



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## *Lexington-Rockbridge General District Court*

20 South Randolph Street, Suite 200

Lexington, Virginia 24450

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CHRISTOPHER M. BILLIAS  
JUDGE

WILLIAM H. CLEAVELAND  
JUDGE

RUPEN R. SHAH  
JUDGE

ROBIN J. MAYER  
JUDGE

JACQUELINE MILLER  
CLERK

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Dear Counsel:

On January 25, 2024, the court received documents and heard argument on issues left unresolved in its opinion of January 19, 2024, and, in addition, issues that have been presented in connection with appeals noted by the parties. After considering such documents and arguments, the court rules as set out below.

The County is awarded costs of care and boarding in the amount of \$45,563.46.

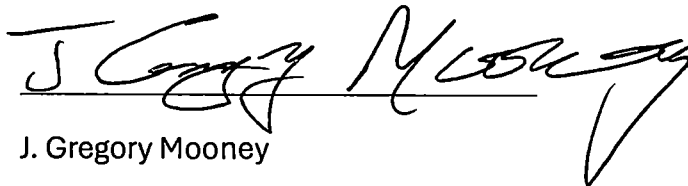
The County is granted the right to make unannounced inspections of Natural Bridge Zoo for a period of six months.

With respect to the four giraffes, respondents' objection to jurisdiction is overruled. The County's motion for physical possession is denied, but, during the pendency of appeal, the four giraffes are ordered to be subject to the following conditions:

- (A) The giraffes shall remain at the Natural Bridge Zoo;
- (B) The County shall be permitted to make unannounced inspections of the giraffes to ensure their health and safety;
- (C) Those authorized to make such inspections on behalf of the County are the following: Virginia State Police Special Agent Gabriel Spencer or his designee; Amy Phelps and the giraffe vet whom she chooses to accompany her; Amy Taylor.

With respect to an an Appeal Bond, respondents' request for a stay is denied, and the Appeal Bond for the respondents is set at \$55,400, cash or approved surety, which sum represents an estimate of boarding costs for two months at \$27,700 per month.

Entered this 25<sup>th</sup> day of January 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Gregory Mooney", is written over a horizontal line.

J. Gregory Mooney

Retired Judge, 25<sup>th</sup> Judicial District