



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commonwealth Transportation Board

W. Sheppard Miller, III
Chairperson

1401 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

(804) 482-5818
Fax: (804) 786-2940

Agenda item # 3

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

October 18, 2023

MOTION

Made By: Mr. Fowlkes **Seconded By:** Mr. Merrill

Action: Motion Carried, Unanimously

Title: Bridge Naming: “Michael D. Chandler Memorial Bridge”

WHEREAS, in accordance with § 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, the Wise County Board of Supervisors has requested, by resolution dated August 10, 2023, that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), to honor and memorialize the life, service and ultimate sacrifice of Officer Michael D. Chandler, name the bridge on Route 613, E. Spring Street, over the South Fork of the Powell River, Wise County, as the “Michael D. Chandler Memorial Bridge”; and

WHEREAS, Wise County, by resolution dated August 10, 2023, and by letter dated September 18, 2023, has agreed to be responsible for payment of all sign costs billed by the Virginia Department of Transportation calling attention to this naming, which will include the costs to produce, place, and maintain the signs; and

WHEREAS, § 33.2-213 provides that VDOT 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 or by the private entity whose name is attached to the transportation facility so named.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to § 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, the CTB hereby names the bridge on Route 613, E. Spring Street, over the South Fork of the Powell River, Wise County, as the “Michael D. Chandler Memorial Bridge”.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that VDOT is directed to produce, place, and maintain the signs calling attention to this naming, and secure payment from Wise County for these costs as required by law.

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CTB Decision Brief

Bridge Naming: “Michael D. Chandler Memorial Bridge”

Issue: Commemorative naming, at the request of Wise County, of the bridge on Route 613, E. Spring Street, over the South Fork of the Powell River, Wise County as the “Michael D. Chandler Memorial Bridge”.

Facts: The Wise County Board of Supervisors enacted a resolution on August 10, 2023, to honor Michael Chandler’s life, service and ultimate sacrifice to his community.

According to that resolution, Officer Michael Chandler was a resident of Big Stone Gap and was born on November 13, 1992, and died on November 13, 2021, after being mortally wounded in the line of duty.

He graduated from Powell Valley High School in 2011, where he was the last person to score a touchdown for the Powell Valley Vikings. Mr. Chandler began his service to his community, following in the footsteps of many generations of Chandlers, by joining the Big Stone Gap Fire Department in 2015. He was an active outdoorsman, who enjoyed hunting, fishing, and the beautiful mountains in the region of Big Stone Gap.

He developed a passion for serving his fellow citizens and joined the Big Stone Gap Police Department in January of 2019, where he served faithfully and loyally.

He was married to Natasha Chandler and was a loving father to his daughter, Kamryn Elizabeth Chandler.

Action Required by CTB: The *Code of Virginia* requires a majority of the CTB members to approve a resolution naming a highway or bridge, as appropriate. A resolution will be provided for the Board’s consideration.

Result if Approved: The bridge on Route 613, E. Spring Street, over the South Fork of the Powell River, Wise County, will be known as the “Michael D. Chandler Memorial Bridge”. In accordance with law, and by resolution dated August 10, 2023, and letter dated September 18, 2023, Wise County agrees to pay the costs of producing, placing, and maintaining the signs calling attention to this naming.

Options: Approve, Deny, or Defer.

Public Comments/Reactions: VDOT has not received any public comments on this proposal.



Office of the Town Manager
Stephen L. Lawson

June 26, 2023

Mike Hatfield and Wise County Supervisors
206 East Main Street #223
Wise, Virginia 24293

Subject: Request for Dedication of Public Bridge in Memory of Fallen Police Officer Michael Chandler

Dear Mr. Hatfield,

We, the undersigned elected officials of the Town of Big Stone Gap, along with the Town Manager, write this letter to you with great respect and a shared sense of purpose. Our community has been deeply saddened by the loss of Police Officer Michael Chandler, who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Officer Chandler's unwavering commitment to our town's safety and well-being will forever be remembered and cherished.

We believe it is crucial to honor Officer Michael Chandler's memory in a meaningful and lasting way. We hereby request your consideration and support for the dedication of the public bridge, located on Spring Street in Wise County, in memory of Officer Chandler. This dedication will not only serve as a symbol of our gratitude for his selfless service but also as a reminder of the risks our law enforcement officers face daily to protect our community.

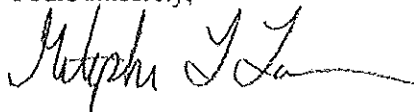
Officer Chandler's devotion to duty and his unwavering courage have left an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of our residents. His legacy will continue to inspire future generations of law enforcement officers who walk in his footsteps. By dedicating this bridge in his memory, we can ensure that his sacrifice and contributions are forever etched in the fabric of our town's history.

We understand that the dedication process involves careful consideration and collaboration. We are committed to working alongside the Wise County Administration in any capacity necessary to facilitate the successful realization of this dedication. Our Town Council, as well as the Town Manager, will actively support and assist in the coordination of the dedication ceremony, including logistical arrangements and community outreach.

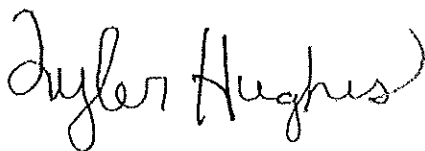
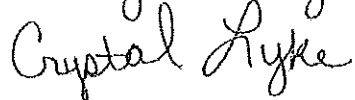
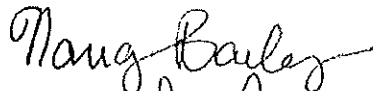
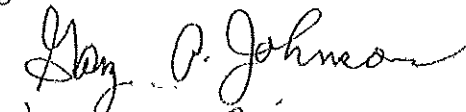
We firmly believe that honoring Officer Michael Chandler through the dedication of the Spring Street bridge will serve as a testament to the unity and unwavering support within our community. It is our shared responsibility to remember and appreciate those who have dedicated their lives to protect and serve, and we trust that the Wise County Administration shares in this sentiment.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We kindly request a prompt review and consideration of our proposal. We eagerly await your positive response and look forward to working together to honor the memory of Officer Michael Chandler in a manner befitting his sacrifice and the impact he had on our community.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen Lawson
Town Manager



Wise County Board of Supervisors

Resolution # 19 -2023



Office of County Administrator

COURTHOUSE

WISE, VIRGINIA 24293

TELEPHONE 276-328-2321
FAX 276-328-9780

P.O. BOX 570
206 E. MAIN STREET

RESOLUTION
MICHAEL D. CHANDLER MEMORIAL BRIDGE

- WHEREAS, the Wise County Board of Supervisors is extremely proud of their citizens, both past and present; and
- WHEREAS, Michael D. Chandler, a resident of Big Stone Gap, Virginia, was born on November 13, 1992 and died on November 13, 2021, after being mortally wounded in the line of duty; and
- WHEREAS, Michael D. Chandler graduated from Powell Valley High School in 2011. He was the last person to score a touchdown for the Powell Valley Vikings; and
- WHEREAS, Michael D. Chandler began his service to his community, following in the footsteps of many generations of Chandlers with service to Wise County, by joining the Big Stone Gap Fire Department in 2015; and
- WHEREAS, Michael D. Chandler was an active outdoorsman, who enjoyed hunting, fishing, and the beautiful mountains in our region; and
- WHEREAS, Michael D. Chandler developed a passion for serving his fellow citizens, when he then joined the Big Stone Gap Police Department in January of 2019, where he served faithfully and loyally; and
- WHEREAS, Michael D. Chandler was married to Natasha Chandler and was a loving father to his daughter, Kamryn Elizabeth Chandler; and
- WHEREAS, Michael D. Chandler was full of life and dedication to his family and community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wise County Board of Supervisors wishes to show its sincere appreciation and respect for Michael D. Chandler and respectfully requests the Commonwealth Transportation Board and the Virginia Department of Transportation to formally designate and name the bridge located on E. Spring Street, South (Route 613) near the intersection of E. Spring Street, South and Catcher Lane (Structure No. 6151) and crosses over the South Fork of the Powell River in the Town of Big Stone Gap, Virginia as the "Michael D. Chandler Memorial Bridge" to commemorate and honor Michael D. Chandler and allow a permanent sign to be erected to recognize this honor.

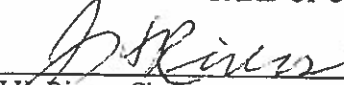
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Wise shall pay all associated expenses in fabricating and future maintenance of the signs.

ADOPTED this the 10th day of August 2023.

ATTEST:


Michael W. Hatfield, Clerk

WISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS


J.H. Rivers, Chairman

Wise County Board of Supervisors



Office of the County Administrator

TELEPHONE (276) 328-2321
FAX (276) 328-9780

Michael W. Hatfield, P.E.

P.O. BOX 570
WISE, VA 24293

WISE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

September 18, 2023

Virginia Department of Transportation
Wise Residency
Attn: Glenn M. Cantrell, Eng. Tech., Sr. – Permits
703 Hurricane Road, NE
Wise, Virginia 24293

Dear Mr. Cantrell:

This is to confirm that Wise County Board of Supervisors agrees to pay for the fabrication, installation, and future maintenance for the signage for the following bridge naming:

“Michael D. Chandler Memorial Bridge” – Resolution adopted September 14, 2023

If you should need anything further in this matter, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael W. Hatfield".

Michael W. Hatfield, P.E.
County Administrator

MWH/bm

Proposed Bridge Naming

Michael D. Chandler Memorial Bridge


GPS: 36.520716, -82.454961

Route 613 - E. Spring Street South

Structure No.: 6151

Over: South Fork of Powell River


Legend

 Proposed Bridge to be named

Google Earth

200 ft

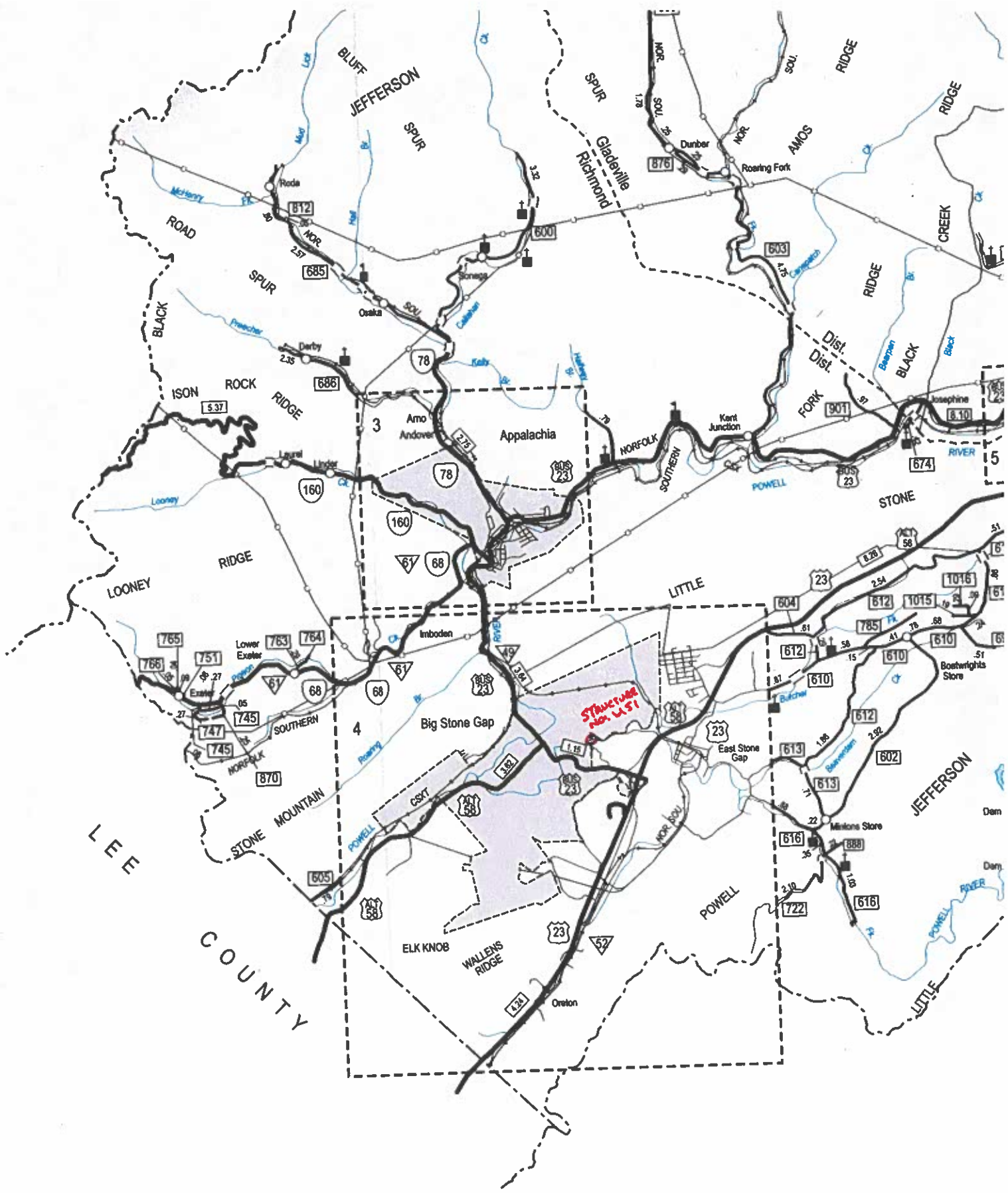


 Proposed Bridge Naming

613

Spring St

Catcher Ln



82° 45' W

