

**CRAIG COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OCTOBER 5th, 2023 – 6:00 P.M.
CRAIG COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

**AT A REGULAR MEETING of the Craig County Board of Supervisors conducted on the
5th day of October at 6:00 p.m. in the Craig County Court House Courtroom.**

PRESENT:

Jesse Spence – Chair
Rusty Zimmerman-Vice Chair
Carl Bailey-Supervisor
Jason Matyas-Supervisor
Keith Dunbar-Supervisor

Dan Collins – Clerk

OPEN MEETING

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mr. Spence. The invocation was given by Mr. Matyas, followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**REQUESTS TO POSTPONE, ADD TO OR CHANGE THE ORDER OF
AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Spence asked if there were any changes to the agenda items.

CONSENT ITEMS

R23-71

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF CRAIG
COUNTY, VIRGINIA, HELD AT THE CRAIG COUNTY COURTHOUSE
ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5th, 2023**

RESOLUTION APPROVING AND CONCURRING IN CERTAIN ITEMS SET FORTH ON THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA FOR THIS DATE DESIGNATED AS THE CONSENT ITEMS

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Craig County, Virginia, as follows:

1. That the certain section of the agenda of the Board of Supervisors for October 5th, 2023 designated as the Consent Items be, and hereby is, approved and concurred in as to each item separately set forth in said section designated Items 1 through 2, inclusive, as follows:
 1. Approval of minutes – September 7th, 2023
 2. Claims and Warrants
2. That the Clerk to the Board is hereby authorized and directed where required by law to set forth upon any of said items the separate vote tabulation for any such item pursuant to this resolution.

The Board of Supervisors of Craig County, in a regular meeting on the 5th day of October 2023 adopted this Resolution.

Mr. Spence asked for a motion on Consent Items, R23-71 Mr. Bailey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Matyas, to approve Resolution R23-71. Voting was as follows: Mr. Zimmerman, yes, Mr. Matyas, yes, Mr. Dunbar, abstain, Mr. Bailey, yes, and Mr. Spence, yes.

BRIEFINGS

- A. Robin Keeler, VDOT – Guardrail underway started on September 27th on Route 311 Potts Mountain. No Land Development and two permits issued between 08.22.2023 to 09.19.2023, one private entrance, one special entrance. No work orders. Mowing in the Paint Bank area, and then Route 611 (Peaceful Valley Road) and Route 615 (Craig Creek Road) Brush trimming on Route 624 (Little Mountain Road). Second round of mowing underway. Ditching and pipe cleaning, shoulder maintenance in the Johns Creek Mountain area. Ditching and shoulder maintenance on route 624 (Little Mountain Road). Completed projects, cleaned up rockslide on Route 621 (Upper Craig Creek Road). Installed four pipes on Route 624 (Little Mountain Road) and one on Route 623 (Mill Race Road) and patched them back up. Patching on Route 658 (Johns Creek Mountain Road) completed. Mowed Sinking Creek and Johns Creek areas – about 50% completed county-wide.
- B. Trace Bellassai, Broadband- There was no update on Broadband. Ms. Keeler asked if there were any questions. Mr. Bailey commented on the mowing, that it looked good.
- C. Bill Wolfe, Preserve Craig County, Mountain Valley Pipeline – No Update.
- D. Woody Lipps, Chairman, Craig Valley Railbed Scenic Trail Update- Mr. Lipps thanked the Board of Supervisors for their support on behalf of the Railroad Committee. He also thanked the Board for participating in the recent VDOT meeting. He presented a packet that presented two rail trails. One is from Allegheny, and one is from Rockbridge and the differences in those. There will be a parallel planning method, for example maintenance on the trail and until the plan is available, we will not know the answers. Also working on local ordinances, for example, camping, and dogs on leash, these will all be a part of the management plan for trail. There is still a lot of work to do and as VDOT and designs move forward we are still looking at fall of 2025. Have any questions? Thank you.

APPOINTMENTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

R23-72

**FIRST AMENDMENT TO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
GOVERNING THE MARCUS ALERT PROGRAM FOR THE ROANOKE
VALLEY, VIRGINIA – CITY OF ROANOKE, CITY OF SALEM, COUNTY
OF CRAIG, COUNTY OF ROANOKE, COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, TOWN
OF VINTON, VIRGINIA,
SERVICE AREA FOR BLUE RIDGE BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE**

WHEREAS, This Memorandum of Understanding Governing the MARCUS Alert Program for the Roanoke Valley, Virginia – City of Roanoke, City of Salem, County of Craig, County of Roanoke, County of Botetourt, Town of Vinton, Virginia, which is the Service Area for Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare (“Agreement”), is amended as noted herein, effective on the 5th, day of October, 2023 , and

WHEREAS, by and between Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare (“BRBH”), New River Valley Community Services (“NRVCS”), Frontier Health (“FH”), Matthew T. Ward, in his official capacity as Sheriff of Botetourt County (“BCSO”), Botetourt County (“Botetourt”), Roanoke County (“County”), J. Eric Orange, in his official capacity as Sheriff of Roanoke County (“RCSO”), Roanoke City (“City”), Antonio D. Hash, in his official capacity as Sheriff of Roanoke City (“RSO”), April M. Staton, in her official capacity as Sheriff of Salem City (“SSO”), City of Salem (“Salem”), Town of Vinton (“Vinton”), Craig County (“Craig”), and Trevor Craddock, in his official capacity as Sheriff of Craig County (“CCSO”) (collectively, “the Parties”), and

WHEREAS, this First Amendment is made pursuant to Section 20 of the 1 July 2023 MARCUS Alert MOU among the Parties, which requires that all amendments to the MOU be in writing and endorsed by the Parties.

TO WIT, the MARCUS Alert MOU is modified as follows:

- I. Amend Section 5 of the MOU by deleting Subsection 5.5.1 in its entirety and replacing Subsection 5.5.1 with the following:
 - 5.5.1. Among the Parties, only Roanoke County and the City of Roanoke shall be required to dedicate staff specifically to the MARCUS Alert Program; however, nothing herein shall prohibit the remaining Parties from dedicating staff specifically to the MARCUS Alert Program.

- II. Amend the MOU by adding a new Section 22 to follow Section 21 and to read and provide as follows:

22. OTHER AGREEMENTS

The terms of this Agreement shall in no way nullify or otherwise affect the obligations of the Parties with regard to other inter and intra-governmental agreements among the Parties.

- III. Effect:

Except as explicitly set forth herein, all other terms and conditions of the MARCUS Alert MOU previously approved by the parties and that went into effect 1 July 2023 shall remain in full force and effect.

Mr. Spence asked for a motion on Consent Items, R23-72 Mr. Dunbar made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bailey, to approve Resolution R23-72. Voting was as follows: Mr. Zimmerman, yes, Mr. Matyas, yes, Mr. Dunbar, yes, Mr. Bailey, yes, and Mr. Spence, yes.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Collins updated the board regarding Amending the Budget Fiscal Year 2023-2024, regarding the opioid settlement, ARPA funding, and Radio Project.

A. Public Hearing on Amending the Budget Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Mr. Spence asked if there were any comments from the Board, as there were no comments, Mr. Spence Opened the Public Hearing for public comment.

Mr. Spence closed the Public Hearing as there were no comments.

Action As A RESULT of PUBLIC HEARING

**A RESOLUTION AMENDING
THE FISCAL YEAR
2023-2024 BUDGET**

WHEREAS, the Craig County Board of Supervisors (CCBoS) adopted the 2023-2024 Budget on May 4, 2023 for planning purposes, and

WHEREAS, The County of Craig has received the amount of \$188,545 under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) by the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency (LATCF), and

WHEREAS, this is the second and final payment awarded, each was in the amount of \$188,545, for a total received of 377,090, and

WHEREAS, these payments are awarded to eligible revenue sharing counties to go to Payments in Lieu of Taxes counties (PILT), and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Craig county Board of Supervisors to encumber this amount towards the cost of the Radio and Communications Tower project in their Capital Fund, and

WHEREAS, the County of Craig has also received the amount of \$2,991 in additional opioid settlement funds, these funds will be used for opioid prevention, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of Craig County that the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget is hereby amended as follows:

REVENUE

LOCAL

3-217-033080-0001	Opioid settlement	2,991
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FEDERAL

3-100-031010-0003	LATCF-PILT	<u>188,545</u>
	Total	191,536

EXPENSE

Capital Improvement Fund

4-300-094200-0003	LATCF for Radio Tower	188,545
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Opioid Funds

4-217-011010-0001	Opioid prevention	<u>2,991</u>
	Total	191,536

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the sum of **\$191,536** appropriated as described above. The Board of Supervisors of Craig County, in a regular meeting on the 5th day of October 2023, adopted this resolution.

Mr. Spence asked for a motion on Consent Items, R23-73. Mr. Bailey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dunbar, to approve Resolution R23-73. Voting was as follows: Mr. Zimmerman, yes, Mr. Matyas, yes, Mr. Dunbar, yes, Mr. Bailey, yes, and Mr. Spence, yes.

Mr. Collins gave an explanation; every five years by the code of Virginia, Title 15.2, Subtitle II, Chapter 22, Article 3, §15.2-2223. The Planning Commission has spent a year reviewing and updating the plan. The Comprehensive Plan is intended to serve as a general guide for local officials in their decisions concerning land development, expansion (or development) of community facilities, and the establishment of community – related services. In December of 1979 the Craig County Board of Supervisors adopted the County's first Comprehensive Plan. In March 1998, Craig County adopted several amendments and revisions concerning the goals and objectives for commercial activity,

education, facilities improvements, economic development, transportation, housing, and recreation.

Eddie Wells, Director of Community Development Programs, Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission gave a presentation regarding the updating of the Comprehensive Plan for 2023. This is a guide, suggestions, and goals for the future.

JOINT PUBLIC HEARING

B. Public Hearing on the Five-Year Comprehensive Plan

Ms. Klopfer opens the Planning Commission meeting and the Public Hearing.

Mr. Spence opens the Board of Supervisors Public Hearing.

Mr. Dean Cole, 133 Wildcat Hollow, New Castle – He is in opposition to the Craig Botetourt Rails to Trails. He is close to the trail, some farms on the trail, or driveways are dissected. He is concerned about safety issues regarding emergency services. He is concerned about taxes being raised for maintenance. He does not want the language in the Comprehensive Plan “to pursue” and would like it taken out.

Andrea Foster, Craigs Creek Road, New Castle- Does not like the verbiage of the Comprehensive Plan concerning the rails to trails. She spoke about how wide a multiuse trail should be. She commented on the right of way, how wide or how far out is the trail. She is concerned about taxes.

Kathi Toelke – 260 Bethal Church Road, New Castle, - She is excited about the trail. She said that she was happy a small community like ours has the opportunity as these types of trails go to bigger communities. She spoke about our trail in the community, are steep and hard to get to. She is excited about a trail that is smooth, and easy to use and all the activities, hiking, biking and horseback. She spoke about the health benefits of walking/using a trail. She spoke about how tourism dollars will help with our local business and can create more business opportunities. She is in support and would like to keep it in the Comprehensive Plan.

Jim Kern, 232 Malcolm Drive, sent an email, here as a taxpayer, fell in love with the area. Watched the community go up and down, used Paint Bank as an example. Eventually, two people with vision and capital. It is a vibrant store, restaurant, Airbnb and hotel. This is a once in a generation opportunity. VDOT has the capital, we have a tremendous opportunity to bring a jewel to the county. It is a tremendous opportunity and would be a shame if we missed out on it. Thank you.

Carrie Crawford, 5927 Paint Bank Road, New Castle, not in support of the trail. Her concern is the cost of the trail, planning, maintaining the trail and how much money will Craig County have to fund. She feels that we have enough forest trails and roads. She would like those to be maintained. She does not believe it will start new businesses or support businesses we have. She believes it will raise taxes and is concerned about our over 65 population.

Micheal Dixon, 8629 Little Mountain Road, he has asked that the Board take careful consideration. He does not want his taxes to go up.

Marge Lewter, 876 Sinking Springs Hollow, New Castle- She uses the railroad trail to ride her horses on. She is representing/speaking on behalf of horse people. She does not want to change Oriskany, the County, or the natural beauty of Craig County. She feels that the way to protect the county, the village of Oriskany and the future is to share it with others. This way, more people will be able to appreciate the natural beauty and be willing to support natural habitats and protect them. She is asking the Board to look to the future of Criag County, it is not always about the money.

James Crawford, 1015 Hawkins Lane, New Castle, - He is worried about trespassers, property rights, taxes, and money going to the trail. He suggested that the monies go directly to EMS and the Fire department.

Tina Pierce, off 606/Vernon Place, New Castle – She has visited over the years. She is concerned about the money spent on the trail and feels it should go to Fenwick Mines. Fenwick Mines used to be beautiful and now it has potholes, and the trail is deplorable. She is not in support of the trial.

John Looney, 24503 Craigs Creek Rd, New Castle – He is concerned trash, taxes, and liability. He would like his taxes to go to law enforcement and schools.

Wanda Romeo, 361 Old Railroad Ave, New Castle – Does not believe the trail will bring business to the county. She believes it will bring more taxes and depreciation of property.

Ned Savage, 8094 Upper Craigs Creek Road, - He supports the trail. His business, a campground, was started primarily for the hikers on the Appalachian Trail, McAfee and Dragons Tooth. He believes the trail is a great opportunity for local businesses. He believes that it would be great for tourism and economic development.

David Webster, Peaceful Valley Rd,-He is a supporter of trail towns, and small businesses like coffee shops/restaurants/ Airbnb's. He believes that we can keep tax dollars in Craig County, hire local and change can bring good things too. Let's build something beautiful, he is pro trail.

Woody Lipps, Broad Run Rd, - Thank the people who created the plan, 56 years of experience, serving this county for a number of years. Mr. Wells, who has 30 plus years of experience, to everyone on our Planning Commission, thank you for all you do, we

appreciate you. Not just for the plan, but for all the other unsavory tasks that you are called upon to deal with. Thank you for your service.

Vickie Grahm, Old Railroad, Oriskany, - Not a Craig County resident but I would like to speak on their behalf. No one is addressing the effect on the day-to-day life for people who are on the trail. It will cost them for a trail that really is a road with vehicles. She would like to hear some answers.

James Leford, Mineral Springs, - Does not think the county should pursue the trail. Concerned that the county will have to maintain the trail.

Mr. Spence asked if there were any other comments. As there was none, Mr. Spence closed the public hearing.

Mr. Collins directed the attention to the Planning Commission to vote.

Ms. Klopfer asked for a motion. Mr. Huffman motioned to accept the 5-year Comprehensive Plan as submitted. Ms. Foster seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Collins, - Planning Commission recommends as submitted.

Mr. Spence asked if there was any comment from the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Zimmerman thanked the Planning Commission for their hard work this past year. Feels that the plan submitted does not say the county will support or not support the trail. Just to consider the trail. I keep hearing the comment to use our tax dollars somewhere else. The State is not going to give us 12 million dollars to spend somewhere else. We can't tell VDOT that we don't want it to hear and to put somewhere else, like fixing Fenwick Mines. The gift horse in the mouth. This money will fund someone else's project in the state, or it could fund ours. The money will be spent somewhere in the State. Do we want a better opportunity for our kids. If we take it out, we won't have the opportunity. We need to let it go through the process. We aren't doing due diligence for the legacy we lead by shutting out before we know the details.

Mr. Spence, I agree, and want to expand. There are some genuine, legitimate, concerns over the trail. Working with VDOT in the planning process is the best way to get these individual problems addressed. I think it's advantageous to work with VDOT as they have been working on this for years. This just didn't happen six months ago. They have just recently allocated the money. There could be some terrible things with the trail, but I can't think of one. We haven't seen a plan. I support the trail if people along the trail are being ignored.

Mr. Bailey, I've got several constituents, and their concerns seem very valid. They are concerned about taxes and other issues. I am going to have to support the green shirts.

Mr. Matyas, I agree with Mr. Spence. We need to be working with VDOT, advocate for our property owners and taxpayers, and a lot of these concerns are premature. We need to work with VDOT.

ACTION AS A RESULT OF THE PUBLIC HEARING

R23-74

**A Resolution Approving the
Craig County Comprehensive Plan
Dated October 5th, 2023**

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Craig County last adopted a Comprehensive Plan on December 6th, 2018, and

WHEREAS, the Code of Virginia § 15.2-2223 requires that every political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia adopt a Comprehensive Plan and that the Plan be reviewed and updated periodically, and

WHEREAS, the Craig County Planning Commission has worked with the Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission over the past year to update the County's Comprehensive Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Craig County Planning Commission held a public hearing on the proposed Comprehensive Plan on October 5th, 2023 and unanimously recommended approval of the Comprehensive Plan to the Board of Supervisors at their meeting on October 5th, 2023 now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Craig County that the updated Comprehensive Plan dated October 5th, 2023 is hereby adopted.

The Board of Supervisors of Craig County hereby approved this resolution in a regular meeting on the 5th day of October, 2023.

Mr. Spence asked for a motion on Consent Items, R23-74 Mr. Zimmerman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Spence, to approve Resolution R23-74. Voting was as follows: Mr. Zimmerman, yes, Mr. Matyas, yes, Mr. Dunbar, abstain, Mr. Bailey, no, and Mr. Spence, yes.

REPORTS AND INQUIRIES FROM THE BOARD

1. **EDA – Farmers Market Project Construction Quote of \$174,701.02** for Phase One of the Farmers Market Project including paving of the parking area. Building Permit Issued 7/31/23 and scheduled to be completed October 13, 2023. Following the November Elections there will be one vacancy. Currently seeking Nominations for the Board to consider appointments at the January meeting.
2. **Courthouse Gazebo** – DAR, VA250 Craig Committee and the Tourism Commission are discussing plans for a commemorative Gazebo as part of the VA250 Anniversary Celebration in 2026. Identifying fund participants and fund-raising activities.
3. **The Planning Commission** conducted a Public Hearing to receive comments on a Use Not Provided For, following the Public Hearing recommended approval of a 3-year permit for 1 camper with water, sewer, and electricity. Additional Campers: 120-day permits (\$30 Each). November BOS meeting Agenda.
4. **ARAP Funds** (Approximately \$996,637+/-) are eligible for Radio project. In addition, Delegate Terry Austin reports that there is \$1,000,000 proposed funding in the State Budget. We have also submitted a BRIC grant request for \$3,900,000.
5. **Opioid Settlement** – Notified that the County will receive \$371,000. An eligible expense is assisting with the funding of the Catawba Hospital expansion currently being considered by the State Legislature. The BOS mailed, a letter of support for the Grant Application by the Roanoke Valley Response Cooperative to the Commonwealth of Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority last June,
6. **2024 Reassessment** – Wampler Eanes Appraisal Group LTD has been working on the reassessments for the last few months roughly 100% of all parcels have been assessed. – Over the last 6 years, property values have been increasing in value by an estimated 25%-35%. Planned schedule for the mailing of notices, hearings, and appeals process for Craig Co, by the Wampler Eanes Appraisal Group, Ltd.:
 - 10/16/23 - Pull the Data File
 - 10/20/23 - Proof the Notices
 - 10/27/23 - Notices Mailed by
 - 11/13-17/23 - In-Person Hearings 11/13-16 (9-4), 11/17 (9-1)
 - 11/20-21/23 - Phone Hearings, Process Mail and Email Appeals, Wrap-Up
7. **Rails To Trails** – A Citizen Information Meeting (CIM) was held on **September 21, 2023 from 4:00PM to 6:00PM** in the Craig County High School. The next step is the Preliminary Engineering work. CTB

provided \$1,000,000 for PE work at their October Meeting. The Board appointed a 7-member committee at the June 2022 Meeting to oversee the development and ensure citizen involvement. Funding from the state totals **\$12,500,000** for this project.

8. **Health Department Lease** – The current lease expired June 30, 2022. Notified the Health Department they are month to month until a new lease is negotiated. The Health Department continues to work on a new Lease.
9. **Landfill** – Fencing in the remaining property, Preparing ad for bids this month. (\$29,352.10 - Sale Proceeds)
 - **Upcoming Holidays and Meeting Dates, October 9th, and Nov 7th ELECTION DAY - County Offices Closed**

HEAR THE PUBLIC

Rita Stebar,-Would like the DMV to come back. A lot of people are calling our office regarding when the DMV will be coming back.

Mr. Spence, The Town and County are working on that, we have allocated funds for it.

Woody Lipps, We have space at the New Castle Fire Department for the DMV, if you would like to use it.

Jerry Crawford, Paint Bank,- Used Camp Mitchell as an example of why we shouldn't have the trail. He doesn't want the county to spend any money on the trail. He does not want them to fund it.

Jessie Davis, Craig County,- She would have liked to have been informed sooner about the trail and does not support the trail.

ADJOURN

Mr. Spence adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm.

_____,
CHAIRMAN
CRAIG COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

_____, CLERK
CRAIG COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS