

The regular meeting of the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, September 28, 2021, at the Botetourt County Administration Center in Daleville, Virginia, beginning at 2:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Members: Dr. Donald M. Scothorn, Chairman  
Dr. Richard G. Bailey, Vice-Chairman  
Mr. Steve Clinton  
Mrs. Amy S. White

ABSENT: Members: Mr. Billy W. Martin, Sr.

Others present at the meeting:

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

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 12:35 P.M.

On motion by Dr. Scothorn, seconded by Dr. Bailey, and carried by the following recorded vote, the Board went into Closed Session pursuant to the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, to discuss the following: Section 2.2-3711.A. 1, Discussion on personnel matters pertaining to the Fire and EMS Department; Section 2.2-3711.A. 3, Acquisition or disposition of real property for economic development purposes where discussion in open session would adversely affect the County's bargaining position or negotiating strategy namely concerning the Amsterdam, Fincastle, and Blue Ridge districts; and Section 2.2-3711.A. 5, Discussion on prospective businesses or industries or the expansion of existing businesses or industries where no previous announcement has been made of their interest in locating or expanding facilities in the community in the Amsterdam including Greenfield, Blue Ridge (Jack Smith Park), Buchanan, and Fincastle District. (Resolution Number 21-09-01)

AYES: Dr. Scothorn, Dr. Bailey, Mrs. White, Mr. Clinton

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Martin                      ABSTAINING: None

The Chairman called the meeting back to order at 2:05 P.M.

On motion by Dr. Scothorn, seconded by Mrs. White, and carried by the following recorded vote, the Board returned to regular session from Closed Session and adopted the following resolution by roll-call vote. (Resolution Number 21-09-02)

AYES: Mr. Clinton, Mrs. White, Dr. Bailey, Dr. Scothorn

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Martin                      ABSTAINING: None

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

Dr. Scothorn then welcomed those present to the meeting.

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

Dr. Scothorn then asked for a moment of silence.

Recognition was then held for Mrs. Amy White's and Micro Harmonics' receipt of awards from the Roanoke/Blacksburg Technology Council. Mr. Ken McFadyen, Economic Develop-

ment Director, stated that in June the Roanoke-Blacksburg Technology Council held its annual awards ceremony to recognize individuals and businesses who have accomplished great things in the community/region. He noted that the County works with the Council in many ways to help the area's small businesses and then introduced Ms. Erin Burcham, the Council's Executive Director, to the Board.

Ms. Burcham stated that Mrs. Amy White was the recipient of the Council's Leader of the Year award at their Tech Nite event which recognizes her leadership in education at Virginia Western Community College (VWCC) and in the community. Ms. Burcham stated that they are proud for all of the work that Mrs. White has done for the region.

Dr. Mary Miller, Director of the Regional Acceleration and Mentoring Program (RAMP), then stated that she would like to recognize Micro Harmonics, a small business located in Fincastle. Dr. Miller stated that RAMP's concept behind supporting business start-ups is to identify strong technology-based companies.

Dr. Miller stated that she first met with Micro Harmonics' representatives in 2019 and was immediately impressed with the company. She noted that this is exactly what RAMP and the Council were set up to do—accelerate the growth of start-ups and connect them to the resources they need to prosper.

Dr. Miller stated that Micro Harmonics was presented with Council's Rising Star award and she congratulated the company, whose representatives were present at today's meeting. Dr. Miller stated that she does not think that this will be the last award that Micro Harmonics will receive. She thanked the Board for allowing these recognitions to be made at today's meeting.

Mr. David Porterfield, Chief Executive Officer, Mrs. Diane Kees, Chief Operating Officer, and several other company employees were then recognized.

Dr. Miller stated that Mr. Porterfield delivered a powerful testimony on why Botetourt County and the region were good places for his business.

Mrs. White stated that unfortunately, due to the business' success, Mrs. Kees had to leave her teaching position at VWCC but she congratulated the company for receipt of this award. She noted that Micro Harmonics is an asset to the community.

Mr. Porterfield stated that it is a pleasure for them to be in Botetourt County. He noted that the company relocated from the Charlottesville/Waynesboro area where they had an adversarial relationship with the local officials; however, it has been a complete change with their dealings with the County and Town of Fincastle. Mr. Porterfield stated that they are in the process of expanding their business in their existing office space and "are not going anywhere."

Mr. McFadyen thanked Mr. Porterfield and his staff, Dr. Miller, and Ms. Burcham for their comments. He stated that it has been a team effort which has been successful for all.

Mr. McFadyen further noted that Mr. Clinton first brought this company to the County's and the Council's attention.

The Board congratulated Mrs. White and Micro Harmonics for their receipt of these awards.

Mrs. Nicole Pendleton, Director of Community Development then introduced Mr. Jonathan McCoy to the Board. She noted that Mr. McCoy was hired earlier this month as the County's Long-Range Planner. Mrs. Pendleton stated that he previously worked for the Berkley Group where he was involved in long-range planning project management with clients such as the City of Lexington and Northampton County.

She noted that he received an undergraduate degree from George Mason University and a Masters degree in Public Administration and Urban and Regional Planning from Virginia Tech.

The Board welcomed Mr. McCoy to employment with Botetourt County.

Mr. McCoy thanked the Board for their comments.

Mr. Ricky Dowdy, Maintenance Director, then introduced two new employees. He noted that Mr. Gary Calkins is from Idaho and recently moved to the County. Mr. Dowdy noted that Mr. Calkins has years of experience in providing custodial services; however, he was assigned to maintenance work on various sports fields after being hired by the County. Mr. Dowdy stated that Mr. Calkins has performed his duties very well and gets along with the other staff.

Mr. Dowdy then introduced Mr. Colin Alfred who moved to the County from Vermont. He noted that Mr. Alfred is going to Vermont to get married next week but will return with his new wife to live in the County.

Mr. Dowdy stated that Mr. Alfred has previous turf maintenance experience on golf courses and is knowledgeable about grounds maintenance and will provide valuable experience for the County's ballfield maintenance program.

Mr. Dowdy noted that the Maintenance Department has experienced a revolving door in staff employment over the past year but things are improving. Mr. Dowdy stated that it has also been a year since he came to work for the County and thanked the Board members for their support during this time.

Mrs. White and the other Board members welcomed Mr. Calkins and Mr. Alfred to employment with the County.

The public comment period was then held.

Mr. Chris McCloud of Cloverdale then stated that he opposes a recent change in School Board policy regarding public comments. Mr. McCloud stated that citizens can now only address the School Board through completion prior to their meetings of an on-line/e-mail form. He stated that this is discriminatory to citizens who do not have WiFi or e-mail and prohibits parents, citizens, and taxpayers from addressing their comments to the School Board.

Mr. McCloud stated that this should not be allowed in any County and requested that the Board do everything possible at their disposal to reverse this process. Mr. McCloud stated that this policy hinders citizens' freedom of speech to express their grievances before the School Board. He stated that "they should not be censoring citizens and those who would find fault with their policies."

Mr. McCloud stated that both boards are elected individuals and the citizens could decide to take this issue to the courts. After discussion, Mr. McCloud encouraged the Supervisors to reach out to the School Board and express their concerns that this policy is not the most prudent action to take.

Ms. Keri Martell of Fincastle stated that she would like to add to Mr. McCloud's sentiments and also discuss the Board's efforts to bring quality internet service to the County.

Ms. Martell stated that she is speaking for her Buchanan District neighbors who do not have internet access. Ms. Martell noted that she has checked the broadband maps on the County's website which show areas that currently have internet and those which are proposed

for broadband expansion in the next few years. She noted that it appears that there are many areas of the County including the northern portions that are still under construction.

Ms. Martell stated that the companies providing internet in the County include Briscnet (Blue Ridge Towers), Lumos Networks, Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative, and Dominion Energy/BARC Electrical Cooperative. She noted that there are many James River High School and Central Academy Middle School students in these northern areas who do not have internet access.

Ms. Martell then stated that on September 9 the School Board said that they would no longer provide paper forms for citizens to sign up to speak at their meetings. She noted that first-time speakers at School Board meetings are not aware of this new process; therefore, they will be unable to voice their comments.

Ms. Martell requested that the Supervisors' members talk to the School Board about how to serve their constituents.

Consideration was then held on various consent agenda items.

There being no discussion, on motion by Dr. Bailey, seconded by Dr. Scothorn, and carried by the following recorded vote, the Board approved the following consent agenda items: (Resolution Number 21-09-03)

AYES: Mr. Clinton, Mrs. White, Dr. Bailey, Dr. Scothorn

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Martin

ABSTAINING: None

Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held on August 24, 2021;

Approval of the following proclamation declaring October 3 – 9, 2021, as Fire Prevention Week:

**WHEREAS**, Botetourt County, Virginia, is committed to ensuring the safety, health and security of all those living in and visiting the County; and,

**WHEREAS**, fire is a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally, and homes are the locations where people are at greatest risk from fire; and,

**WHEREAS**, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), home fires killed more than 2,770 people in the United States in 2019, and fire departments in the United States responded to 339,500 home fires; and,

**WHEREAS**, smoke alarms sense smoke well before you can, alerting you to danger in the event of fire in which you may have as little as 2 minutes to escape safely; and,

**WHEREAS**, working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half; and,

**WHEREAS**, Botetourt residents should be sure everyone in the home understands the sounds of the alarms and knows how to respond; and,

**WHEREAS**, Botetourt residents who have planned and practiced a home fire escape plan are more prepared and will therefore be more likely to survive a fire; and,

**WHEREAS**, Botetourt residents will make sure their smoke and CO alarms meet the needs of all their family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities; and,

**WHEREAS**, Botetourt County's first responders are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and protection education; and,

**WHEREAS**, Botetourt residents are responsive to public education measures are better able to take personal steps to increase their safety from fire, especially in their homes; and,

**WHEREAS**, the 2021 Fire Prevention Week™ theme, “*Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety™*,” effectively serves to remind us it is important to learn the different sounds of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the Board of Supervisors of Botetourt County, Virginia, do hereby proclaim October 3 - 9, 2021, as **Fire Prevention Week 2021** throughout this community;

Approval of amendments to the County Employee Personnel Policy Manual; and

Approval of voting credentials for the VACo annual business meeting in November to designate Gary Larowe and/or David Moorman as the County’s voting proxy.

Consideration was then held on approval of transfers and additional appropriations. Mr. Tony Zerrilla, Director of Finance, stated that there were two transfers, 6 pass through appropriations, and five regular appropriations for the Board’s consideration. He noted that these are for expenditure reimbursements, contributions, receipt of grant funds, and include a State-mandated bonus for sworn deputies. He stated that 70% of the total appropriation for deputy bonuses will be reimbursed by the State Compensation Board. Mr. Zerrilla further noted than an appropriation for bonuses for Fire and EMS first responders is also included.

There being no discussion, on motion by Mr. Clinton, seconded by Mrs. White, and carried by the following recorded vote, the Board approved the following transfers and additional appropriations. (Resolution Number 21-09-04)

AYES: Mr. Clinton, Mrs. White, Dr. Bailey, Dr. Scothorn

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Martin

ABSTAINING: None

Transfer \$432.50 to Central Purchasing – Store Supplies, 100-4012530-12530-6021-000, from various departments as follows for store supplies usage:

- \$ 45.00 County Admin. – Office Supplies, 100-4012110-12110-6001-000
- \$ 12.50 Finance – Office Supplies, 100-4012430-12430-6001-000
- \$ 90.00 Comm. of Revenue – Office Supplies, 100-4012310-12310-6001-000
- \$180.00 Treasurer – Office Supplies, 100-4012410-12410-6001-000
- \$ 45.00 Purchasing – Office Supplies, 100-4012530-12530-6001-000
- \$ 45.00 CSA – Office Supplies, 100-4053500-53500-6001-000
- \$ 15.00 Parks & Rec. – Other Oper. Supplies, 100-4071100-71100-6014-000

Transfer \$1,183.11 to Central Purchasing – Pool Car Transfers, 100-4012530-12530-6020-000, from various departments as follows for fuel usage:

- \$ 36.43 Tech. Services - Fuel, 100-4012510-12510-6008-000
- \$ 18.93 Purchasing – Vehicle Repairs, 100-4012530-12530-3312-000
- \$ 8.10 Purchasing – Fuel, 100-4012530-12530-6008-000
- \$ 9.29 Communications – Fuel, 100-4012600-12600-6008-000
- \$909.52 Maintenance – Fuel, 100-4043000-43000-6008-000
- \$ 14.64 County Administrator – Fuel, 100-4012110-12110-6008-000
- \$ 5.12 Parks & Rec. – Fuel, 100-4071100-71100-6008-000
- \$ 75.36 Community Devel. – Fuel, 100-4081200-81200-6008-000
- \$ 64.05 Economic Devel. – Fuel, 100-4081500-81500-6008-000
- \$ 41.67 Cooperative Extension – Mileage, 100-4083000-83000-5510-000

Additional appropriation in the amount of \$1,363.68 to Waste Management – Professional Services, 100-4042400-42400-3100. This is a reimbursement from County Waste for overtime incurred by County personnel in support of landfill operations.

Additional appropriation in the amount of \$985.00 to the following Correction & Detention accounts: \$575.00 to Uniforms, 100-4033100-33100-6011; \$10.00 to Office Supplies, 100-4033100-33100-6001; and \$400.00 to Food Service & Supplies, 100-4033100-33100-6002. The first item is for contract payments, the second item is for supplies, and the third is for Social Security incentives.

Additional appropriation in the amount of \$4,932.87 to the following Sheriff's Department accounts: \$66.50 to Office Supplies, 100-4031200-31200-6001; \$172.27 to Vehicle Supplies, 100-4031200-31200-6009; \$2,115.17 to Subsistence & Lodging, 100-4031200-31200-5530; and \$2,578.93 to Overtime, 100-4031200-31200-1200. These appropriations are for reimbursements of office expenses, extradition expenses, and overtime expenses.

Additional appropriation in the amount of \$650.00 to Fire & EMS – Capital Outlay - Other Capital, 100-4035500-35500-8012. This is a contribution from ServPro for sponsoring an emergency preparedness event.

Additional appropriation in the amount of \$222,837.00 to Sheriff's Department - various accounts. This figure represents the State Compensation Board's reimbursement of the mandated \$3,000.00 bonus provided to sworn deputies that are covered as Compensation Board-funded positions. This reimbursement includes a small reimbursable fringe benefit component.

Additional appropriation in the amount of \$33,070.89 to Parks & Recreation – Uniforms, 100-4071100-71100-6011. These are recreation fees collected in FY22 to be applied against uniform expenses for youth sports programs.

Additional appropriation in the amount of \$271,350.80 to the following accounts: \$232,434.00 to Fire & EMS - Capital Outlay – Machinery & Equipment – Fire Program Funds, 100-4035500-35500-8001-304; and \$38,916.80 to Fire & EMS – Capital Outlay – Machinery & Equipment – 4 For Life Funds, 100-4035500-35500-8001-303. These are grant funds received in FY20 and FY21 which will be spent based on the prescribed guidelines for each fund.

Additional appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$215,000.00 allocated as follows: \$154,000.00 to Fire & EMS – Salaries & Wages – Regular, 100-4035500-35500-1100; \$45,500.00 to Fire & EMS – Salaries & Wages – Part-time, 100-4035500-35500-1300; and \$15,500.00 to Fire & EMS – FICA, 100-4035500-35500-2100. This appropriation provides a bonus of \$3,500.00 to full-time Fire & EMS employees and \$1,750.00 to Fire & EMS part-time employees that respond to rescue calls.

Additional appropriation in the amount of \$96,687.00 to Sheriff's Department - various accounts. This figure represents the County's portion of the State -mandated \$3,000.00 bonus to sworn deputies and includes related fringe benefits.

Additional appropriation in the amount of \$19,785.00 to Parks & Recreation – Uniforms, 100-4071100-71100-6011. These are recreation fees collected in FY21 to be applied against uniform expenses for youth sports programs.

Additional appropriation in the amount of \$25,900.00 to Communications Department – various accounts, 100-4012600-12600. This appropriation covers operational expenditures not included in the FY22 adopted budget.

Consideration was then held on approval of Accounts Payable and ratification of the Short Accounts Payable List. Mr. Tony Zerrilla, Director of Finance, stated that the accounts payables totaled \$1,366,095.73. He noted that this month's large expenditures included \$116,225 to VFIS for fire insurance coverage for the Department of Fire and EMS; \$130,256 to SHI International for an annual software user contract; \$84,510 to MorCom for consulting work for the Emergency Radio Replacement Plan; \$38,300 as a quarterly budget payment to Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge; and \$85,764 for Economic Development Authority transfers for construction expenses related to the Munters project in Greenfield.

After questioning by Dr. Scothorn, Mr. Zerrilla stated that the Board received a report from MorCom at their August regular meeting on recommendations to upgrade the County's emergency communications system. He noted that this \$84,510 payment is for Phase 1 project consulting costs to date.

There being no further discussion, on motion by Dr. Bailey, seconded by Mrs. White, and carried by the following recorded vote, the Board approved the Accounts Payable and ratified the Short Accounts Payable List as submitted. (Resolution Number 21-09-05)

AYES: Mr. Clinton, Mrs. White, Dr. Bailey, Dr. Scothorn

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Martin

ABSTAINING: None

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

After discussion by Dr. Scothorn, Mr. Varney noted that he does not have an update on the Exit 150 landscaping project but they now have a mowing contractor to conduct maintenance of this area.

Ms. Smith then reviewed VDoT's monthly report. She noted that the Route 220 safety improvement project is nearing completion and pavement resurfacing and shoulder work will be conducted over the next few weeks. Ms. Smith stated that this project should be completed this fall.

Ms. Smith stated that the yearly resurfacing/paving contract work is continuing; several site plan reviews are currently under review by VDoT staff or comments forwarded to County staff; and 19 various utility/entrance permits were issued in the past month. Ms. Smith further stated that the Stone Coal Road Rural Rustic Road project is continuing and a listing of projects being conducted by area headquarters staff was mentioned. Ms. Smith stated that various roads/infrastructure in the northeastern part of the County was damaged during last week's heavy rain.

Mrs. White noted that the Buchanan area did receive a lot of rain last Wednesday; however, VDoT personnel were on site the next day to make repairs. She thanked VDoT for the prompt attention to these damaged roads.

Mrs. White then stated that she has received citizen calls regarding the Flowing Spring Road/Springwood Road intersection. She noted that Flowing Spring Road (Route 638) is gravel and there are problems with the ditches washing out and causing erosion beneath the roadway. Mrs. White requested that VDoT personnel check into this issue and make repairs as needed. She further stated that this roadway may need more attention beyond routine grading.

Ms. Smith stated that she would have their maintenance staff review this area.

Dr. Bailey then stated that some public relations work is needed regarding the roadway surface treatment in Sowder Farm and Sommersby subdivisions.

Mr. Clinton then expressed his appreciation for the quick response to his request for a speed study on Greenfield Street (Route 673). Mr. Clinton noted that he does not think that this will be the last time that this situation is discussed.

Mrs. White then stated that she had received citizen calls regarding a through-truck restriction on Boblett's Gap Road (Route 643) due to large trucks using the road, getting stuck, and then having to call a tow truck, which closes the road for several hours.

Ms. Smith stated that she will look into this issue further.

After questioning by Dr. Scothorn, Ms. Smith stated that she can access an on-line reporting system to see how many instances a road has been closed due to accidents or incidents of large trucks blocking the road.

After further discussion, Mrs. White stated that she can talk to the resident who called with this request as to when tow trucks have been called to remove trucks from the roadway and will forward any information received to Ms. Smith.

After questioning by Mr. Varney, Mrs. White stated that she did not know exactly how many times the road has been blocked but the residents think that this has happened more than it should. She noted that Boblett's Gap Road is a loop road. She further noted that the GPS systems are the reason these large trucks are diverted onto unsuitable side roads. Mrs. White noted that she lives on a dead-end road and there are drivers who end up on the road because GPS has directed them there as a route to reach I-81.

Mr. Varney noted that VDoT has contacted various GPS companies over the past few years requesting that routing designations for certain roads be changed to keep trucks and other drivers off of these narrow, secondary roadways with no effect.

Mrs. White stated that she has also sent similar notices to MapQuest and Google Maps about incorrect driving directions being issued by their software.

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

Consideration was then held on a resolution requesting that the Virginia General Assembly declare a portion of U. S. Route 220 as Norvel LaFayette Ray Lee Memorial Highway. Mr. Clinton stated that the Board adopted a resolution at the August regular meeting requesting that the Virginia Department of Historic Resources provide a historical marker in memory of Mr. Lee, who was a Botetourt County native.

Mr. Clinton stated that he also thinks it is an appropriate request to further recognize Mr. Lee by designating a portion of Route 220 north of Eagle Rock in his memory. He noted that the specific section of roadway proposed to be named is the portion from the State Route 43 intersection to the Botetourt/Alleghany County line.

After discussion, Mr. Clinton stated that it is being recommended that the resolution included in the Board's information packets be forwarded to the Virginia General Assembly through Delegate Terry Austin for approval. He noted that the County will be responsible for paying the cost of this signage, its installation, and maintenance.

There being no further discussion, on motion by Mr. Clinton, seconded by Dr. Scothorn, and carried by the following recorded vote, the Board adopted the following resolution requesting that the Virginia General Assembly declare a portion of U. S. Route 220 between State Route 43 (Narrow Passage Road) and the Botetourt/Alleghany County line as "Norvel LaFayette Ray Lee Memorial Highway," and direct staff to forward a copy of this resolution to Delegate Terry Austin for consideration by the Virginia General Assembly.

AYES: Mr. Clinton, Mrs. White, Dr. Bailey, Dr. Scothorn

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Martin

ABSTAINING: None

Resolution Number 21-09-06

**WHEREAS**, the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors is committed to recognizing and celebrating the contributions made by its native-born citizens to the County, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and to the United States' historical heritage; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Norvel LaFalette Ray Lee was born on September 22, 1924, near Lick Run located in Botetourt County, and while residing in Gala, graduated from Academy Hill School in Fincastle; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Lee is recognized as a Tuskegee Airman, serving his country in the U. S. Army Air Forces in the Pacific during World War II, and retiring at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel from the U.S. Air Force Reserves in 1982; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Lee fought for civil rights in America and equality for all and in 1949 was the defendant in a landmark civil rights case overturning segregation on passenger trains by the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Lee, while attending Howard University, was selected as a member of the boxing team representing the United States at the 1948 London Olympics. He was national heavyweight boxing champion for both the Amateur Athletic Union (1950 and 1951) and Golden Gloves (1950 and 1952). Mr. Lee made history at the XV Olympiad held in Helsinki, Finland, in 1952 by becoming the first native Black Virginian to be awarded an Olympic gold medal. Mr. Lee was also awarded the Val Barker Trophy as the outstanding boxer of those Olympic Games; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Lee received a bachelor's degree from Howard University in 1953, a master's degree from Federal City College in 1970, and enrolled as a doctoral student and received an ABD (All But Dissertation) from Catholic University in 1981; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Lee began a career in education at the National Training School for Boys and then as the Director of Education at the Lorton Institute in Virginia. He later became director of adult and continuing education at Federal City College and in 1974 he joined the Baltimore City Public School System as coordinator of community and adult education; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Lee was asked to participate in a U.S. State Department sponsored goodwill program to West Africa and for two months in 1964 he travelled throughout Senegal, The Gambia, and Sudan conducting youth boxing clinics; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Lee married Leslie Jackson of Leesburg, Virginia, in 1952 and together, while raising their family, dedicated their lives to supporting youth programs and mentoring young people in greater Washington, D.C. Mr. Lee became president of the National Child Day Care Association. For many years during the 1970's Mr. Lee conducted a popular boxing clinic at the annual Special Olympics in Maryland; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Lee in 1979 joined the D.C. Office of Emergency Preparedness serving as liaison between the United States Air Force and Washington D.C. for coordination of emergency services, retiring in 1991 as a radiology defense officer, and,

**WHEREAS**, northern Botetourt County, located along modern-day U.S. Route 220, serves as a historical anchor for the recognition and celebration of Norvel Lee's life accomplishments; and,

**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 the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors supports the naming of U. S. Route 220 from State Route 43 (Narrow Passage Road) in Eagle Rock north to the Botetourt/Alleghany County line as the Norvel LaFalette Ray Lee Memorial Highway; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board agrees that funding for the appropriate signage to so designate this portion of U. S. Route 220 will be provided through County funding; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the House of Delegates of the Virginia General Assembly and Delegate Terry Austin of Buchanan for their consideration.

An update was then given on the Munters project and consideration of a request that the Board approve an amended Performance Agreement with Shooting Star Virginia Partners, LLC, and Munters Corporation. Mr. Ken McFadyen, Economic Development Director, stated that in March 2021 the Board approved a Performance Agreement with Shooting Star Virginia Partners and Munters Corporation for the location of Munters' new facility in Greenfield. He noted that the agreement requires Munters to invest a minimum of \$36 million in the building/site and create 200 jobs.

Mr. McFadyen stated that agreement further included commitments on the County's part, i.e., construction of the access road and extension of sewer to the site.

Mr. McFadyen stated that, due to pandemic-caused supply chain issues and State and federal permitting process delays, deadlines for completion of the road and sewer projects included in the March agreement will not be met. He stated that an amended Performance Agreement has been included in the Board's agenda packet which extends completion dates for sanitary sewer from September 1, 2021, to March 2, 2022, and road improvements from October 1, 2021, to June 15, 2022.

Mr. McFadyen stated that the County and EDA have had difficulty in securing pipe and materials for the sewer project and there have been delays in obtaining associated permits from the State and federal governments.

After questioning by Mrs. White regarding the impact these delays will have on Munters' current business location, Mr. McFadyen stated that the County will need to have the 2,800' sewer extension project completed by March 2, 2022, in order to connect the line to the Western Virginia Water Authority's line located near the Greenfield dam.

After discussion, Mr. McFadyen stated that Munters' general contractor, who is responsible for building the facility, has stated that the Munters' site work is approximately 50% complete with 500,000 cubic yards of material having been removed from the site. He noted that vertical construction of the building will begin in October 2021 and be completed in May 2022.

After questioning by Dr. Bailey, Mr. McFadyen stated that the road/sewer delays will not impact the building's construction.

After questioning by Dr. Scothorn, Mr. Jon Lanford, Assistant County Administrator, stated that the contractor informed him last Friday that the sewer pipe will be delivered on October 3.

There being no further discussion, on motion by Dr. Scothorn, seconded by Dr. Bailey, and carried by the following recorded vote, the Board approved an amended Performance Agreement with Shooting Star Virginia Partners, LLC, and Munters Corporation to extend the completion dates for the sewer and road extension projects to their site in Greenfield and authorized the County Administrator to sign the document on the County's behalf. (Resolution Number 21-09-07)

AYES: Mr. Clinton, Mrs. White, Dr. Bailey, Dr. Scothorn

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Martin

ABSTAINING: None

Consideration was then held on a request to authorize a public hearing to amend Chapter 15. Offenses—Miscellaneous of the Botetourt County Code to adopt an ordinance pertaining to the designation of the Sheriff for enforcement of trespassing violations. Mrs. Nicole Pendleton, Director of Community Development, stated that her office has received calls from citizens regarding properties at Exit 150 which have accumulations of trash, squatters, and tractor trailers parking on the parcels.

Mrs. Pendleton stated that she, the Commonwealth's and County Attorneys, and the Sheriff's Department worked to draft the proposed language included with this agenda item which is based on Section 15.2-1717.1 Designation of police to enforce trespass violations of the Code of Virginia.

Mrs. Pendleton stated that the County has some tools in certain ordinances to handle these types of complaints but more is needed, especially for properties that have out-of-area owners. She noted that this proposed amendment will allow the Sheriff's Department to enforce trespassing violations/complaints when the owner is not local.

After discussion, she stated that this amendment is proposed to be advertised for a public hearing at the October Board of Supervisors' meeting.

Dr. Scothorn stated that the Shoney's restaurant site has been the cause of a majority of the citizen complaints regarding trash and squatters. He noted that the trash has been cleaned up and the property mowed and thanked Mrs. Pendleton and her staff for working to resolve this issue.

There being no further discussion, on motion by Dr. Scothorn, seconded by Mrs. White, and carried by the following recorded vote, the Board authorized staff to advertise a public hearing at the Board's October regular meeting to amend Chapter 15. Offenses—Miscellaneous of the Botetourt County Code to adopt an ordinance pertaining to the designation of the Sheriff for enforcement of trespassing violations. (Resolution Number 21-09-08)

AYES: Mr. Clinton, Mrs. White, Dr. Bailey, Dr. Scothorn

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Martin

ABSTAINING: None

Consideration was then held on a request to authorize a public hearing to amend Section 25-286 of the Zoning Ordinance to increase the maximum allowable building height within the Shopping Center (SC) Use District. Mrs. Nicole Pendleton, Director of Community Development, stated that her office has received a request from the contractual purchaser of Tax Map 101, Parcel 109B in the Market Place Shopping Center in Daleville for a Zoning Ordinance text amendment to increase the maximum height of structures in the SC Use District.

Mrs. Pendleton stated that the applicant (Mr. Jatin Patel) would like to construct a hotel on this property which is proposed to be four stories high. She noted that this height would exceed the currently allowed maximum height of 35' in the SC zoning district regulations.

Mrs. Pendleton stated that the request is to allow staff to draft these proposed ordinance amendments and present them to the Planning Commission after advertisement of a public hearing and, upon the Commission's recommendation, to the Supervisors for public hearing.

She noted that the earliest the hearings could be held would be the November Commission and Supervisors' meetings.

She further noted that the proposed by-right maximum height being discussed is 45', and with the granting of a Special Exception Permit (SEP), to 60'. She noted that this would be identical to the maximum height allowed in the Traditional Neighborhood District (TND).

After questioning by Mr. Clinton regarding heights of adjacent buildings in the immediate area of Mr. Patel's proposed location, Mrs. Pendleton stated that the maximum height in a TND is 4 stories with a SEP such as the apartment buildings in Daleville Town Center and The Reserve apartment complex behind Kroger which also has a maximum height of 4 stories, which are the closest structures at this height in the area.

After further questioning by Mr. Clinton, Mrs. Pendleton stated that the maximum height allowed in the Botetourt Commons Shopping Center is 35'. She noted that the County's Zoning Ordinance does not allow structures over 45' without a SEP.

There being no further discussion, on motion by Mr. Clinton, seconded by Dr. Scothorn, and carried by the following recorded vote, the Board directed staff to draft amendments to Section 25-286 of the Zoning Ordinance to increase the maximum allowable building height within the Shopping Center (SC) Use District for consideration at a public hearing by the Planning Commission and, upon Planning Commission action, by the Board of Supervisors. (Resolution Number 21-09-09)

AYES: Mr. Clinton, Mrs. White, Dr. Bailey, Dr. Scothorn

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Martin

ABSTAINING: None

After questioning by Dr. Scothorn, it was noted that there were no committee report and no Board member comments at this time.

After discussion, on motion by Mr. Clinton, seconded by Dr. Scothorn, and carried by the following recorded vote, the Board reappointed Mr. Hunter Young as the County's representative on the Western Virginia Water Authority Board of Directors for a four year term to expire on June 30, 2025. (Resolution Number 90-09-10)

AYES: Mr. Clinton, Mrs. White, Dr. Bailey, Dr. Scothorn

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Martin

ABSTAINING: None

A presentation was then given on the Virginia Lewis and Clark Legacy Trail. Ms. Peggy Crosson, President of the Virginia Lewis and Clark Legacy Trail, Inc., and Mr. Kip Burton and Mrs. Lynn Burton, Co-chairs, were noted as being present.

Ms. Crosson thanked the Board for the opportunity to give this presentation. She stated that it has been almost 11 years since this project began in the County and Mr. and Mrs. Burton have been co-chairs of the Commission for almost 10 years. Ms. Crosson noted that Mr. Burton is a retired pilot and Mrs. Burton is a retired teacher.

Ms. Crosson stated that in 1978 the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, which runs from Missouri to Oregon, was approved by Congress and in 2008 the National Park Service (NPS) was authorized to conduct a study on whether there should be an eastern extension of this trail due to increased public interest in the stories of Lewis and Clark and their expedition.

She noted that the western section of the trail generated a huge economic impact for the areas it passed through with data from eight visitors centers showing that the financial impact for nine months in 2017 ranged from \$355,000 to \$20,132,000.

Ms. Crosson stated that in 2007 the NPS researched potential Lewis and Clark routes/historic sites in the eastern U. S., which included a significant number in Virginia. She noted that the NPS conducted workshops in Virginia in 2012 and 2014 and one quote from a staff member was, "Virginia has it all!"

After discussion, Ms. Crosson stated that late in 2010 she and Weldon Martin, with the Botetourt County Historical Society, were called to the County's Tourism Office and asked to compile historical data on Lewis and Clark's history in the County by January 2011. She noted that a meeting with the NPS was held in Charlottesville in February 2012 where representatives from many localities and organizations were vying for the NPS' attention on this issue.

Ms. Crosson stated that when she introduced herself and where she was from the entire front row clapped.

Mr. Burton then reviewed the specific history of Lewis and Clark's documented connections to Virginia and Botetourt County before and after their trip to the Pacific Ocean and mentioned several books which discussed their activities including A Seed Bed of the Republic by R. D. Stoner and William Clark and the Shaping of the West by Landon Jones.

Mrs. Burton stated that a huge celebration was held in Fincastle in 1806 to celebrate their expedition; in 1807 Mr. Lewis visited Letitia Breckinridge of Fincastle; in 1808 Mr. Clark and Julia Hancock married in Fincastle—he was 39 at the time—and then moved to Missouri; in October 1809 the Clarks visited Fincastle and were informed that Mr. Lewis had died.

Mrs. Burton noted that there were a lot of discrepancies between the various books.

Ms. Crosson stated that six Legacy Trail segments were suggested in Virginia including two through Botetourt County/Fincastle; however, the NPS recommended that Virginia not be recommended for expansion of the trail because of a lack of money. Ms. Crosson noted that the NPS decided instead to fund a water trail from the confluence of the Missouri/Mississippi rivers to/from Pittsburg.

Ms. Crosson stated that, at a Trail Representatives' meeting in January 2015, a decision was made to not lobby Congress regarding funding of the trail due to the cost and amount of time needed to do so. She noted that discussion on working toward a State trail was held and 50 General Assembly members signed a resolution (HJ #566) enacted in February 2015 which designated "the portion of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail that runs through the Commonwealth as the Lewis and Clark (Eastern) Legacy Trail in Virginia."

Ms. Crosson stated that the organization began with four participating counties in 2014 to 12 in 2020. She noted that this was a result of grass roots level hard work and the support of many volunteers. She then displayed a map showing the Lewis and Clark connected counties in Virginia and noted that those counties designated with a blue star (Rockingham, Amherst, and Caroline) have a newly discovered link to Lewis and Clark.

Ms. Crosson further noted that more information about the Lewis and Clark Trail and the various connected historical sites is available at the Trail's website ([www.valewisandclarklegacytrail.org](http://www.valewisandclarklegacytrail.org)). She noted that the website includes information on Santillane, the Botetourt Courthouse, Botetourt Historical Society Museum, etc. She noted that other potential County historical sites related to the expedition include Looney's Ferry in Buchanan; Big Spring in Fincastle;

Grove Hill, Letitia Breckinridge's family home; and the Hancock house in Fincastle, which was used by traveling artisans.

Ms. Crosson then displayed various examples of historical signs/markers for the Trail sites and noted that the black and gold sign is the latest design being used/proposed.

After discussion, Ms. Crosson then gave two examples of an "approximate, non-scientific" economic impact survey conducted on two historical sites related to the western portion of the Lewis and Clark Trail. She noted that the Sergeant Charles Floyd Monument and Museum in Sioux City, Iowa, is dedicated to an expedition member whose father was a former governor of Virginia. She noted that from May – July 2017 this National Historic Landmark had 12,437 visitors and had an estimated direct financial impact to the town and area of \$543,893.

She noted that the second example was Pompey's Pillar in Billings, Montana, which was named after Sacajawea's son, who William Clark nicknamed "Pompy." She noted that in 2016 this National Monument had 51,548 visitors and had an estimated direct financial impact of \$2.85 million on the area's economy. Ms. Crosson noted that Mr. Clinton provided the annualized economic impact info on the Charles Floyd Monument—49,748 visitors per year and \$2.17 million in economic impact.

Ms. Crosson then thanked the Board for allowing her and the Burtons to give this presentation and asked if there were any questions.

After questioning by Mrs. White, Ms. Crosson stated that the Trail's Board of Directors has embarked on a fundraising program to purchase signage to identify various trail sites which included an event at Santillane this past weekend. She noted that, at the suggestion of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, they also plan to request funding from the General Assembly.

She noted that at the end of 2024 there will be a need for 24 historical signs along the Trail in Virginia. Ms. Crosson noted that these signs are expensive (\$1,800 each including materials and installation) and they are working on cost sharing arrangement with various localities to fund these signs.

Ms. Crosson stated that the organization has been contacted by other individuals/localities/organizations who have indicated that they also have a connection to Lewis and Clark. She further stated that they currently know of 14 Virginia counties that Lewis and Clark traveled through.

After discussion, Ms. Crosson noted that all of the work conducted by the chairs and committees is why this effort has been so successful. She then complimented the County for their support over the years and for the activities held at the local level acknowledging Lewis and Clark's connection to this area. Ms. Crosson stated that Fincastle and Botetourt County are not just places of interest; they are places of big interest at the State and federal level and the County and its citizens should be proud.

After questioning by Dr. Scothorn, Ms. Crosson stated that donations can be made through a link on the Lewis and Clark Legacy Trail website mentioned earlier.

After questioning by Mrs. White, Ms. Crosson stated that they do not have a fundraising goal at this time but noted that approximately \$10,000 was raised at the Santillane event. After further questioning by Mrs. White, Ms. Crosson stated that the total estimated cost for the new historic markers is approximately \$50,000.

Ms. Crosson stated by the end of 2024 they hope to have funds to purchase 24 historical signs if their fundraising efforts continue at the current rate. She noted that donations are still being made.

Mr. Clinton noted that last week Ms. Crosson was described as a “force of nature.” He noted that her efforts have brought “Fincastle and Botetourt County up to where it should be in Virginia recognition.” He noted that there is a lot more significant history in Botetourt County than is taught in the schoolbooks and these efforts to recognize the visits of Lewis and Clark to this area will “get us on the map” and create an “influence greater than its individual parts.”

Mr. Clinton stated that we all should be aware of Botetourt County’s historical impact. He noted that Mr. Burton mentioned Billy Preston and Greenfield and their connection to Lewis and Clark in his comments and, here the Board is today, conducting a meeting at Greenfield.

Ms. Crosson stated that many towns/counties/cities, including Bristol, Lexington, and Charlottesville, are very involved in the Trail. She noted that the grave of Meriwether Lewis’s grandfather, who was an immigrant, is located in King and Queen County. Ms. Crosson that counties are trying to find other historical sites that have connections to Lewis and Clark for economic development and tourism opportunities.

There being no further discussion, Ms. Crosson again thanked the Board for opportunity to give this presentation.

A public hearing was then held on a Subordination of Rights Agreement between the County, Appalachian Power, and VDoT regarding the rights-of-way on Hollyberry Circle and Thornblade Way in Thornblade Subdivision. Mr. David Givens, County Engineer, stated that the developer of Thornblade Subdivision, located off of U. S. Route 460 in Blue Ridge, is starting the process of having additional roads in the development accepted into VDoT’s Secondary System of Highways.

He noted that Appalachian Power Company has a 100’ easement through the subdivision which crosses Hollyberry Circle and Thornblade Way and, in order for VDoT to process the street acceptance request, a Subordination of Rights Agreement is needed. He further noted that a map of the easement was included in the Board’s information packet.

Mr. Givens stated that the County Attorney determined that a public hearing was necessary for approval of this agreement and this hearing was duly advertised in The Fincastle Herald on September 15, 2021.

After questioning by Dr. Bailey, Mr. Givens noted that, in order for VDoT to accept a road into their system for maintenance, easements across VDoT’s right-of-way are not allowed. He noted that this proposed agreement basically “vacates” AEP’s easement within VDoT’s right-of-way.

Mr. Givens noted that this same process was conducted with the Orchards of Ashley street acceptance process in January 2020.

After questioning by Dr. Scothorn, it was noted that there was no one present at the meeting or on the telephone who wished to speak regarding this request. The public hearing was then closed.

There being no further discussion, on motion by Dr. Bailey, seconded by Dr. Scothorn, and carried by the following recorded vote, the Board approved a Subordination of Rights Agreement between the County, Appalachian Power, and VDoT regarding the rights-of-way on

Hollyberry Circle and Thornblade Way in Thornblade Subdivision and authorized the County Administrator to sign the agreement on the County's behalf. (Resolution Number 21-09-11)

AYES: Mr. Clinton, Mrs. White, Dr. Bailey, Dr. Scothorn

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Martin

ABSTAINING: None

Consideration was then held on employee health insurance renewals. Mr. David Moorman, Deputy County Administrator, stated that the County's current employee health benefits plan year ends on November 30, 2021. He noted that these plans include a partially self-funded medical plan, self-funded prescription drug and dental plans, a vision plan, a wellness program, and an Employee Assistance Program.

Mr. Moorman noted that Mary Jones with OneDigital, the County's insurance consultant, is participating in this discussion via telephone.

Mr. Moorman stated that each year County staff reviews and considers changes to the various employee insurance programs. He noted that, in reviewing the past 9 months of insurance claim data, it was found that routine health care opportunities by employees had decreased; likely due to the pandemic. He further noted that a projected overall health insurance program cost increase of 8% was included in the FY 22 budget; however, based on recommended renewals, this funding is not anticipated to be expended. Mr. Moorman noted that these funds will be retained in the County's Health Fund as a reserve against future catastrophic claims and program needs.

After discussion, Mr. Moorman stated that staff is recommending that the Board approve the employee coverage renewals as proposed and a new benefit enhancement. He noted that this enhancement is a voluntary international prescription drug purchase program which Ms. Jones will explain further.

Ms. Jones then reviewed the medical insurance coverage proposal. She noted that the County's current coverage for medical insurance is through MedCost, its prescription drug coverage is through Kroger, and its reinsurance program is through Berkley. Ms. Jones stated that the medical coverage has been negotiated to have an overall decrease of 9.8% in the new plan year; therefore, she is requesting that the Board keep the employee monthly contribution rates at their current amounts.

Ms. Jones stated that they also reviewed different options from a stop-loss perspective and considered two alternatives: \$100,000 and \$115,000 stop-losses. She noted that they are recommending the \$115,000 stop-loss option.

After discussion, she stated that the County's current medical insurance budget is \$3.5 million with the County's portion of the premium being \$2.98 million and the employee portion being \$523,000. She noted that no increase is proposed for the employee contribution and the current monthly rates are proposed to continue into the new plan year.

Ms. Jones stated that the new, proposed employee health enhancement is an international pharmacy option. She noted that the costs of name brand medications are increasing at a rate of 13% per year. Ms. Jones stated that, for the County, specialty drug costs account for 69% of the prescription drug costs.

Ms. Jones stated that, to help alleviate some of these drug costs, the team has contacted Script Sourcing which is an international pharmacy company. She noted that this company sources drugs, which are made to the same standards as required by the U. S. Food and

Drug Administration, to “Tier 1” countries, including Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand.

Ms. Jones stated that U. S. consumers pay up to 16 times more than other countries for prescription drugs. She noted that this program provides benefits to members with \$0 cost share for medications and it will benefit the County through a 10% - 20% savings on prescription spending. She noted that the company’s service fee is 25% of these savings and this program can be implemented at any time. Ms. Jones noted that this new program will be discussed during the employees’ open insurance enrollment sessions in mid-November.

After discussion, Ms. Jones then reviewed Script Sourcing’s safety protocols as follows: all medicines are factory packaged and sealed; only FDA-approved medicines are shipped; up to a 90-day prescription supply will be shipped; no sourcing of narcotics; an account will take up to 3 weeks to set up and members will need to have a 30-day supply of medicines on hand while the account application is being processed; members are contacted quarterly for reorders; all pharmacies have been inspected and have licensed pharmacists on-site; and the pedigree of all medicines can be tracked on-line. She noted that the medications are provided by certified factories.

Ms. Jones then reviewed the dental coverage renewal. She noted that the employees’ current carrier is Delta Dental which is proposing a slight decrease (0.3%) in the new plan year. She further noted that the total dental coverage expenses for the previous 8 months are \$63,879 which is 10% under budget. Ms. Jones recommended that the employees’ dental rate be held flat in the new plan year.

Ms. Jones then reviewed the proposed insurance renewal recommendations as follows: medical—hold rates flat and implement a \$155,000 specific stop-loss deductible; prescription drugs—implement the voluntary Script Sourcing program; dental—hold rates flat.

After questioning by Dr. Bailey, Ms. Jones stated that data is obtained regarding the actual cost for various medications to determine the savings to the County.

After questioning by Mr. Clinton, Ms. Jones stated that Script Sourcing is the name of the company offering international prescription drug sales.

After questioning by Mrs. White, Ms. Jones stated that the individual employee can choose which prescription medications to purchase through Script Sourcing. She noted that this program will probably be less expensive for the employees than purchasing prescriptions through their local pharmacy.

After further questioning by Mrs. White, Ms. Jones stated that employees will be offered education/information on the international drug program. She noted that it will probably take a year or two for the employees to “get to a comfort level” with this program; however, she does anticipate that participation will increase year over year.

Dr. Scothorn stated that he encourages his patients to get a 30 day supply of medication when they are given the opportunity to see how the program works in their particular situation.

Ms. Jones stated that she and County staff will encourage Script Sourcing’s representatives to work with the County’s employees and their dependents to educate them on this program.

Mr. Clinton then stated that the first presentation slide for the prescription drug program displayed three diamond points regarding medications and drug costs. He noted that the third point stated that 20% of all hospitalizations are the result of non-adherence by patients to their prescription medicine dosages and, in his opinion, this statement appears to be doubtful.

Ms. Jones stated that this data came from Script Sourcing. She further noted; however, that some patients' hospitalizations may be due to multiple health issues.

After questioning by Mrs. White, Mr. Moorman stated that any cost savings from the current plan year can be carried over into the Health Fund's new plan year to offset future increases.

Mr. Moorman noted that catastrophic health insurance claims were down this year. He noted that a few catastrophic claims can change the health plan from a decent to a very bad coverage year.

After questioning by Mr. Clinton whether the pandemic impacted utilization of health insurance by employees in the past year, Mr. Moorman noted that negotiations by staff and OneDigital, along with a decrease in catastrophic claims, also reduced the County's costs for the new plan year.

Dr. Bailey stated that he understands that staff and OneDigital are recommending that the Board increase the stop-loss limit to \$115,000 along with keeping the employee and County portion of the health insurance rates at their current levels.

There being no further discussion, on motion by Mr. Clinton, seconded by Mrs. White, and carried by the following recorded vote, the Board authorized the award of group health insurance plans, benefits and premiums as recommended to MedCost Benefit Plans, Berkley Reinsurance, Kroger Prescription Plans, EyeMed Vision Care, and Delta Dental effective December 1, 2021, the continuation of the County's wellness program and Employee Assistance Plan, increase the stop-loss limit to \$115,000; participation in Script Sourcing international pharmacy, and authorized staff to execute all necessary instruments upon the review and approval of the County Attorney. (Resolution Number 21-09-12)

AYES: Mr. Clinton, Mrs. White, Dr. Bailey, Dr. Scothorn

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Martin

ABSTAINING: None

Dr. Scothorn then gave a Broadband Committee update. He noted that in September Lumos and the County submitted a Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) grant application for the construction of universal broadband service. He noted that this fiber-to-the-home project is proposed to exceed the 25/3 download/upload speeds and is anticipated to connect to 1901 County addresses. He noted that Lumos is also planning additional broadband expansion projects in the future.

Dr. Scothorn noted that Mr. Diego Anderson, President of Lumos Networks, as well as Mr. Walter Griggs, Broadband Committee Vice-Chair, are present at today's meeting.

Dr. Scothorn stated that the County was involved in three previously successful grant application projects which resulted in broadband being extended to 1,500 County addresses which has now provided the opportunity to extend broadband further with this new VATI application. Dr. Scothorn noted that it is hoped that a total of 16,000 homes in the County will have broadband by the end of December 2023.

He stated that there are five telecommunications companies providing service in the County: Lumos Networks, Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative (CBEC), Comcast, Shentel, and BARC/Dominion Energy. Dr. Scothorn stated that the BARC/Dominion project in the area between Buchanan and the Rockbridge County line has experienced difficulties in obtaining

easements from landowners. He encouraged all citizens who have been contacted regarding these easements to complete/sign them to allow this broadband expansion project to succeed.

Dr. Scothorn stated the \$7.9 million VATI grant application was submitted on September 14 and is proposed to serve 1,901 homes and be completed by December 2023. He further stated that there is a VATI project currently underway which will serve 548 addresses south of Buchanan that should be completed in December 2022.

At the request of Dr. Scothorn, Mr. Griggs stated that his involvement in the County's broadband expansion started in 2016 when he began searching for an Internet connection to his home on Wheatland Road with little success. He stated that it was discovered that there were a lot of people expressing the same need for broadband service.

Mr. Griggs stated that, from this beginning, a needs survey was proposed/conducted and it was determined that there was a big need in the County for broadband service. He stated that the Broadband Committee was formed and its members did not realize how big, complex, and difficult a challenge this would be. Mr. Griggs stated that efforts by Dr. Scothorn, County Administrator Gary Larrowe, Economic Development Director Ken McFadyen, Deputy County Administrator David Moorman, and others showed what government can do and also showed the government's limitations in this endeavor.

Mr. Griggs stated that five years later they realized that leveraging local, State, and federal government cooperation was needed to allow this endeavor to proceed and their efforts during this time have been impressive.

Mr. Griggs stated that Botetourt County will be behind if its citizens do not have access to broadband--children will be at a deficit in completing homework, tele-medicine and working from home will not be an option, farmers will not have access to on-line information, etc. He noted that the pandemic showed the need for broadband access and gave localities the opportunity, and allowed federal and State governments, to make funding available for these types of projects.

Dr. Scothorn stated that there were many individuals who were a part of this process including Diego Anderson and David Smith with Lumos; Frank Smith with the Roanoke Valley Broadband Authority; Darrell Hix and Brandon Evans, members of the County's Broadband Committee; Ken McFadyen; and Ms. Sandi Terry, and he thanked them for their involvement and hard work.

He further noted that broadband availability will also increase the worth of the citizens' homes. He stated that, based on the total grant funds received to date, it has cost \$18.72 in local County funds matching private and grant sources to extend broadband to each County citizen's home.

Mr. Smith stated that "this has been a great ride" as the County has been persistent in their efforts and plans to expand broadband service to its residents and this has been important to the partnerships that have been developed with the telecommunications companies. He noted that this is an exciting opportunity for the County's future and leveraging the existing VATI grant programs sets up the County for great success. Mr. Smith stated that he thinks that the County has done an excellent job in its efforts to bring broadband to the citizens.

Dr. Scothorn stated that Supervisor White has been working in the Buchanan District on the BARC/Dominion broadband project and Dr. Bailey has held meetings with Lumos to expand broadband in the Fincastle District. He further stated that Mr. Anderson, Lumos' President, has

worked hard to make this whole project happen and their partnership with the County has been fantastic.

After discussion, Dr. Scothorn stated that the County should receive notification in December as to whether the \$7.9 million VATI grant application will be approved.

Mr. Anderson then thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak at this meeting. He noted that his company began in Botetourt County as the Roanoke and Botetourt Telephone Company, then changed the name to nTelos, then Lumos, and will officially change its name to Segra next month.

Mr. Anderson stated that the company is very committed to bring fiber optic broadband to the County's citizens and businesses. He noted that they first placed fiber lines in the County in 2006/2007 and they are currently expanding service to 548 residences in the Buchanan area. He noted that this most-recent VATI grant will allow them to provide universal fiber broadband to their Botetourt County customers. Mr. Anderson stated that their goal is to partner and build more fiber in the County.

After questioning by Dr. Scothorn, Mr. Anderson stated that since 2006 the company has made a multi-million dollar investment in the County's fiber optic service.

Mrs. White then stated that there are many unserved pockets in the Buchanan area that do not have access to the Internet.

Mr. Anderson stated that Lumos is working on expanding broadband service in that area through the use of previously-approved VATI funding and they hope to have this project completed by the third quarter of 2022. He noted that the company is looking at other areas of the County that have an opportunity to be served.

Mrs. White stated that Diamond Crest Hills Subdivision located along Route 11 near Mill Creek Baptist Church is one of these unserved pockets. She noted that there are approximately 30 homes in this subdivision and the residents have been told that Lumos is not able to extend broadband to this subdivision because the line would have to cross I-81. She suggested that Mr. Anderson work to see if fiber can either be extended to this development across/under the interstate or northward from the Troutville/Nace area along Route 11.

Mr. Anderson stated that he will look into this issue further and suggested that citizens who would like broadband access visit Lumos' website and request coverage through the on-line portal.

Mrs. White stated that she has previously called Lumos about this issue.

Mr. Anderson stated that the company uses customer interest and other data to determine how their funds are best spent on broadband expansion projects.

Mrs. White stated that she understands that this subdivision is in the broadband expansion area to be funded with the VATI grant to be awarded in December.

Dr. Bailey stated that expanding broadband in the County has been a big effort and the citizens will never know how complex a project this has been to deal with. He noted that hopefully the County's grant application will be approved in December as broadband expansion will depend on this funding. Dr. Bailey stated that the broadband "build-out" from the use of these grant funds will extend into 2023.

After discussion, Dr. Bailey thanked everyone for their work on this project from the beginning. He noted that Botetourt County has been ahead of many other localities in its recent broadband expansion process. He stated that this group has worked hard to get this project moving but stressed that patience is still needed.

Dr. Scothorn stated that currently there are only 9 counties in Virginia that have universal broadband service.

After questioning by Dr. Scothorn, Mr. Larrowe stated that the State has allocated \$700 million in funding for broadband expansion projects in FY 22. He noted that 57 grant applications totaling \$943.3 million were submitted in September from 84 localities. Mr. Larrowe further noted that 26 applications included matching funds that exceeded the requested Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (VDHCD) amount.

Mr. Clinton then congratulated Dr. Scothorn and all involved in this project. He noted that in the southern part of the County there are a few streets that do not have broadband access and questioned what can be done to solve this issue.

Mr. Anderson stated that Lumos will work with the Broadband Committee toward expanding broadband to these unserved areas. He noted that their staff have previously identified several areas in the County that are underserved.

After questioning by Mr. Clinton, Mr. Anderson stated that there are various telecommunications providers serving the County and they are not trying to compete against each other. He noted that, if an area is unserved and it is more convenient and financially viable for Lumos to facilitate coverage, then they will work to do so.

Mrs. White then stated that the County is working to “get the word out” to those landowners north of Buchanan encouraging them to sign the easements with BARC/Dominion Power so broadband can be extended to that area.

There being no further discussion, Dr. Scothorn thanked Mr. Anderson for attending today’s Board meeting.

Dr. Scothorn then stated that, in reference to a citizen’s comment earlier in the meeting regarding electronic-only submissions of requests to speak before the School Board, County staff had checked into this issue. He noted that the public can call the School Board Office and submit a speaker’s request if they do not have on-line access to do so.

There being no further discussion, on motion by Dr. Bailey, seconded by Mrs. White, and carried by the following recorded vote, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 P. M. (Resolution Number 21-09-13)

AYES: Mr. Clinton, Mrs. White, Dr. Bailey, Dr. Scothorn

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Martin

ABSTAINING: None