Tim Hess, G. Roger Rife, Craig Stiltner, David Rose, Trey Adkins, zero (0) nays and one (1) abstention, Jeff Cooper.

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IN RE: CONSIDER APPROVING TO GIVE BUCHANAN COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (IDA) \$3.4 MILLION STRICTLY FOR MAKING A GRANT TO THE APPALACHIAN SCHOOL OF LAW (ASL)

Trey Adkins, Knox District Supervisor made a motion to provide \$3.4 million to Buchanan County IDA to assist the ASL. Also, the agreement once it's finalized and signed will be provided to the press.

L. Lee Moise, County Attorney stated the IDA has to approve the agreement. There has been some changes in a couple of the paragraphs in the Economic Development and Cooperation Agreement between the IDA and ASL, he stated.

Mr. Adkins stated the IDA didn't agree to these changes. ASL will provide the financial documents upon the disbursement of the 1.7 million.

Craig Stiltner, Rocklick District Supervisor stated the financial statements should be provided.

Mr. Moise stated ASL will be providing a financial plan of income and expenses and how grant funds are going to be utilized.

Mr. Adkins stated the ASL board met Tuesday night at ASL and no one was objecting in giving us their financial plan, stated Mr. Adkins. There are 42 jobs at ASL and 22 of these are Buchanan County natives. They work and support their families by working at ASL. Keeping ASL here will help the YMCA, which they receive \$63,500 each year from ASL Students that attends the YMCA, he stated. Also, the students shops at Walmart, Taco Bell, Bellacino's, etc. and provides funding for landlords that may have a mortgage on homes and apartments. In keeping ASL here, it's a survival in helping the Town of Grundy and will effect a lot of people, stated Mr. Adkins.

I've been around for a while, stated Mr. Stiltner. I can do simple math and if I lost money 10 consecutive years, are the banks going to loan me money. NO, he commented. There's a lot of people that could've raised funds to help ASL, like they do in Bristol. We've asked for financial documents and we was told we had to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement, stated Mr. Stiltner. I've been a no vote. Why

wouldn't they let us see their financial documents, he asked? I've never seen anything.

G. Roger Rife, South Grundy District Supervisor asked if the funding for ASL was in the amount of \$3.4 million?

Mr. Adkins stated yes.

Mr. Rife stated ASL is important to the community. Senator George Allen raised \$500,000 for ASL several years ago. I'll vote one more time, to give ASL one more chance, he stated. When we have a budget at \$59 million and now may add \$3.4 million to it, you're going to see a tax raise, he commented.

I support Buchanan County and I'm not making a speech, but ten years ago we had a \$42 million budget, stated Mr. Rife. We've lost a lot of property off the tax roll because of the flood proofing project, he stated. If we do the \$3.4 million, it'll put the county's budget at \$62 million. We get so many donation request for the kids in the school system, when they used to raise money by having fundraising events, stated Mr. Rife.

Mr. Adkins stated in 1995 and 1996 the county and VCEDA invested \$8.7 million into the law school to renovate the two buildings that was going to be used. In, 1997 ASL opened and for 19 years ASL didn't ask for a penny, stated Mr. Adkins. Buchanan County IDA had to vote to forgive a loan in the amount of \$6 million for ASL a few years ago. Then last year, we gave \$100,000 to ASL, he stated. We gave \$6.1 million to ASL in 29 years of being in the county. I think that's a good investment, commented Mr. Adkins. This is another reason we want to keep ASL here. If a business is failing, then why does Roanoke want it, asked Mr. Adkins. Has anyone even thought to ask this. The Non-Disclosure Agreement that I wanted signed, it would have given us detailed information from ASL. We didn't what this information out on Facebook, he stated.

After a general discussion by the board upon motion by Trey Adkins seconded by Lee Dotson and with a roll call vote of five (5) yeas, Trey Adkins, G. Roger Rife, Jeff Cooper, Lee Dotson, David Rose and two (2) nays, Tim Hess and Craig Stiltner, this board did hereby approve to give the Buchanan County Industrial Development Authority \$3.4 million strictly for making a grant to the Appalachian School of Law once they provide the financial information that was requested. Also, the first grant disbursement would be given on March 2nd, 2026 in the amount of \$1.7 million (if the Financial Plan had been supplied by ASL) and the second would be given on June 15th, 2026 in the amount of \$1.7 million. Until the Economic Development and Cooperation Agreement between Buchanan County Industrial Development Authority and Appalachian School of Law is signed it will not be released to the press etc. as it may continue to undergo edits.

IN RE: ADJOURNMENT

After a general discussion by the board upon motion by Craig Stiltner seconded by Lee Dotson and with a roll call vote of seven (7) yeas, Jeff Cooper, Lee Dotson, David Rose, Craig Stiltner, Tim Hess, G. Roger Rife, this board did hereby approve to adjourn the meeting.

Tim Hess, Chairman of the
Buchanan County Board of Supervisors

Robert Craig Horn, County Administrator

MINUTES

A special called meeting of the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday the 18th day of February, 2026 starting at 5:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors Meeting Room, 3rd floor of the Buchanan County Government Center, 4447 Slate Creek Road, Grundy, Virginia 24614. **This meeting was conducted by electronic communication (Zoom). The media and public were invited to participate.**

PRESENT: Tim Hess, Chairman
Jeff Cooper
Lee Dotson
G. Roger Rife
David Rose
Trey Adkins
Craig Stiltner

L. Lee Moise, County Attorney
Robert C. Horn, County Administrator

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The meeting was called to order with Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

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**REQUEST FOR A SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BUCHANAN COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Tim Hess, Chairman of the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors hereby requested pursuant to Section 15.2-1417 and 15.2-1418 of the Code of Virginia that a special meeting of the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors be held on the date, at the time, and place stated below and for the purpose stated herein, as amended.

DATE OF MEETING: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18th, 2026

TIME OF MEETING: 5:00 O’CLOCK P.M.

PLACE OF MEETING: 4447 SLATE CREEK ROAD, GRUNDY, VA

PURPOSE

1. Call to order. 5:00 p.m.
2. Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Joint meeting with the Town of Grundy Industrial Development Authority regarding the Economic Development and Co-Operation Agreement with the Appalachian School of Law and the Town of Grundy Industrial Development Authority, which the county is a third-party beneficiary to provide a grant to assist ASL.
4. Closed session VA. Code Section 2.2-3711(a)(8), consultation with legal counsel in regards to item #3 on this agenda.
5. Adjournment.

IN RE: JOINT MEETING WITH THE TOWN OF GRUNDY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY REGARDING THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE APPALACHIAN SCHOOL OF LAW AND THE TOWN OF GRUNDY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, WHICH THE COUNTY IS A THIRD-PARTY BENEFICIARY TO PROVIDE A GRANT TO ASSIST ASL

Upon motion by Trey Adkins seconded by Lee Dotson and with a roll call vote of seven (7) yeas, Jeff Cooper, Trey Adkins, Tim Hess, Lee Dotson, G. Roger Rife, David Rose, Craig Stiltner and zero (0) nays, this board did hereby rescind the previous motion to give the Buchanan County Industrial Development Authority \$3.4 million strictly for making a grant to the Appalachian School of Law (ASL) once they provide the financial information that was requested.

Also, I'm going to ask this board or I'll do it by myself to ask Jay Jones, Virginia Attorney General to investigate a ASL Board Member who's been offered fiscal gain with ASL relocating to Roanoke, VA, stated Trey Adkins, Knox District Supervisor. This person is trying to sabotage ASL.

Trey Adkins, Knox District Supervisor made a motion for an additional appropriation and to issue a check to the Town of Grundy Industrial Development Authority (IDA) \$3.4 million strictly for making a grant to the Appalachian School of Law (ASL) once they provide the financial information that was requested. Also, the first grant disbursement would be given on March 2nd, 2026 in the amount of \$1.7 million (if the Financial Plan had been supplied by ASL) and the second would be given on June 15th, 2026 in the amount of \$1.7 million. Until the Economic Development and Co-operation Agreement between Town of Grundy Industrial Development Authority and Appalachian School of Law is signed it will not be released to the press etc.

Craig Stiltner, Rocklick District Supervisor stated is it true the \$3.4 million will not get you through at ASL? There are a couple people saying the \$3.4 will only get the law school through May. Is that true?

I'm going to answer that question, the \$3.4 guarantees that ASL for two years as the board stands now, stated Mr. Adkins. ASL has received a generous donation from the Streets in the amount of \$500,000, he stated. The law school was short \$2.2 million these years with the enrollment we have. This puts us down to \$1.7 this year, commented Mr. Adkins. That means if we have the same number of students, we'll be short \$2.2 million next year. That's where the \$4.4 million came from, he commented. Tom Scott was here a couple meetings ago and let us know there' two \$500,000 donations, so this is where the \$3.4 million came from, stated Mr. Adkins.

We're graduating 41 students this year from ASL and we're anticipating 80 new students this coming year, so we're gaining 40 plus students, stated Mr. Adkins. Hopefully, we'll have 100 plus students next year. This will drastically change the enrollment numbers and budget numbers and what ASL doesn't need then it will be put in reserves, he commented. ASL will start doing fund raising again and get their house in order, which is my job representing this board, he stated. Yes, we can make it with the \$3.4 million.

Mr. Stiltner stated there are two people here that's made a statement the \$3.4 million will not do it and it would just get them to a certain extent. I'm trying to figure out who's right or wrong, he stated. ASL came here requesting \$6 million to begin with. Then I heard since the board of supervisors isn't giving the \$6 million, ASL has to give back \$500,000 back once the county only gives the \$3.4 million, he stated. Is that true?

Mr. Adkins stated, I've not heard that.

Any of the gentlemen in the back heard that, asked Mr. Stiltner.

Jeff Taylor, ASL Board Member, stated I've not heard that, but Tom Scott would be the one to answer that, he was the one you need to ask.

So, you're on the ASL Board and you can't answer that, asked Mr. Stiltner. So, in your opinion will \$3.4 million get you through till next year, he asked?

Mr. Taylor stated yes.

Mr. Stiltner stated will it then.

The \$3.4 million is next years by, stated Mr. Taylor.

I think Mr. Stiltner's question was, if the company or person who donated the \$500,000 did, they request it back, asked Mr. Adkins.

Honestly, I have not heard that, stated Mr. Taylor.

Michael McGlothlin, Esq. stated he had not heard anyone say anything about that or that they requested it back.

A lot of vague answers there, to be honest with you, stated Mr. Stiltner. There were some pretty bold statements earlier about how you wouldn't do this and wouldn't do that, but now all of a sudden, we're good, he commented.

Mr. Adkins stated Karen Jackson is the CFO for the law school, Mr. Stiltner do you think she's been truthful?

I've only spoke to Ms. Jackson one time, stated Mr. Stiltner.

You bragged on her for being truthful, commented Mr. Adkins.

She spoke for what was the truth to her, stated Mr. Stiltner.

You come here and you expect special privileges asking for \$6 million and they negotiated it down to \$3.4 million, and nobody has seen anything, other than Mr. Adkins, stated Mr. Stiltner. We haven't seen any revenue or expenditures nor an audit on that law

school, he stated. There's not a time in this county that we've gave \$3.4 million away unless we see their background, audit or some kind of books, stated Mr. Stiltner.

Jeff Cooper, Garden District Supervisor stated we put our trust in Lee Dotson and Trey Adkins as the appointed committee to relay back to us what they learn about ASL.

Could I ask one question, asked G. Roger Rife, South Grundy District Supervisor? Out of the 2,000 students that's graduated from ASL, does the law school get any donations from the alumni?

Mr. Taylor stated yes, it varies year to year.

Mr. McGlothlin stated one young man that attended ASL has pledged a pretty significant donation. Most of our graduates are younger, he stated. Most of our big donors are in their 60's and 70's, he commented. Most of our students haven't had time to accumulate any funds, since they are young.

My only thing is, this is taxpayers' money, stated Mr. Stiltner. I think we all know Mr. McGlothlin you have connections to do a fund raiser to easily reach this \$6 million. I know one year there was \$15 million raised at a golf course in Bristol, stated Mr. Stiltner. Raised another \$56 million eight years later and that was for a private school, he commented. That's a pretty good chunk of change. I don't know why you've waited until now, when you're supposedly ready to shut the doors before you ever let the cat out of the bag, stated Mr. Stiltner. You could've went out there and done a fund raiser and raised this money in no time.

You come to the county for the funds and I see that \$3.4 million that could be used to do 15 waterline projects, six cell phone towers in the Hurley and Big Rock areas, 30 to 60 miles of state overlay on primary and secondary roads in the county, stated Mr. Stiltner. This is what I see with the \$3.4 million that we could be doing. Then the entire county would benefit. Also, we could buy satellite cell phones for the county instead of cell phone towers, he stated.

Mr. Cooper stated tax payer money, I truly think we should operate this entire county on tax payers' money. We have a budget of \$51 million a year and how we operate and only 20 plus percent of that budget is from real estate and personal property taxes, which is tax payers' money, he stated. If that would happen, the county road system would go away, trash pick-up too, he stated.

Let's operate the county on tax payers' money, stated Mr. Cooper. Would you have a problem with that?

No, I wouldn't have a problem with that, stated Mr. Stiltner.

What Mr. Stiltner says makes a good headline and I've been on this board for 15 years with him and he's never brought this issue up before, stated Mr. Adkins. It sounds real good right now, since we're discussing the law school. If Mr. Stiltner felt that way,

he should've made a motion before last December to do all these projects, stated Mr. Adkins.

This isn't just for the law school, but for people from Hurley, including myself, but whoever shops at Walmart, Pizza Hut, Urgent Care, El Sombrero's, Buchanan General and Grundy is the town seat, that where you go shopping, stated Mr. Adkins. All of this is tied into the law school. You know, we've had some people trying to sabotage the hospital, which is tied into this law school and will be a part of the Jay Jones investigation, he stated. Is Trey worried about the law school, yes, because my folks in Hurley have to go shopping or they're going to go to Pikeville or Richlands, which is over an hour drive, he commented.

I do what I think is best for Buchanan County, stated Mr. Adkins. There's a lot of business that will struggle without the law school. This is bigger than just the law school.

There's a lot of people on Facebook that has an opinion and doesn't have a clue what's going on, stated Mr. Adkins, They get bits and pieces and they think they're a genius all of a sudden, this is when they need to run for supervisor and sit in this seat and see.

I do what's best for this county and what I think is best is the survival of ASL, stated Mr. Adkins. If ASL fails, there's going to be a lot of businesses that fails or struggles.

Upon motion by Trey Adkins seconded by Lee Dotson and with a roll call vote of five (5) yeas, Trey Adkins, G. Roger Rife, Jeff Cooper, David Rose, Lee Dotson and two (2) nays, Craig Stiltner and Tim Hess, this board did hereby approve an additional appropriation in the amount of \$3.4 million and to issue a check to the Town of Grundy Industrial Development Authority (IDA) with the \$3.4 million strictly for making a grant to the Appalachian School of Law (ASL) once they provide the financial information that was requested. Also, the first grant disbursement would be given on March 2nd, 2026 in the amount of \$1.7 million (if the Financial Plan had been supplied by ASL) and the second would be given on June 15th, 2026 in the amount of \$1.7 million. Until the Economic Development and Cooperation Agreement between Town of Grundy Industrial Development Authority and Appalachian School of Law is signed it will not be released to the press etc.

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**IN RE: CLOSED SESSION VA. CODE SECTION 2.2-3711(A)(8) IN
REGARD TO SPECIAL CALLED MEETING AGENDA ITEM #3,
IF NECESSARY**

This issue was tabled, no action taken.

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IN RE: ADJOURNMENT

After a general discussion by the board upon motion by Trey Adkins seconded by Jeff Cooper and with a roll call vote of seven (7) yeas, Jeff Cooper, Trey Adkins, Tim Hess, Lee Dotson, G. Roger Rife, David Rose, Craig Stiltner and zero (0) nays, this board did hereby approve to adjourn.

Tim Hess, Chairman of the
Buchanan County Board of Supervisors

Robert Craig Horn, County Administrator