

Minutes
Floyd County Board of Supervisors
August 27, 2024

1. Called to Order – Chairman Turman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. or thereafter.

2. Opening Prayer – The opening prayer was offered by Supervisor Cox.

3. Pledge of Allegiance – Deputy County Administrator Chiddo offered the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Quorum – Dr. Millsaps called the roll. A quorum was found for all Supervisors.

5. Approval of Agenda –

On a motion by Supervisor Kuchenbuch seconded by Supervisor Bechtold and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as amended with the addition of Closed session under § 2.2-3711 A.7.

6. Approval of Disbursements –

On a motion by Supervisor Boothe seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch and unanimously carried to approve all disbursements as presented on 08/13/2024, 08/22/2024 and 08/23/2024.

7. Approval of minutes –

On a motion by Supervisor Cox, Seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch and unanimously carried as corrected to approve the minutes of 08/13/2024.

8. Presentations:

a. Lydeana Martin, Director of Community and Economic Development

1. Economic Development Update:

Lydeana discussed and presented the following:



Community & Economic Development Update, August 27, 2024

Just Wrapped Up the Growth Wheel today—with 7 Businesses working together to overcome barriers to growth, with a Small Business Development Center coach and ED staff.

The 10th Anniversary of the Floyd C4 kicks off soon!

The seven-week series is set to start Monday, September 13th at 6 p.m. and will continue once a week until the end of October with the Business Pitch Competition in early November. Sessions will last about 2.5 hours and will include hands-on work. The current schedule is shown below.

Business Sessions Sessions to begin at 6 pm and run for 2.5 hours	Date
Planning for Business Success	Mon, Sept 9
Marketing 1	Mon, Sept 16
Marketing 2	Mon, Sept 23
Financials: Revenue, Pricing, & Projections Deep Dive, Part 1	Mon, Sept 30
Financials: Revenue, Pricing, & Projections Deep Dive, Part 2 & How to Pitch	Mon, Oct 7
Financial Management & Business Entity Types	Tue, Oct. 15

Growth Strategies, Goal Setting, ROI, Funding & Capital Raising, and Mentor for a Night	Mon, Oct. 21
Business Plans Due	Mon, Oct 28
Business Pitch Competition	Mon, Nov 4

Those interested in attending can register in advance to secure their spot. Don't miss this chance to turn your business dreams into reality with the support and guidance of the Floyd C4 program. Registration is open through 4:00 P.M. on September 6th and information can be found at <https://bit.ly/FloydC4-2024> or by contacting Tabitha Hodge at thodge@floydcova.gov or 540-745-9352.

3 Grant Applications in the next 30 days:

- **Digital Opportunities**—implementation dollars for training and equipment to help residents capitalize on gig fiber. \$5 million to \$12 million over 4 years. Due September 23. Citizens Telephone Cooperative would be the lead providing a minimum match for things in Floyd County that will drive future digital use (10% or up to \$500,000 in match). Need many partners including some other localities to be successful. Talking with Giles, Carroll and Grayson right now.
 - o Citizens is considering a learning lab for Digital Skills Training
 - o Key partners in that digital skills, training and access to devices/equipment could include New River-Mount Rogers Workforce Development, Jessie Peterman Library, Literacy Volunteers, New River Valley Agency on Aging, Floyd Center for the Arts, Tri-Area Community Health Center, Cooperative Extension (precision farming), Turman's Sports Complex
 - o Digital Skills for small businesses—especially more one-on-one step-by-step digital skills through collaboration with the Small Business Development Center and possibly SERCAP. **I would like to commit some staff time to help market and support this aspect.**
 - o Citizens could seek funding to turn on Cybersecurity for their customers AND provide free **Wi-Fi portal in households they serve for EMS to be able to use in case no cell service for devices.**
 - o **Citizens also willing to add more public Wi-Fi spots in the County?**

- o Requires major evaluation throughout, so probably will partner with Virginia Tech for that

- **CDBG Housing Rehab, Round 2 Construction Application; open submission but plan to submit by the end of September.**

- o **Round 1 construction update:** We are also trying to finish 5 more houses by January on the first phase. It's very complicated work. The most recent house to be bid is a veteran who is almost completely deaf, and it's been challenging, but work will begin in the next week or so.

Economic Development Strategic Plan Update:

The Economic Development Strategic Plan process includes **diving deep into a few topics** that surfaced during the SWOT Analysis. The "deep dive" could be a technical study completed by subject matter experts, a white paper on best practices, and/or facilitation of working groups to form coalitions to advance a topic or initiative. Below were Dr. Millsaps and my recommendations, then approved by the project management team.

Technical Studies

- **Ground Water Study** – *Underway* - VA Tech Civil Engineering is doing the study. A kickoff meeting has been held.
- **Understanding the Floyd County Visitor to inform Marketing Strategies** – Develop a profile of visitors to Floyd County using data tools like geofencing and collaborations with retail, accommodation, and entertainment businesses. This could help identify opportunities for other types of local businesses.
- **Options and Best Practices for Small Centralized Water and Wastewater systems** for our topography and soil types, to support the development of housing developments of up to 10 units.

Working Groups/Focus Group

- **Makerspace** – A working group will be formed to explore pathways to developing a makerspace for small-scale manufacturing/artists (design and production) that includes wrap-around services to scale entrepreneurial ventures (e.g., collaborative marketing, finance, HR, etc.) and could include a strategy to elevate the "Made in Floyd" brand. This could be a partnership with public schools, community college, nonprofits like Floyd Center for the Arts, private businesses, and defense contracting. Think of innovation/arts spaces such as Forge in Greensboro, NC, John Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, NC, and Penland School of Craft, Bakersville, NC.

- **Outdoor Economy** – A working group will be formed to explore significant opportunities with the outdoor economy. It could be positioning the Buffalo Mountain Natural Area Preserve to be a state park, plans to connect Floyd to the Blue Ridge Parkway via a greenway trail system, or a significant public investment that supports private development of outdoor assets such as festival sites.

- **Market Analysis and Support Strategies for Small Business Scaling** – The consulting team will develop a set of recommendations for advancing the market position of farmers, craftspeople, and retail sellers in Floyd. This could align with the 'elevation of the Made in Floyd brand' and expansion of the farmers' market. It could include assistance and organization for online sellers based in Floyd, marketing strategies and branding, and specialized business coaching. The strategies will be vetted with a focus group of small businesses and entrepreneurs.

Best Practices/White Paper

- **Remote Worker/Digital Skills Training Program** – Some states and communities have training programs for remote workers to develop digital skills. The goal would be to train Floyd County residents who now out-commute to work remotely so more of their income stays in Floyd County. This will be a best practices paper showcasing example programs

Part of the Comprehensive Planning Process

- **Housing** – Housing has been studied in Floyd County in many capacities – market analysis, ordinance updates, vacancy report, etc. Because there are so many housing initiatives in the early stages, it is not timely to define a technical study this fall. It may be appropriate to convene a working group during the comprehensive planning process to raise awareness and elevate the community conversation around housing initiatives, perhaps including inviting speakers to Floyd, compiling an asset map of current actors and projects in the housing area, looking at best practices, etc.

Other Updates:

- **Floyd Regional Commerce Center Phase 2 Road and Utilities: Awaiting final approval of VDOT and US EDA of bid documents; the latter is dependent on SAM reactivating the County account (challenge because of our move)**

- **Floyd Growth Center Building 1: Beginning new round of advertising for 5,250 SF space available**

- **Comp Plan Community Engagement Survey** shared with media last week.

- **Much to update on related to Water Monitoring**

•**International Woodworking Fair in Atlanta with Virginia Economic Development Partnership met with 6 businesses plus the Appalachian Hardwood Association.**

•**Along with Onward NRV, met individually with 7 Site Selectors to talk about regions and communities.**

•**Continue work with Citizens in implementing VATI 2023 funding for private roads/shared driveways.**

Check out our monthly Staff Reports in your Correspondence folder.

9. Public Comment

No Public Comment at this time.

10. Old Business:

- a. Task Order – Floyd County and New River Valley Regional Commission Comprehensive Plan.

Lydeana Martin gave the board a recap and history of their involvement in the Task Order.

On a motion by Supervisor Bechtold, Seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch and unanimously carried, to approve the Floyd County Comprehensive Update Task Order Amendment #1 and the signing of such document by designated County Staff.

11. Closed:

On a motion by Supervisor Boothe and Seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch and unanimously carried to enter into closed session under § 2.2-3711 A.1, § 2.2-3711 A.3, §2.2-3711 A.5, §2.2-3711 A.6 and § 2.2-3711 A.7.

Supervisor Boothe – yes

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes

Supervisor Bechtold – yes
Supervisor Cox – yes
Supervisor Turman – yes

- a. § 2.2-3711 A.1 Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body; and evaluation of performance of departments or schools of public institutions of higher education where such evaluation will necessarily involve discussion of the performance of specific individuals. Any teacher shall be permitted to be present during a closed meeting in which there is a discussion or consideration of a disciplinary matter that involves the teacher and some student, and the student involved in the matter is present, provided the teacher makes a written request to be present to the presiding officer of the appropriate board. Nothing in this subdivision, however, shall be construed to authorize a closed meeting by a local governing body or an elected school board to discuss compensation matters that affect the membership of such body or board collectively. Personnel

Supervisor Boothe – yes
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Bechtold – yes
Supervisor Cox – yes
Supervisor Turman – yes

- b. § 2.2-3711 A.3 – Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body. Manufacturing and OAA

Supervisor Boothe – yes
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Bechtold – yes
Supervisor Cox – yes
Supervisor Turman - yes

- c. § 2.2-3711 A.5 - Discussion concerning a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community. Manufacturing

Supervisor Boothe – yes
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Bechtold – yes
Supervisor Cox – yes
Supervisor Turman - yes

- d. § 2.2-3711 A.6 - Discussion or consideration of the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be adversely affected. Community Development

Supervisor Boothe – yes
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Bechtold – yes
Supervisor Cox – yes
Supervisor Turman - yes

- e. § 2.2-3711 A.7 - Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in an open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body. For the purposes of this subdivision, "probable litigation" means litigation that has been specifically threatened or on which the public body or its legal counsel has a reasonable basis to believe will be commenced by or against a known party. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to permit the closure of a meeting merely because an attorney representing the public body is in attendance or is consulted on a matter. Construction Dispute

Supervisor Boothe – yes
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Bechtold – yes
Supervisor Cox – yes
Supervisor Turman - yes

On a motion by Supervisor Kuchenbuch and Seconded by Supervisor Bechtold and unanimously carried, the Board voted to come out of closed session.

Supervisor Boothe – yes
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Bechtold – yes
Supervisor Cox – yes
Supervisor Turman – yes

On a motion by Supervisor Boothe and seconded by Supervisor Cox and unanimously carried, the Board certified that the Board of Supervisors only discussed those matters that they entered into closed session for.

Supervisor Boothe – yes
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Bechtold – yes
Supervisor Cox – yes
Supervisor Turman - yes

12. New Business

a. Animal Control Bid:

A conversation ensued while reviewing the bids, by the Board. After further discussion, it was agreed that this bid would be tabled until the 09/10/2024 Board meeting.

b. Landfill Basin Bid.

On a motion by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, seconded by Supervisor Bechtold and unanimously carried, to approve Shortt's Excavating Inc. for Landfill Basin Bid and allow appropriate County Staff signatures.

Add to clause section of proposal: if reseeding is a need there will be additional costs.

- c. Appointment of the New River Valley Community Action Local Government seat for a two-year term.

On a motion by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, Seconded by Supervisor Boothe and unanimously carried, to approve the appointment of Jason Tolkaz for a two-year term for the Local Government seat for the New River Valley Community Action Board.

- d. County Administrator Linda Millsaps discussed the request to purchase aluminum bleachers for Parks and Recreation.

A conversation ensued and Deputy County Administrator Kim Chiddo explained the cost of wood replacement in comparison to aluminum bleachers and long-term cost savings.

On a motion by Supervisor Boothe and seconded by Supervisor Bechtold and unanimously carried to approve the purchase of the 6 bleachers, accessories, and labor up to \$25,000.00 utilizing ARPA funding.

12. Board Time:

Supervisor Boothe requested to revisit the ARPA appropriation at the next Board meeting.

Supervisor Turman stated that something needs to be done on the previously discussed road, Moore Road. Moore Roads needs immediate attention as there recently were 3 car wrecks. After discussion, the Board unanimously authorized the County Administrator Ms. Millsaps, to contact VDOT, David Clarke to discuss and revisit the seriousness of this. A speed reduction should be requested which should force a speed study.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch stated that she has been thinking about this for a while and really thought through the process from the hearing regarding Runnett Bag Rd.

A conversation continued with the Board members each discussing their thoughts about the issue.

On a motion by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, seconded by Supervisor Cox and unanimously approved to not abandon State Route 792 Runnett Bag Rd, approximately 1.4 miles, more or less, from the intersection of discontinued State Route 637 to the Franklin County Line.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes

Supervisor Cox – yes

Supervisor Boothe – yes

Supervisor Bechtold – yes

Supervisor Turman - yes

17. Correspondence –

Deputy County Administrator/CFO Chiddo updated the board that there are no documents in correspondence at this time.

13. Administrator Report: Dr. Linda Millsaps, County Administrator.

Dr. Millsaps presented and discussed the following PowerPoint presentation:

County Administrator's Report August 27, 2024



FLOYD
VIRGINIA



- Out of County Permit update
- Franklin Pike and Willis Convenient Center
- Parks and Recreation review
 - Fields
 - Planning
- Equipment Committee 09/24/2024
- EMS update
- Festival Permits update
- Drive Outdoor Grant
- Acceptable Use Policy - New

Out of County Permit update



Agreement with Franklin County to provide Green box Services to their residents in a selected area.

The agreement was made some years ago when the subdivision was developed.

Residents in the area can apply for a permit. This can be displayed when they use a Floyd County green box.

Franklin County pays Floyd for this service.

In 2022:

97 Permits were "active"

Received \$11,640 from Franklin County

So far in 2024:

Fifteen (15) Permit Applications received to date

Jenny is following up on this process

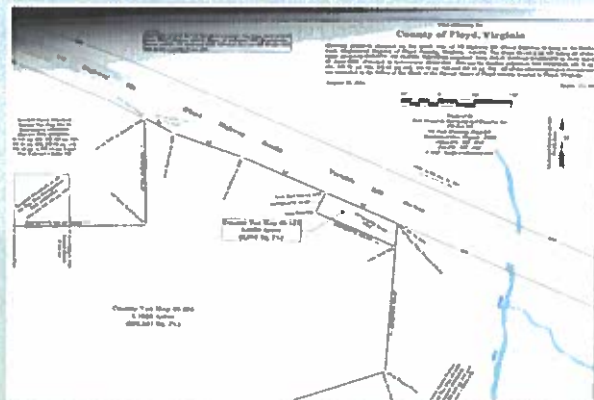
Franklin Pike and Willis Convenience Centers

Franklin Pike:

- Rework in progress

Willis Site:

- Survey Complete
- Forestry Assistance Requested for Management Plan and Clearing as Needed



Parks and Recreation review: Fields



Floyd Elementary



Willis and Indian Valley Still
To Come!



Check Elementary



Parks and Recreation Planning

- Met with Regional Planning Staff
- Increased roles for both the Board of Supervisors and the Community
- Look at opportunities
- Funded by Forestry Grant and Tides Foundation Funds



Equipment Committee 09/24/2024

- To review and evaluate the county's vehicle fleet.
- Historically go to all locations for fire, EMS, and Rescue.
- Modified this year to only review in person:
 - Rescue
 - Solid Waste
- Will have in-person meetings with others as needed.



Drive Outdoor Grant

Eligible Program Expenses

Overall Requirements

- All items must support Outdoor Recreation product development
- Structures must be non-permanent or removable
- Signage must be non-permanent or removable
- Equipment can be purchased or rented and does not have to be removable (See ineligible list for equipment exclusions)

Research

- Feasibility studies to study the viability or possibility of an outdoor rec tourism product in an area

Outdoor Recreation Development

- Non-permanent/temporary restroom facilities
- Non-permanent camp/rest site preparation materials
- Gravel, picnic tables, benches, portable grills, campfire rings, and railroad ties for site framing
- Trail Connections/ Paths
- Rental of equipment to clear the path, gravel for the path (no asphalt or concrete pavement)
- Surface markings (According to your local/state/federal guidelines)
- Non-permanent water access
- Modular floating kayak launch like [EZ Dock](#) or [YakPort](#) (must have the ability to be moved, but can be tethered to the shoreline)

Drive Outdoor Grant

Eligible Program Expenses

Events

- Non-permanent staging
- Site preparation
- Tables, chairs, umbrellas, lighting, portable generators

Non-Permanent Signage

- Non-permanent Banners
- Permanent signage such as that required by VDOT and permanent crosswalk markings are not permitted. (We recommend applying for the DCR Recreational Trails program for funding for these items)

Business Expansion

- Entrepreneurial workshops in community, where funds will be used, on eligible expenses by entrepreneurs (excludes Wages, meals, room rental for internal meetings or workshops)

Other

- Portable heaters
- Rental Equipment for tasks or site prep such as trucks, trailers
- Self-serve kayak rental lockers
- Water Activity Equipment
- Kayaks, Canoes, SUPs, PFDs (Excludes motorized boats)
- Biking
- Bikes for rental (excludes Lime, Bird, etc.)
- Portable bike racks and equipment storage
- Turnkey Bike repair stations
- Bike Equipment (Helmets, other gear)
- Accessibility equipment
- Trail wheelchairs or beach wheelchairs
- Non-permanent/temporary wheelchair ramps
- Outfitter/Tour Guide Equipment
- Modification to the existing trailer for outdoor equipment transporting (ex. Trailer modified for kayak transporting)

Permanent Structures

- Permanent fixtures, signage, or buildings
- Permanent structures (paved surfaces, permanent kayak launches)

Studies for pre-determined/specific structures on predesignated land/area of locality

- Example: A study for a specific business in a specific location
- Environmental Design studies

Marketing Expenses

- Including, but not limited to Digital advertising (social media, website design, banner ads, search engine advertising or optimization such as Google AdWords), FAM Tours, permanent banners, photography, and video equipment or creation. (We recommend applying for Virginia Tourism Corporation's Marketing Leverage Program for these expenses)
- LOVEwork creation or placement

Administrative Costs or Equipment

- Administrative costs such as office space, salaries, personnel costs, office supplies, office equipment, vehicles, and other cost of doing business expenses
- Insurance expenses
- Mileage expenses
- Vehicles/Trucks/Trailers
- Registration/conference fees

Drive Outdoor Grant

Ineligible Program Expenses



EMS Update

- Approved our pharmacy room, documentation system, and security measures. He has stamped his approval on moving forward with the Va. Board of Pharmacy application.
- He also approved the EMD plan and completed the needed paperwork.
- Continuing Conversations with volunteer rescue.
- Working on equipment -related paperwork.
- More changes to be announced next month.

Festival Permits update

- Living Traditions Festival – Floyd Center for the Arts (Complete)
- Yoga Jam (Upcoming)
- Mountain Valor (Upcoming)



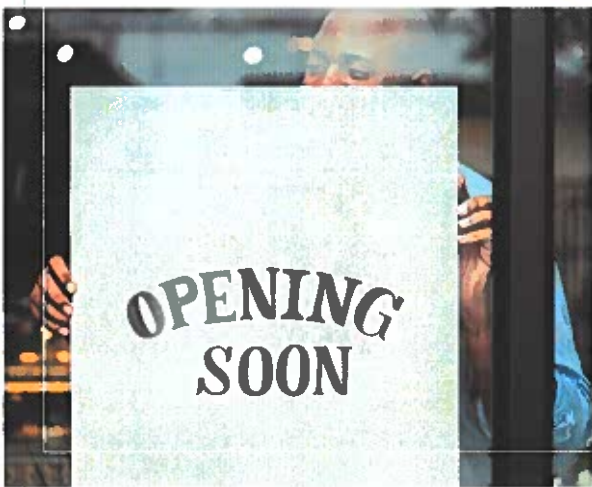
Acceptable Use Policy - New

7 benefits of an acceptable use policy

1. Informs employees of the rules of the road
2. Limits an organization's legal liability and protects against legal action
3. Controls personal use of an organization's resources
4. Can help with cost control by limiting use of resources, such as storage and bandwidth
5. Helps secure an organization's computing resources and data from cyber attacks and data breaches
6. Helps prevent compliance violations
7. Protects an organization's reputation from intentional or inadvertent employee actions



Growth strategy



Floyd business development program open for registration

Registration is open for the 10th annual Floyd C4 Business Development series, a free educational program designed to help Floyd County residents start or grow their businesses.

The series begins Sept. 9 and runs through early November. According to a news release announcing the program, it's organized by the Floyd County Economic Development Authority, with support from the Floyd County Board of Supervisors.

Participants will have access to business counselors, study business principles, and compete for cash prizes for the best business plans and pitches.

Registration is open through 4 p.m. Sept. 6. For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/FloydC4-2024> or contact Tabitha Hodge at thodge@floydcova.gov or 540-745-9352.

18. Adjournment:

On a motion by Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Cox and unanimously carried for the approval to adjourn the meeting until the next scheduled meeting of 09/10/2024, 8:30 a.m.



Dr. Linda Millsaps, County Administrator



Joe Turman, Chairman

