Virginia: **At the regular meeting of the Chilhowie Planning Commission held Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.**

Present: **David Blevins, Donna Blevins, Jim Bonham, and Flave Davis,**

Absent: **Jim Paine**

Also Present: John E.B. Clark, Jr., Town Manager/Zoning Administrator; Mrs. Felicia Eller, CMC, Clerk-Treasurer; and David Haynes, Building Inspector.

Review of Comprehensive Plan:

Mr. Jordan Powers, Mount Rogers Planning District Commission, reviewed Chapter 7, Transportation. Mr. Powers discussed the Highway and Road Systems, Interstate Systems, Primary Systems, and Secondary Systems. Table 7-1: Town of Chilhowie: Annual Average Daily Traffic Volumes have been updated to reflect the Start Label, where the count starts, and the End Label, where the count ends, along with the Annual Average Daily Traffic for each street. Mr. Powers added Virginia Department of Transportation Six-Year Improvement Program and Safety Improvements to the Comprehensive Plan. The Virginia Department of Transportation Six-Year Improvement Program and Safety Improvements explains projects that the Virginia Department of Transportation have completed in Chilhowie since 2018. The Comprehensive Plan must be reviewed by Virginia Department of Transportation once completed, and the Town will ask for recommendations to add further projects in the Virgnia Department of Transportation Six-Year Improvements.

The Air Transportation section was updated to include Commercial Service, General Aviation, and Rail System. It was suggested to add the nearest passenger railway is in Roanoke in the Rail System and check the spur lines at the Industrial Parks. Under the Public Transit System, it is noted the Mountain Lynx Transit is no longer charging a fee for transportation, as the company is now receiving money through the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation Transit Ridership Incentive Program. There are three privately-owned taxi businesses operating in Smyth County; Eller Taxi Service, Diamond Cab, and Call and Cab. Virginia Breeze Bus Lines offers a northbound and southbound trip every day to help citizens travel throughout the Commonwealth and beyond. The Pedestrian and Bike System were reviewed noting the Bonham Trail, Hungry Mother, Trans America Bicycle Trail, and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail are trails within the County to ride a bike or walk. Mr. Clark recommended to add the Salt Trail and the East Lee Highway Project I, Pine Avenue to Church Avenue, and East Lee Highway Project II, Church Avenue to Walton Avenue, to the Pedestrian and Bike System.

The next steps for the rewrite of the Comprehensive Plan are the Economy and Community Facilities. Mr. Powers will review the S.W.O.T. analysis and goals and recommendations will be discussed.

Having no further business, upon motion by Donna Blevins, second by Flave Davis unanimously passed, the Commission adjourned the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

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Felicia Eller, CMC, Secretary