

GILES COUNTY LEGISLATIVE BODY, October 21, 2024

BE IT REMEMBERED AT THE Regular Session of the Giles County Legislative Body, begun and held on the 21st day of October, 2024, at the Courthouse in Pulaski, Tennessee, present and presiding the Honorable Graham Stowe, Chairman, and the following Board of Commissioners, to-wit:

1. Erin Curry, James Lathrop, Joyce Woodard
2. Terry Jones, David Wamble, Tracy Wilburn
3. David Adams, Annelle Guthrie
4. Matthew Hopkins, Roger Reedy, Caleb Savage
5. Brad Butler, Gayle Jones, Matt Rubelsky
6. Evan Baddour
7. Shelly Goolsby, Judy Pruett, Tammy Mathis

Graham Stowe, County Executive, Carol H. Wade, County Clerk, Kyle Helton, Giles County Sheriff, and Chris Williams, County Attorney, when the following proceedings were had, to-wit:

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Fourth District County Commissioner Roger Reedy.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Fourth District County Commissioner Roger Reedy.

AGENDA CONCURRENCE

County Executive Graham Stowe asked if there were any corrections or additions to the agenda for said meeting. He stated that following the Employee of the Quarter presentation, Sheriff Kyle Helton would address the Court. Upon motion of Roger Reedy and seconded by Shelly Goolsby, it was ordered by the Court that said agenda was confirmed as amended, which said motion was put to the voice vote of the Court and carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES September 16, 2024, Regular Session

Upon motion of Matthew Hopkins and seconded by Carman Brown, it was ordered by the Court that said minutes of the September 16, 2024, Regular Session of the Giles County Legislative Body be accepted and approved, which said motion was put to the voice vote of the Court and carried.

The County Executive, thereupon, declared motion carried and said minutes approved.

Giles County Employee of the Quarter

Following is the transcription of the citation presented to Jeremy Mitchell:

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY

THE GILES COUNTY EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER AWARD TO JEREMY MITCHELL, GILES COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Mr. Jeremy Mitchell is cited for meritorious service in the performance of duty from July to September 2024, serving as Operations Specialist with Giles County's Office of Emergency Management. Mr. Mitchell's achievements exemplified our core values of integrity, stewardship, and excellence; he consistently demonstrated a steadfast dedication to his responsibilities, going above and beyond to provide superior service to our community. When duty calls, Mr. Mitchell is there. He has a unique ability to meld into any team, which was exemplified when he served as Incident Commander through an exhaustive 4-day Search and Rescue case, leading to the extraordinary rescue of a local citizen. Mr. Mitchell continually demonstrated an exhaustive array of skills, saving the county a tremendous amount of money as he re-wired the Command Trailer, repaired generators, and installed equipment. He was also instrumental in developing and implementing the FAA Certified Emergency Services Drone Program. Beyond his county responsibilities, he served as Chief of Giles County Fire Rescue, where he sacrificed countless hours ensuring that GCFR remains an effective partner with Giles County Emergency Services. Throughout this quarter he was an exemplary performer; his unwavering commitment to improving the well-being of Giles County is commendable, embodying the spirit of public service. In recognition of his extraordinary performance, we hereby recognize Jeremy Mitchell as Giles County's Employee of the Quarter. Mr. Mitchell's pursuit of excellence and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of Giles County public service.

G. S. STOWE, Giles County Executive

Commissioner Tim Risner arrival

Commissioner Tim Risner arrived at the Giles County Commission meeting and was noted on the roll as present. There being nineteen commissioners present, said meeting continued.

Address Commission: Giles County Sheriff Kyle Helton

Sheriff Kyle Helton addressed the Commission to state that he will be taking a position as a special agent for Homeland Security effective Sunday, October 28, 2024. He added that for the last eighteen years, he has dedicated his heart and soul to Giles County.

He stated that he wished to recommend that Captain Joe Purvis be appointed to complete his term of office and serve until the election is held in August of 2026.

Following his address of the Commission, Sheriff Helton was given a standing ovation from the Commission and all present in said meeting.

Address Commission: Economic Development Director Philip Reese Commission

October 2024 Director Report

Unemployment Rates

| | AUGUST 2024 | JULY 2024 (REV) Rates |
|--------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Giles County | 3.6 | 4.2 |
| Lincoln | 3.8 | 3.7 |
| Lawrence | 3.9 | 4.5 |
| Marshall | 3.5 | 4.9 |
| Maury | 3.1 | 4.9 |
| State | 3.1 | 3.0 |
| US | 4.2 | 4.3 |

Project Updates:

Project Joseph– An industrial and high-tech compounding (mixing) operation. Require a 125,000-200,000-sf building. 75 new jobs and a capital investment of \$20M. – Did Not Submit

Project Cypress – An automotive supplier looking to expand in the Southeastern US. Looking for existing buildings only (85,000-115,000sf). 114 new jobs and a capital investment of \$10M. – Did Not Submit

Project Pujols – a racking manufacturing operation. Is looking for existing buildings only (33,000-60,000 sf). 25-50 new jobs and a capital investment of \$2.5M. – Did Not Submit

Project Serve – A plant-based meat manufacturing operation. Requiring an existing building (40,000-60,000 sf) 60 New jobs and a \$25M capital investment. Did Not submit

Project Truffle – Iconic confectionery brands, known for their handcrafted chocolates and ice cream. Need a 45,000-sf building with a 5,600-sf freezer. 15 jobs and a \$5M investment. Did Not Submit

Project Dunes – Manufacturing of electric off-road vehicles. 100 new jobs, \$25M capital investment. Prefer building 150,000-200,000 sf. Will consider a greenfield site of 10-20 acres to construct a 150,000-sf facility. Submitted Lot 5

Site Development Grant Update – Grading plan being developed. Expect preliminary draft by end of October.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no Public Comments at said meeting of the Giles County Legislative Body.

ELECTIONS
NOTARIES PUBLIC AT LARGE

Upon motion of Tracy Wilburn and seconded by Judy Pruett, it was ordered by the Court that the following names and persons be nominated as Notaries Public at Large for Giles County, Tennessee: (Re-Elections): Joyce Edlin, Fallon Kimbrough, Mary E. Malone, Norma P. White; (New): Teresa J. Diesel, Tracye L. Gentry, Denise Malone, Melissa Ann Russell, which said motion was put to the roll call vote of the Court, the detailed results were as follows, to-wit:

Aye: Erin Curry, James Lathrop, Joyce Woodard, Terry Jones, David Wamble, Tracy Wilburn, David Adams, Annelle Guthrie, Tim Risner, Matthew Hopkins, Roger Reedy, Caleb Savage, Brad Butler, Gayle Jones, Matt Rubelsky, Evan Baddour, Shelly Goolsby, Judy Pruett, Carman Brown

No: None

Absent: Rose Brown, Joseph Sutton

The County Executive, thereupon, declared motion carried and said Notaries Public at Large elected.

Economic Development Commission: Terry Jones and Matt Rubelsky (Budget Chair)

Upon motion of Roger Reedy and seconded by Evan Baddour, it was ordered by the Court that the appointments of Matt Rubelsky and Terry Jones to serve on the EDC for one year terms by County Executive Graham Stowe be confirmed, which said motion was put to the roll call vote of the Court, the detailed results were as follows, to-wit:

Aye: Erin Curry, James Lathrop, Joyce Woodard, David Wamble, Tracy Wilburn, David Adams, Annelle Guthrie, Tim Risner, Matthew Hopkins, Roger Reedy, Caleb Savage, Brad Butler, Gayle Jones, Evan Baddour, Shelly Goolsby, Judy Pruett, Carman Brown

No: None

Abstain: Terry Jones, Matt Rubelsky

Absent: Rose Brown, Joseph Sutton

The County Executive, thereupon, declared Terry Jones and Matt Rubelsky's appointments to the EDC for one year terms confirmed.

PLANNING COMMISSION: Caleb Savage, Andy Edwards, Kristen Pfeiffer, Tommy Price, Brian Marks

Upon motion of Matthew Hopkins and seconded by Terry Jones, it was ordered by the Court that the appointments of Caleb Savage, Andy Edwards, Kristen Pfeiffer, Tommy Price, and Brian Marks to serve on the Planning Commission for four year terms by County Executive Graham Stowe be confirmed, which said motion was put to the roll call vote of the Court, the detailed results were as follows, to-wit:

Aye: Erin Curry, James Lathrop, Joyce Woodard, Terry Jones, David Wamble, Tracy Wilburn, David Adams, Annelle Guthrie, Tim Risner, Matthew Hopkins, Roger Reedy, Brad Butler, Gayle Jones, Matt Rubelsky, Evan Baddour, Shelly Goolsby, Judy Pruett, Carman Brown

No: None

Abstain: Caleb Savage

Absent: Rose Brown, Joseph Sutton

The County Executive, thereupon, declared motion carried and Caleb Savage, Andy Edwards, Kristen Pfeiffer, Tommy Price, and Brian Marks's appointments to the Planning Commission for four year terms confirmed.

REPORTS

1. **Finance Director for August, 2024, including the following:
Giles County General Fund, Drug, American Rescue Plan, Probation Fund, Highway, School, Federal, Food Service, Debt Service, Capital Projects, Highway Capital Projects, Education Capital Projects, Education Capital #2, and Other Capital Projects**
2. **Giles County Highway Department Quarterly Report**
3. **Giles County Health Department Quarterly Report**
5. **Giles County Public Library Report – First Quarter 2024-2025: July 1, 2024-September 30, 2024**
6. **Giles County Highway Department – Bill of sale 2005 and 2006 Mack Dump w/plow**

Upon motion of Caleb Savage and seconded by Matthew Hopkins, it was ordered by the Court that said reports 1 through 6 (The number 4 was skipped in the reports) be consolidated and considered all together as one, which said motion was put to the voice vote of the Court and carried.

Upon motion of Carman Brown and seconded by Terry Jones, it was ordered by the Court that said reports be approved as combined, which said motion was put to the roll call vote of the Court, the detailed results were as follows, to-wit:

Aye: Erin Curry, James Lathrop, Joyce Woodard, Terry Jones, David Wamble, Tracy Wilburn, David Adams, Annelle Guthrie, Tim Risner, Matthew Hopkins, Roger Reedy, Caleb Savage, Brad Butler, Gayle Jones, Matt Rubelsky, Evan Baddour, Shelly Goolsby, Judy Pruett, Carman Brown

No: None

Absent: Rose Brown, Joseph Sutton

The County Executive, thereupon, declared motion carried and said reports received, filed and approved as combined.

CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND GRANTS

- 1. Giles County Sheriff's Department – Grant: Enforcement of Tennessee Driving Under the Influence Laws**
- 2. Lease Agreement between RackleyFamily, LLC and the Giles County Board of Education**

Upon motion of David Wamble and seconded by Evan Baddour, it was ordered by the Court that said contracts, agreements and grants be voted on separately, which said motion was put to the voice vote of the Court and carried.

Upon motion of Shelly Goolsby and seconded by Brad Butler, it was ordered by the Court that 1. Giles County Sheriff's Department – Grant: Enforcement of Tennessee Driving Under the Influence Laws with a term from October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025 be approved, which said motion was put to the roll call vote of the Court, the detailed results were as follows, to-wit:

Aye: Erin Curry, James Lathrop, Joyce Woodard, Terry Jones, David Wamble, Tracy Wilburn, David Adams, Annelle Guthrie, Tim Risner, Matthew Hopkins, Roger Reedy, Caleb Savage, Brad Butler, Gayle Jones, Matt Rubelsky, Evan Baddour, Shelly Goolsby, Judy Pruett, Carman Brown

No: None

Absent: Rose Brown, Joseph Sutton

The County Executive, thereupon, declared motion carried and said grant approved.

Upon motion of Roger Reedy and seconded by David Wamble it was ordered by the Court that 2. Lease Agreement between RackleyFamily, LLC and the Giles County Board of Education with a term from November 1, 2024 to December 31, 2028, be approved, which said motion was put to the roll call vote of the Court, the detailed results were as follows, to-wit:

Aye: Erin Curry, James Lathrop, Joyce Woodard, Terry Jones, David Wamble, Tracy Wilburn, David Adams, Annelle Guthrie, Tim Risner, Matthew Hopkins, Roger Reedy, Caleb Savage, Brad Butler, Gayle Jones, Matt Rubelsky, Evan Baddour, Shelly Goolsby, Judy Pruett, Carman Brown

No: Caleb Savage

Abstain: Evan Baddour

Absent: Rose Brown, Joseph Sutton

The County Executive, thereupon, declared motion carried and said Lease Agreement approved.

AMENDMENT RESOLUTION 2024-60,

**Authorizing the amendment of the 2024-2025
Budget, County General Fund 101 and Fund 171**

Upon motion of Tracy Wilburn and seconded by Matthew Hopkins, it was ordered by the Court that said amendment resolution be approved, which said motion was put to the roll call vote of the Court, the detailed results were as follows, to-wit:

Aye: Erin Curry, Joyce Woodard, Terry Jones, David Wamble, Tracy Wilburn, David Adams, Annelle Guthrie, Tim Risner, Matthew Hopkins, Roger Reedy, Caleb Savage, Brad Butler, Gayle Jones, Matt Rubelsky, Evan Baddour, Shelly Goolsby, Judy Pruett, Carman Brown

No: James Lathrop

Absent: Rose Brown, Joseph Sutton

The County Executive, thereupon, declared motion carried and said amendment resolution approved.

AMENDMENT RESOLUTION 2024-61

**Authorizing an amendment of the 2024-2025
Budget, Highway Fund 131**

Upon motion of Tim Risner and seconded by Tracy Wilburn, it was ordered by the Court that said amendment resolution be approved, which said motion was put to the roll call vote of the Court, the detailed results were as follows, to-wit:

Aye: Erin Curry, James Lathrop, Joyce Woodard, Terry Jones, David Wamble, Tracy Wilburn, David Adams, Annelle Guthrie, Tim Risner, Matthew Hopkins, Roger Reedy, Caleb Savage, Brad Butler, Gayle Jones, Matt Rubelsky, Evan Baddour, Shelly Goolsby, Judy Pruett, Carman Brown

No: None

Absent: Rose Brown, Joseph Sutton

The County Executive, thereupon, declared motion carried and said amendment resolution approved.

RESOLUTION 2024-62**Committing to Courthouse Phase I Scope of Work**

County Executive Graham Stowe provided the following explanation of said Resolution: **"Resolution 2024-62** is a commitment to the Phase 1 Scope of Work that was briefed to the Commission on Sep 4th, and passed the Building Committee 6-1 on Sep 25th. The top-end estimate for the Phase 1 construction budget is \$7.2M. This resolution authorizes the County Executive to proceed with completing drawings and specs for exterior repairs; proceed with preconstruction services to develop a Guaranteed Maximum Price; and proceed with Schematic Design for Mechanical/Electrical/Plumbing, Accessibility and Security, which will yield a preliminary Phase 2 Scope of Work and budget estimate." *The floor is open for a motion.*

Upon motion of James Lathrop and seconded by Erin Curry, it was ordered by the Court that said resolution be approved. Discussion followed among commissioners. Upon motion of Terry Jones and seconded by Tracy Wilburn, it was ordered by the Court that said resolution be sent back to the Property Committee for additional study, which said motion was put to the roll call vote of the Court, the detailed results were as follows, to-wit:

Aye: Terry Jones, David Wamble, Tracy Wilburn, David Adams, Annelle Guthrie, Tim Risner, Gayle Jones, Evan Baddour

No: Erin Curry, James Lathrop, Joyce Woodard, Matthew Hopkins, Roger Reedy, Caleb Savage, Brad Butler, Matt Rubelsky, Shelly Goolsby, Judy Pruett, Carman Brown

Absent: Rose Brown, Joseph Sutton

The County Executive, thereupon, declared motion failed for lack of a majority.

Upon motion of Gayle Jones and seconded by Evan Baddour, it was ordered by the Court that the window replacement be removed and replaced with the HVAC, which said motion was put to the roll call vote of the Court, the detailed results were as follows, to-wit:

Aye: Terry Jones, Tracy Wilburn, Gayle Jones, Evan Baddour, Shelly Goolsby

No: Erin Curry, James Lathrop, Joyce Woodard, David Wamble, David Adams, Annelle Guthrie, Tim Risner, Matthew Hopkins, Roger Reedy, Caleb Savage, Brad Butler, Matt Rubelsky, Judy Pruett, Carman Brown

Absent: Rose Brown, Joseph Sutton

The County Executive, thereupon, declared motion failed for lack of a majority.

Upon motion of Evan Baddour and seconded by Erin Curry, it was ordered by the Court that Section 2 of said resolution be amended to strike the word "commit" and insert "agree to seek funding of Phase 1". Commissioner Caleb Savage asked County Attorney Chris Williams if said wording would change the resolution.

County Attorney Chris Williams addresses Commission

Attorney Williams stated that, in his opinion, the change would not make any difference in said resolution.

Motion on the floor was put to the roll call vote of the Court, the detailed results were as follows, to-wit:

Aye: Erin Curry, Joyce Woodard, David Adams, Annelle Guthrie, Tim Risner, Gayle Jones, Evan Baddour, Shelly Goolsby, Judy Pruett, Carman Brown

No: James Lathrop, Terry Jones, David Wamble, Tracy Wilburn, Matthew Hopkins, Roger Reedy, Caleb Savage, Brad Butler, Matt Rubelsky

Absent: Rose Brown, Joseph Sutton

The County Executive, thereupon, declared motion failed for lack of a majority of the full membership of the Court.

Original motion on the floor to adopt said resolution was put to the roll call vote of the Court, the detailed results were as follows, to-wit:

Aye: Erin Curry, James Lathrop, Joyce Woodard, David Wamble, Annelle Guthrie, Matthew Hopkins, Roger Reedy, Caleb Savage, Brad Butler, Gayle Jones, Matt Rubelsky, Evan Baddour, Shelly Goolsby, Judy Pruett, Carman Brown

No: Terry Jones, Tracy Wilburn, David Adams, Tim Risner

Absent: Rose Brown, Joseph Sutton

The County Executive, thereupon, declared motion carried and said resolution approved.

**RESOLUTION 2024-63 To have Tennessee Department of Health construct an
Emergency Preparedness Storage Facility on County-City
Property**

County Executive Graham Stowe provided the following explanation of said resolution: **"Resolution 2024-63** is a proposal for the Tennessee Department of Health to construct an emergency preparedness storage facility on the property jointly owned with the City of Pulaski located at 2911 Minor Hill Highway. After some discussion last week with the State, there are some details still to be sorted out, so I'll entertain a motion to postpone this resolution to November."

Upon motion of Tracy Wilburn and seconded by Matthew Hopkins, it was ordered by the Court that consideration of said resolution be postponed to the November meeting of the Giles County Legislative Body, which said motion was put to the voice vote of the Court and carried.

The County Executive, thereupon, declared motion carried and consideration of said resolution postponed until the November meeting of the Giles County Legislative Body.

RESOLUTION 2024-64**Naming a bridge on Bledsoe RD over Pigeon Roost Creek Bridge No # 280A1380001, Charles R. "Red" Brewer Memorial Bridge**

Upon motion of Annelle Guthrie and seconded by Terry Jones, it was ordered by the Court that said resolution be approved, which said motion was put to the roll call vote of the Court, the detailed results were as follows, to-wit:

Aye: Erin Curry, James Lathrop, Joyce Woodard, Terry Jones, David Wamble, Tracy Wilburn, David Adams, Annelle Guthrie, Tim Risner, Roger Reedy, Caleb Savage, Brad Butler, Gayle Jones, Matt Rubelsky, Evan Baddour, Shelly Goolsby, Judy Pruet, Carman Brown

No: Matthew Hopkins

Absent: Rose Brown, Joseph Sutton

The County Executive, thereupon, declared motion carried and said resolution approved.

RESOLUTION 2024-65**Relative to the reimbursement of Emergency Medical Technician for training**

County Executive Graham Stowe provided the following explanation of said Resolution: **"Resolution 2024-65** is to approve the reimbursement of EMT training subject to the stipulations found in Section 1 through 5 of the resolution." *The floor is open for a motion.*

Upon motion of Caleb Savage and seconded by David Wamble, it was ordered by the Court that said resolution be approved, which said motion was put to the roll call vote of the Court, the detailed results were as follows, to-wit:

Aye: Erin Curry, James Lathrop, Joyce Woodard, Terry Jones, David Wamble, Tracy Wilburn, David Adams, Annelle Guthrie, Tim Risner, Matthew Hopkins, Roger Reedy, Caleb Savage, Brad Butler, Gayle Jones, Matt Rubelsky, Evan Baddour, Shelly Goolsby, Judy Pruet, Carman Brown

No: None

Absent: Rose Brown, Joseph Sutton

The County Executive, thereupon, declared motion carried and said resolution approved.

Ten Minute Recess

County Executive Graham Stowe stated the Giles County Legislative Body would take a ten minute recess.

RESOLUTION 2024-66

Requiring full commission approval of 171 Capital Expenditures

County Executive Graham Stowe stepped from the podium and requested Chairman Pro Tem Erin Curry to chair said meeting.

He addressed the Commission: "Unfortunately I had to miss your Budget meeting, which is where this unfortunate resolution was debated. I wish you'd postponed this measure until I had a chance to correct the wrong presumptions that surround it. But instead you all pressed this forward, and that's why I'm forced to publicly confront this in open session. You asked for it - you got it.

Ronald Reagan once said that the people who agree with you 80% of the time are your friends and allies, not 20% traitors. That's how I approach the Commission this morning - we may not always agree but I'm sharp enough to understand that most of us are on the same side - most of us put county interests ahead of self-interest. That said, we have a major disagreement when it comes to this resolution, and while we may share at least 80% agreement on most issues, when it comes to communicating dissent it's important that I be frank and candid.

This resolution the Budget Committee came up with is interesting - and I suppose some think it's a well-meaning attempt to put guardrails around capital funds. I find it weirdly erratic, though, that this resolution intentionally disregards the county's four other capital project funds, with a singular focus on 171. So that's an immediate red flag - why the scrutiny of one fund? Why do the squirrels chase this one particular nut? Unfortunately I can't follow the Budget Committee's logic, which leads to a regrettable conclusion - there isn't any.

It seems there are a number of commissioners with significant knowledge-gaps, so I'm forced to publicly expose those gaps - you've compelled me to strip out the nonsense that surrounds this resolution. A couple of commissioners have asked me why I'm so bent about this. The answer is that this a culmination of two years of on-again, off-again nonsense. Just when I think this commission is hitting its stride we get sidetracked by a small clique of commissioners who aren't up to doing their job, yet they really want a crack at doing mine. A few of you have taken a clear stance against micromanagement, which is helpful - and I thank you - but then the dogs return to their vomit. So the best way to unpack the confusion surrounding this resolution is to ask some simple questions, questions that you all surely know because they're fundamental to being a commissioner.

1. Let's start with this: Last week - without getting a permission slip from the Commission - I spent \$188,545.82 out of the 171 Fund. So here's the first question, particularly for the 6 budget committee members who moved this resolution to full commission - Do any of you find that troubling? If yes, why?
2. A question immediately follows - Who is responsible for vetting and approving the annual budget? We're two questions in ... do you see where this is going?
3. How many of you reviewed your budget binder since passing it in June? It's your budget - your #1 responsibility - so I have to presume you understand it. Did anyone bother to look at your budget before jumping on the 171 hamster wheel?
4. If you were to glance at the budget you all approved in June, and turn to the tab labeled 171 Fund, you could scan down to a line item for "Public Entity Projects." That line is nearly \$1.8M. Does anyone remember what that line is for? It's broadband Infrastructure. So again, who approved that line item, as with every other obligated line item in the budget? Yes, it's the Commission.
5. So when I paid the invoice for \$188K, or any other invoice for line-item services out of 171, am I doing that with or without Commission approval? With!

6. So take a wild guess on how much of the 171 Fund has been expended without Commission notification? I should hear 21 people say "zero dollars."

- So with those 6 questions answered we expose the first fallacy, because this resolution states that you want expenditures from the 171 Fund to be approved by the Commission. And lo and behold, you've already done that, because every penny being expended from 171 was obligated in the budget you all approved in June.

7. Now let's shift into 2nd gear, although this should still elementary stuff for anyone responsible for a \$20M annual budget. What's the difference between a recurring operational expense and a non-recurring capital expense?

8. Which of those belongs in an annual operating budget, and which should be paid out of a capital project fund? For the sake of the public, a recurring expense would be something like water bills, property insurance, or payroll, and non-recurring capital expenses would be things like replacing an AC unit, repairing a roof, or buying a Sheriff Department vehicle.

9. Commissioners surely know the difference because I've been pile driving this for two years, so the question follows: What's the purpose of keeping a capital fund plussed up, set-aside for non-recurring expenses? I'll answer it for you - again - it's so we can anticipate and be proactive, versus the way it's always been done, which is waiting around for roofs to leak and AC units to break, and then resorting to Fund Balance to bail ourselves out of emergencies that should never have happened. *That's* the dysfunction I've been trying to fix through the 171 Fund.

10. Next question - before I came into office, what was the Commission doing to prepare for these non-recurring, unanticipated expenses? And the answer to that is ...*NOTHING*. There were no preparations - none - just \$3800 set aside for a countywide infrastructure valued into the 100s of millions. The only word for that is IRRESPONSIBLE. Anyone nostalgic for that kind of dysfunction isn't worthy of public service.

11. Shifting into 3rd gear - Under what financial system, established by state statute, does Giles County operate? 1981 Financial Management System

12. Under the 1981 Act we have a *Financial Management Committee* (FMC). Which department heads are required by statute to sit on this committee? Answer: Hwy, School, Cty Exec

13. Next up - What are the duties of the Financial Management Committee? I'll answer this one for you as well: CTAS states "*the Financial Management Committee establishes and approves policies, procedures, and regulations implementing a sound and efficient financial system for administering the funds of the county.*"

- The last 7 questions expose yet another gross misunderstanding, as the resolution states that the *Commission* created the Fund Balance Policy. That is flat wrong. It was the Financial Management Committee who adopted the Fund Balance Policy, because it's their statutory role to approve policies for a sound and efficient financial system.

- Anyone with lingering questions on this point should have visited Beth or I, or re-read the Fund Balance Policy, which explains all this in excruciating detail. This was all explained to the Commission through the months of January, and February, and March.

14. Shifting into 4th gear - So the FMC has 7 seats; 3 of them are statutory department heads but the other 4 are chosen by this Commission, right?

15. So now a basic math question - is 4 out of 7 a majority? This Commission has majority membership on the Financial Management Committee, right? And you all elect those 4 members, right?

16. Next, does anyone find it interesting that the 3 department heads on the Financial Management Committee just happen to be those responsible for the county's 5 capital project funds? And those 3 people sit on the Financial Management Committee with 4 commissioners. Does anyone think this is a coincidence? Is the 1981 Financial Management System starting to make sense?

17. So of the county's 5 capital project funds, it's clear from this resolution that the only fund you know *anything* about - anything whatsoever - is 171, correct? So here's a rhetorical question but it's the crux of my argument ... *why is that?* Which department head has been keeping you informed - bringing you proposals - asking you to work in partnership to prioritize and address our capital needs?

18. And while I'm not here to critique other elected officials or how they use their capital project funds ... how many of you have a solitary clue about how money is expended from Fund 176? Anybody? 177? How about 178 or 189? How are they funded? Where is that money going? I find it very odd that you have zero curiosity on how those funds are managed. But on the other hand, hypocrisy isn't odd at all ... for some of you it's just a game called "politics."

19. Back to my earlier question - why do you know so much about 171? Why are you so well versed on the array of capital projects that were prioritized by the Financial Management Committee? I'll tell you exactly why - it's because I've busted my rear being transparent with this Commission, and I made darn sure every proposal was vetted in open, public meetings. And the reward for being transparent with this Commission?

- The answer to that question is pending ... we'll see. I'm hopeful that most of you actually get it. You're either onboard or it's starting to crystallize that the changes we've ushered in - which are nothing more than basic accounting principles - are critical to this county's long-term financial strength. Together we're responsible for sustaining an infrastructure that hasn't received much attention over the last quarter century - some of that infrastructure, like our courthouse, our water system, our schools - hasn't had attention in half a century, even beyond some of our lifetimes. Well, that's changing ... so why anyone would want to throw sand in the gears is beyond comprehension.

- Most of you see the progress - many of you have reached the hilltop and are getting a glimpse of what our future can look like. But there are a handful of you rooting around in the valley of despair - nostalgic for dysfunction - oblivious to positive change - because you're blinded by political resentments. The majority of us are pleased when we can move the county 2 steps forward. But then a resolution like this comes along, and it becomes evident how prone some of you are to play chase-the-squirrel. So yeah, in case I haven't made it clear yet - I'm frustrated.

- I'm done unpacking this resolution - I've stripped it bare of its fallacies and inconsistencies. It's a scrap of paper shot full of ragged holes. But since some of you are so deeply concerned with financial stewardship - and since y'all are the ones who wanted to air this out - let's drill a little deeper. Let's shift into 5th gear. Beyond the annual budget there's another massive responsibility that is 100% in the Commission wheelhouse, and that's making the big, sweeping decisions about our capital projects. I always bring these big decisions to you with alternatives - options and recommendations with dollar figures attached to them. Now let this sink in - within the last 4 months you've made some decisions that are going to cost this county big bucks for years into the future ... unless some of you come together to claw those decisions back.

- Foul-up #1 was the decision to not collocate E911 with the new ambulance building, both of which are required to be Category IV, storm-hardened buildings, so it only made financial sense to

collocate these facilities and put them under one roof. But too bad for the taxpayers, some of you missed key meetings, some didn't read the reports, and many resorted to the old game - kick-the-can. You were briefed very clearly that if you rejected collocation, all other E911 recapitalization options would cost at least an additional half-million dollars - at a minimum. That was documented in two engineering reports from two different engineering firms ... yet for some reason I can't begin to fathom, you either rejected those reports, or didn't read them, even after I hand-delivered copies and projected the figures on a wall-sized screen. I heard the argument that E911 wasn't the county's burden, that the cost would have to be shared with the City of Pulaski. Well and good, but last I checked Pulaski citizens also happened to be Giles County citizens. And as I explained before, there are no grants and the state won't pitch a dime into this project - Giles County taxpayers own this lock, stock & barrel. The decision to not collocate E911 with the ambulance service was deliberated for all of about 2 minutes. Heck, I've listened to y'all deliberate the replacement of a garage door for an hour, but this issue got about two minutes of banter that ignored the engineering analysis, ignored construction estimates, ignored common sense - and it's going to cost the county at least \$500K. But what has some of you tied up in knots ... you're worried to death I might be irresponsible with \$50K?

- The next decision was even more costly. A couple of months ago I put a resolution before you that specifically *excluded* a morgue from the new ambulance facility. Why would I recommend that? Because a morgue doesn't need to be in a hardened facility, that's why. Here's a lightning bolt of common sense - a corpse doesn't need to be protected from a tornado. We could renovate existing space for a morgue, or we could go with a cheap pre-fab building - but it does NOT need to be included in a hardened Cat 4 facility. But again with very little discussion, this Commission voted to throw the morgue in with the ambulance facility. The price tag of that decision? That one rings up to about \$800K.

Now of course this Commission is autonomous - you work for the people, not me. You have absolute authority to blow off engineering studies and disregard basic economics - you have absolute power to saddle taxpayers with \$1.3M of pointless spending. But heck, if I can speak as a simple taxpayer for a moment, this royally ticks me off, especially after I laid out all the pertinent information on a silver platter. But meanwhile, what's got some of your knickers in a twist? You're concerned that I might go on \$50K spending spree?

- I've got a proposal for this Commission, particularly for those of you who are more interested in accountable leadership than political preening ... how about you let me do my job, and how about we work together as a team? I mean this with respect, but I've got to ask some of you to double your efforts, to focus on your responsibilities ... I'll do my job as quarterback, but I sure as heck need more lineman and receivers. I promise you as I've promised the people of this county, I'm all-in on public service. I expect that's self-evident because I stink at petty politics ... probably because I spend about 0% of my time soothing fragile egos, and 100% of my time trying to move the ball down the field. Yes, it's hard on the team when some of you skip games, miss blocks, or dream about what a super quarterback you'd make in 2026. But let's put that aside.

- My appeal is to the rest of the commission - the majority - the reasonable commissioners. Would you like to sustain forward momentum? Some of you have served for years; some of you are relatively new; but here's the good news - the vast majority of us have something very important in common, which is our willingness to put county interests above self interest. I know we all have busy personal lives outside of county business - but I've also got to be blunt - Some of you prefer to sit on the

train and watch the scenery go by. With respect, that disinterest - I won't mince words, that laziness - is what allows this Commission to sleepwalk into dumb decisions. That's got to change. You sure don't have to agree with me on everything - some of our disagreements have helped me be a much better county executive. But I must encourage the genuine leaders in this room to swat the trifles aside, and I have to encourage you to work, read, and learn. You don't learn this stuff by trawling for "likes" on Facebook or taking a poll in Sunday School class. You've got to do your homework, ask questions, and be a leader.

- After you do whatever you decide to do with this resolution, and starting immediately after this meeting - the train is leaving the station, and it's going to move relentlessly forward. For the good of the county, I'd encourage you to get on the train ... or you may just get run over. I have no personal grudges with anyone in this room - many of you have earned my deep respect. I respect competence and conviction, constancy and selflessness - those virtues are all here in this room. Those of us who respect one another - we've got a large voting majority - and we've got meaningful work to do, work that far supersedes distractions like this resolution. We're going to spend the next two years debating and disagreeing and deliberating and disagreeing some more, but ultimately we're going to come to sensible agreements on moving forward. As for the handful of grumblers who are seething right now? What about them? Shoot, last I checked a moving train has pretty good odds against a few disgruntled nags.
- Last thing - there may be a couple who want to critique this talk and spew their rage on social media. That's OK - I've just said some things out loud that everyone in this room already knows. I've worked for two years to get 21 people to pull in the same direction. But it's just a fact of life and human nature - Some people build, others tear down. No surprise - It's been that way since Genesis Chapter 3.
- You're very close to adjournment - I'll leave the room so you can figure out what to do with your resolution. If you've heard this appeal - if you're ready to start working on more important issues - then I'll be resuming the Chair at our next meeting. But you need to know I have a line etched in stone: I will not be micromanaged by this Commission. If you pass this resolution - or anything resembling it - then your very next order of business needs to be the election of a new Chair. Either way, we've got important work to do and I'm looking forward to accomplish our work - together - on behalf of the people of Giles County. Thanks and good luck."

Following his address, County Executive Graham Stowe exited said meeting.

Upon motion of Evan Baddour and seconded by Gayle Jones, it was ordered by the Court that said resolution be adopted.

Discussion followed among commissioners. Upon motion of Matthew Hopkins and seconded by Evan Baddour, it was ordered by the Court that said resolution be changed to state "unallocated funds." Discussion followed among commissioners. Commissioner Curry stated that department heads were not being treated equally. Additional discussion followed, and upon motion of Caleb Savage and seconded by Roger Reedy, it was ordered by the Court that said resolution be sent to the Financial Management Committee for their consideration.

Discussion followed until Question was called for by Caleb Savage and seconded by Matt Rubelsky, which said motion was put to the roll call vote of the Court, the detailed results were as follows, to-wit:

Aye: Erin Curry, James Lathrop, David Wamble, Tracy Wilburn, David Adams, Annelle Guthrie, Tim Risner, Matthew Hopkins, Roger Reedy, Caleb Savage, Brad Butler, Gayle Jones, Matt Rubelsky, Evan Baddour, Shelly Goolsby, Judy Pruett, Carman Brown

No: Joyce Woodard, Terry Jones

Absent: Rose Brown, Joseph Sutton

The Chairman Pro Tem, thereupon, declared motion carried and said discussion ended and vote on said motion on the floor to be taken.

Said motion was put to the roll call vote of the Court, the detailed results were as follows, to-wit:

Aye: Erin Curry, James Lathrop, Terry Jones, David Wamble, Tracy Wilburn, Annelle Guthrie, Tim Risner, Matthew Hopkins, Roger Reedy, Caleb Savage, Brad Butler, Evan Baddour

No: Joyce Woodard, David Adams, Gayle Jones, Matt Rubelsky, Shelly Goolsby, Judy Pruett, Carman Brown

Absent: Rose Brown, Joseph Sutton

The Chairman Pro Tem, thereupon, declared motion carried and said resolution to be sent to the Financial Management Committee for their consideration.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Gayle Jones asked when Sheriff Helton's resignation became effective.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business to be considered at said meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Announcements provided at said meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business on the agenda, upon motion of Brad Butler and seconded by Gayle Jones, said October 21, 2024, meeting of the Giles County Legislative Body was adjourned at 11:02 AM.