

Meeting minutes of the Tazewell County Public Library Board of Trustees
held at the Pocahontas Library, 179 Centre St., Pocahontas, VA June 20, 2024, at 3:30 p.m.

Present: Karel Ryan, Vice Chair
Connie Kitts, Trustee
Patsy Murphy, Trustee
Erica Galloway, TCPL Director
Jade Crabtree, TCPL Circulation Supervisor
Jane Sorensen, Member of the public

Absent: Regina Roberts, Chair

Virtual: None

1. CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order by Vice Chair Ryan at 3:31 p.m.

2. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING THE AGENDA FORMAT ADDITIONS/DELETIONS:

Trustee Kitts asked for FOIA be added as e under Unfinished Business. Trustee Murphy requested Surplus Books be added under Unfinished Business and Director Galloway suggested adding it to item c. LOC so it will read c. LOC surplus books.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Trustee Kitts made a motion that the minutes be approved with the suggested changes communicated via email. Trustee Murphy seconded. With all in favor and none opposed, the motion carried.

4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

a. Friends of the Library: Met June 10.

b. Foundation updates: Met May 28.

c. Storywalk: Storywalk Committee met on May 28. The storywalk is planning a patriotic display for the months of May and June with flags and quotes. The July display will advertise local events. The August display will feature a back-to-school theme. Director Galloway has already picked out a book title and obtained permission to have it reprinted.

d. Tazewell & Richlands updates:

Tazewell- Preconstruction meeting was held on June 10 with Cornerstone on site. Director Galloway and Assistant Director Wilkes had to move furniture for this part of the project. The first official day of construction was June 18 with a 90-day timeline. Vice Chair Ryan

suggested TCPL should have a grand reopening in October. Director Galloway will add it to future Board agendas as a follow-up. Trustee Kitts suggested an in-person information session in July or August. Director Galloway suggested August as the project should be well underway at that time. Jane Sorensen, member of the public, suggested Main St Moments as another opportunity to keep the public information and involved.

Richlands- construction officially began on May 28th. A leak in the water line has been found between the meter and the building. The Town of Richlands is scheduled to dig up and replace the line. Trustee Kitts asked for clarification of who is responsible for the lines. Director Galloway said to her understanding the Town is responsible for all outside lines and County Maintenance is responsible for all inside lines. Vice Chair Ryan mentioned her personal experience of water line replacement and the pipes not aligning which led to problems. Vice Chair Ryan suggested asking the contractor at Richlands to make sure that the pipes line up correctly. The Whofi (provided by the Library of Virginia) has been replaced, which enables TCPL to get a data on wi-fi usage for state reports.

Bluefield- had a clogged AC line and drain plug which have since been fixed.

Summer Programs: The StarLab programs were attended over 2,000 people. Staff took it to every elementary, primary and intermediate school in Tazewell County. Lisa Tyson, Youth Services Librarian, was responsible for borrowing the StarLab from West Virginia University. TCPL was able to borrow it because we border Mercer County. Taiko Tampa Drums is scheduled for three shows, one in Richlands, one in Tazewell, and one in Bluefield. Director Galloway was able to attend Juneteenth helping to staff the display. Gardening programs in Bluefield are going well. TCPL has a children's garden and have partnered with Appalachian Sustainable Development to hand out produce boxes. Jane Sorensen, member of the public, showed Board Members pictures of the produce giveaway. The Master Gardeners were also picking produce from the children's garden to hand out.

Director Galloway and Chair Roberts will be traveling to San Diego to attend the American Library Association Conference. Chair Roberts has won the ALA Trustee Citation. This is a national award and only given to one library board member in the country.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT:

- a. As of May 31, 2024, the library had spent \$1,281,622.58, 82.48% of the annual budget.
- b. As of May 31, 2024, the library has received \$7,478.59 in fines and business service fees.

Director Galloway noted that in the current fiscal year TCPL has saved in the Compensation line, because Tazewell isn't fully staffed. TCPL has received more fines and fees than last year despite eliminating fines on children's cards.

Director Galloway passed out a draft budget for FY 2025. The draft budget does include construction for Tazewell's building and for installing the new carpet in Tazewell. Trustee Kitts asked if the draft budget was only County money and Director Galloway said it includes County and state aid monies. Trustee Kitts then asked if the state aid was a separate line item and Director Galloway said no but that she could provide the Library Board with how much in state aid TCPL is

estimated to receive. Trustee Kitts asked what state aid pays for. Director Galloway said state aid pays for TCPL's entire collection budget (books and materials), some contractual services, a portion of Director Galloway's salary, telecommunications, internet, equipment, furniture, library supplies, some additional miscellaneous items. Money from state aid can only be used for certain things.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Communications plan: Tabled until July meeting.

b. Policy review: Tabled until July meeting

c. LOC Surplus books: Trustee Murphy printed off and started the paperwork. Director Galloway will need to fill in some parts of the application. Once accepted the paperwork is good for two years. Trustee Murphy has been in contact with Congressman Griffith's office to help arrange for help in picking out and shipping the materials.

d. Pocahontas Library and VT visit: Trustee Kitts read an article featured in The Voice on May 8 (article is attached). Trustee Kitts spoke with Pocahontas Mayor Ben Gibson who suggested bringing children from Abbs Valley Elementary School to tour the Pocahontas Library. Trustee Kitts mentioned using the upstairs at Pocahontas as a meeting room and opening it up to the community.

e. FOIA: Chair Roberts had asked at the May meeting if Trustee Kitts could reach out and get some clarification about record keeping. Trustee Kitts called Nan Carmack who is with the Library of Virginia, and she would be willing to come and train the Library Board on records retention. Trustee Kitts made a motion to invite Nan Carmack. Trustee Murphy seconded the motion. With all in favor and none opposed, the motion carried.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Election of new officers: Tabled until July

8. PUBLIC COMMENT: Jane Sorensen suggested opening up the meeting with Nan Carmack to other neighboring library boards.

9. NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for 3:30 p.m., July 18, 2024, at the Tazewell Train Station, 135 Railroad Ave, North Tazewell, VA 24630

10. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 5:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jade Crabtree, Circulation Supervisor

For full discussion refer to the recording of the meeting

Tazewell County Public Library Board of Trustees

June 20, 2024

Pocahontas Library

179 Centre St., Pocahontas, VA

3:30 p.m.

MEETING MATERIALS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. Agenda
2. Corrected Agenda
3. Director's Report
4. Voice Article

**Tazewell County Public Library
Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
Thursday, June 20, 2024, 3:30 PM
Pocahontas Library, 179 Centre St., Pocahontas, VA
Agenda**

[Access meeting via MS Teams Here](#)

- I. Roll Call**
- II. Consideration of approving the agenda**
- III. Approval of May 23 meeting minutes**
- IV. Director's Report**
 - a. Friends of the Library updates
 - b. Foundation updates
 - c. Storywalk updates
 - d. Tazewell and Richlands updates
- V. Financial Report**
 - a. As of May 31, 2024, the library had spent \$1,281,622.58, 82.48% of the annual budget.
 - b. As of May 31, 2024, the library had received \$7,478.59 in fines and business service fees.
- VI. Unfinished Business**
 - a. Communications plan
 - b. Policy review
 - c. LOC request
 - d. Pocahontas Library and VT visit
- VII. New Business**
 - a. Election of new officers
- VIII. Public Comment**
- IX. Next meeting time and location**
- X. Adjourn**

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Budget

- FY25 draft budget
- We ended up with some excess state aid needing to be spent.

Community & Partnerships

- The Friends of the Library meeting was held on Monday, June 10 at 5:30 at The Happy Goat.
- The TCPL Foundation met on 5/28 at the Richlands library.
- Storybook walking trail: For May and June, flag drawings and patriotic quotes. For July, advertising community events. For August, a picture book about going back to school.

Facilities

- Tazewell library: Pre-construction meeting on 6/10. Construction officially started on 6/18.
- Richlands library: Construction moving along. The leak was found in the water line, which will have to be replaced between the meter and the building. The server has been relocated.
- Bluefield library: An air conditioner line was clogged and fixed.
- Pocahontas library: The power was out once or twice, but otherwise everything is normal.

Programs/Services/Collections

- The Starlab was very well attended. It went to every elementary, primary, intermediate and headstart school, and it was at Nuckolls Hall for 4 days. There were 85 shows, and 2,125 people attended.
- The Japanese Drum Show is 6/20 and 6/21.
- Richlands movie at the Greenway was rescheduled to 6/15.
- The library set up at the Juneteenth celebration on 6/15.
- Gardening programs at Bluefield are going well! Thanks to the Tazewell County Master Gardeners and Appalachian Sustainable Development for the collaboration.

Statistical Data

- The Whofi device in Richlands has been replaced

VT architecture students visit the Pocahontas library, again and again

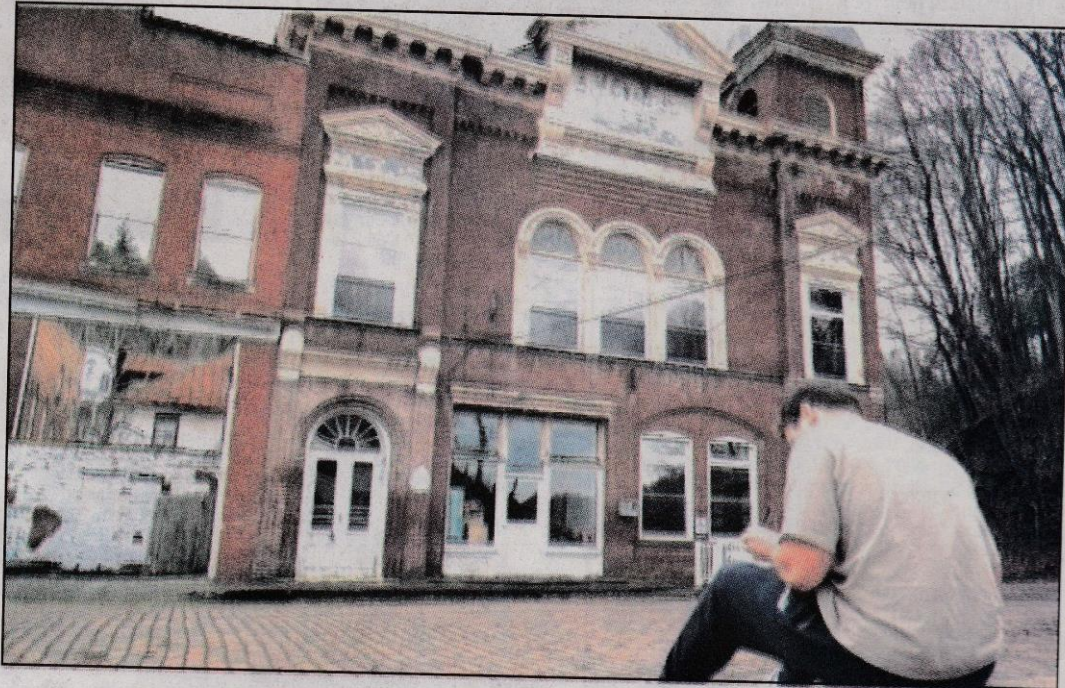


Photo by Lee Friesland for Virginia Tech

Architecture student Chris Hoyt sketches buildings in Pocahontas, Virginia, as part of the inaugural semester of Appalachian Futures Lab.

Book 'Lost Communities of Virginia' spread the story about the town to students

PRESS RELEASE COURTESY
TAZEWELL COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Fourteen Virginia Tech students recently visited the Pocahontas Library, went through the yearbooks, wrote in the community journal, signed up for library cards, and praised the internet access, saying it was a huge resource for the community. The Pocahontas Library, formerly known as the Emma Yates Library, is a part of Tazewell County Public Library.

"When I was a kid I used to go to my library and hang out there and read books and be exposed to different genres," said Virginia Tech architecture student Andrew Prietto. "If a town didn't have a library, I feel like the younger kids would be missing out on a crucial part of childhood."

Prietto and his classmates are part of a Virginia Tech Community design project. They have visited the Pocahontas Library several times since January. The project, called the Appalachian Futures Lab, is under the direction of Kevin Jones, associate professor in the School of Architecture. The goal, Jones said, is an opportunity for students to get embedded and do experiential learning and community-based



Architecture student Kevin Jones records his thoughts in one of the Pocahontas Library's community journals.

work.

While visiting the library, Professor Jones points out Terri Fisher's book "Lost Communities of Virginia." It was this book that spread the story about Pocahontas to the design community. Fisher spoke to Jones' students early in the process. Jones also noted that the historic photos in the library captured the early architecture of Pocahontas.

Savannah Paap, a fourth-year architecture student, appreciated the historical resources they were able to

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PAGE 6B, THE VOICE | WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024

Old Time Revival and Back of Dragon teaming up again for Sturgis-like takeover

By Warren Hinkle

Motorcycles will once again fill the streets of Tazewell as Old Time Revival and Back of the Dragon team up once again in a Sturgis-like takeover in the

town in June.

There will be a motorcycle and hot rod rally, a Main Street cruise-in, stunt shows, live music, a Figure 8 derby, and more the weekend of June 7-9.

However, there will not be

burnouts allowed on Tazewell streets this year, according to interim town manager Leeanne Regon.

"I have said a 'hard no' to burnouts on the road," she said. "If they want to move it to their

Students

Continued from
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browse in the library.

"It's a historical building, and all the connections, like with Emma Yates, and all the historical resources that are there, are really interesting. All the old Pocahontas (High School) yearbooks — we found that really interesting," Paap said.

She said she also saw the library as a historic example of how many small towns built a commercial space with a residential dwelling above it — a feature that is included in the students' designs that will support economic development and help preserve this historic Appalachian community. Paap says even after she graduates, she will be back to visit.

The Pocahontas Library is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday. The library provides access to free WiFi, office services, and children's programs. Learn more by visiting the library's website: tc-plweb.org

Also read:
"Architecture students collaborate with Appalachian communities through new program" at news.vt.edu

Legal Notice

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION
FOR A 2024 BIENNIAL REVIEW OF ITS BASE RATES
PURSUANT TO § 56-585.8 OF THE VIRGINIA CODE
CASE NO. PUR-2024-0001

On March 29, 2024, Appalachian Power Company ("APCo" or "Company") filed its Application for a Biennial Review of its Base Rates ("Application"), pursuant to § 56-585.8 of the Code of Virginia ("Code") and its Informational Filings, for a biennial review of the Company's rates and terms and conditions of service under Code § 56-585.8 D, the Commission must issue a final order regarding the Application pursuant to the rate review shall take effect no later than January 1, 2025. The Application states that this proceeding entails, among other things, determination of (i) whether prospective changes to APCo's rates are justified; (ii) whether prospective changes to APCo's rates are justified; and (iii) whether prospective changes to APCo's rates are justified.

APCo states that it files this Application under Virginia Code § 56-585.8, a new law that states that the statute requires APCo to file its first biennial review in 2024, and, in 2023 only. The Company outlines the parameters for the Commission's review under which the Commission must order revisions to APCo's rates under Code § 56-585.8 D, the Commission must issue a final order regarding the Application pursuant to the rate review shall take effect no later than January 1, 2025. The Application states that this proceeding entails, among other things, determination of (i) whether prospective changes to APCo's rates are justified; (ii) whether prospective changes to APCo's rates are justified; and (iii) whether prospective changes to APCo's rates are justified.

APCo states that, for the purposes of the earnings test in this case, APCo's authorized return on common equity is 9.5%. APCo asserts that it earned a return of 2.26% on its common equity earnings below the authorized return of 9.5%.

In this case, APCo requests approval to implement retail base generation and distribution rates of approximately \$95.1 million, which represents a 5.1% increase to overall revenues function and a \$62.3 million increase to the distribution function. According to APCo's requested authorization of a prospective ROE of 10.8%.

APCo states that an increase to its rates is necessary to ensure the Company can cover its costs over the coming years. The requested rate increase is the result of numerous factors, including a 10.8% market cost of equity and higher interest expense; increased costs associated with major storms; and fully incorporating in rates the cost of capital costs.

Included in the Application are the Company's proposed changes to its terms and conditions of service, including Rider National REC, a voluntary rate schedule that provides customers with two existing options; Schedule LFEVC, a voluntary rate schedule for commercial customers which is designed to accommodate public charging of electric vehicles. In addition, the Company proposes to provide a means to connect customers in need of EV charging. Further, the Company proposes to increase the basic service charge for residential customers.

The overall impact of the Company's proposals would increase the monthly bill of approximately \$10.22, or 6.0%.

The foregoing is not an exhaustive list of all the proposals contained in the Company's Application and supporting documents in full for details about these and other proposals.

TAKE NOTICE that the Commission may apportion revenues among customer classes based on the Application and supporting documents and thus may adopt rates that differ from those proposed by the Company.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding that, on September 9, 2024, at 10 a.m., the Commission will hold a telephonic hearing, receiving the testimony of public witnesses. On or before September 4, 2024, any person wishing to be heard by the Commission (a) your name, and (b) the telephone number that you wish the Commission may be provided to the Commission in three ways:

(i) by filling out a form on the Commission's website at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Witness-Form; or (iii) by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be held on September 9, 2024, at 10 a.m., in the Commission's second floor courtroom.

Beginning at 10 a.m. on September 9, 2024, the Commission will telephone sequentially all public witnesses who have been notified of the hearing. On September 10, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., in the Commission's second floor courtroom, the Commission will accept testimony from public witnesses.