

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 11, 2018**

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Floyd County, Virginia, held on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. in the Board Room of the County Administration Building thereof;

PRESENT: Lauren D. Yoder, Chairman; Joe D. Turman, Vice Chairman; Jerry W. Boothe, W. Justin Coleman, and Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch, Board Members; Terri W. Morris, County Administrator; Cynthia Ryan, Assistant County Administrator.

Chairman Yoder called the meeting to order at 8:50 a.m. with the reading of the handicapping statement.

Agenda Item 2. – Opening Prayer.

The Opening Prayer was led by Supervisor Coleman.

Agenda Item 3. – Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item 4. – Approval of minutes of November 15, 2018 and November 27, 2018.

On a motion of Supervisor Kuchenbuch, seconded by Supervisor Coleman, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the minutes of November 15, 2018 amended to reflect that Supervisor Coleman voted “yes” to agenda items 7.c. and 7.d. and the minutes of November 27 as presented.

Supervisor Boothe – yes
Supervisor Coleman – yes
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Turman – yes
Supervisor Yoder – yes

Agenda Item 5. – Approval of monthly disbursements.

Questions and discussion followed.

On a motion of Supervisor Kuchenbuch, seconded by Supervisor Coleman, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the December 2018 monthly disbursements as presented.

Supervisor Boothe – yes
Supervisor Coleman – yes
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Turman – yes
Supervisor Yoder – yes

Agenda Item 7.a. – Subdivision plats as approved for November 2018.

Ms. Martin handed out the November 2018 subdivision plat report.

Ms. Martin – I need to ask you for authority to submit the Telecommunications application. Before you approved sending out a request for proposals for a telecommunications provider. We only received one proposal, which was from Citizens Telephone. We have been working with them on that application which is due Friday. The estimate I have of the total project cost is \$925,000.00 give or take. Citizens will pick up 62% of that and in the grant we would be requesting 38%. The County will have in-kind staff time involved. I need to request that you would authorize us to submit the application with the County being the applicant and Citizens being the co-applicant.

Chairman Yoder – This would be serving areas that currently don't have internet service.

Ms. Martin displayed a map and showed the areas that would be affected if the grant was awarded, which is the most northern part of Floyd County.

Ms. Martin – Citizens has already taken fiber down most of Rt. 221. A number of people, particularly in the Twin Falls area, only have hot spots from cell phone service and satellite service which is very expensive. This would be a huge upgrade for that whole area.

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Coleman, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to authorize the County Administrator to submit an application for a Telecommunications grant with the County as applicant and Citizens Telephone Cooperative as co-applicant.

Supervisor Boothe – yes
Supervisor Coleman – yes
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Turman – yes
Supervisor Yoder – yes

Ms. Martin – Unfortunately I need to give you a “heads up” on less encouraging news on the Floyd Regional Commerce Center Phase II, which is building the road and utilities into the 51 acres. Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) handles the Appalachian Regional Commission funds – the \$1,080,000.00 that we were awarded for the road. VDOT has estimated their own work for planning and engineering. They want a commitment from us for \$101,000.00 over the four year period to be the last dollars if the grant dollars are not enough. We also have over \$400,000.00 from the Tobacco Commission for the utilities to go in and if the utility bids come in low that money could be used to cover VDOT's costs.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – This is like asking for money thinking we will go over and making sure their money is there.

Ms. Martin – That is exactly what it is.

Supervisor Boothe – That is like saying, “Go ahead and charge whatever you want and we will cover it.” I am not going to support that.

Chairman Yoder – What happens if we say “no.”

Ms. Martin – We don’t need a vote today but they are working on an agreement that comes to us. The agreement would be you saying that would be covered if it is needed. There may be some wiggle room in there, because when he first notified me by email he said, “let me know if this number is a problem.” When I talked to Jay Guy at VDOT he wasn’t particularly soft on the topic. Maybe the conversation needs to be at a higher level. The Regional Commission is helping us administer this because VDOT wanted approximately \$400,000.00 to do all of it. We are going to do it ourselves. Mr. Guy said our inexperience, since we never administered one of these before, is the reason they are estimating high. They think they will have to help us a lot. We just have to make sure we do it all legally. That is the main reason we would have to ask for help. When I have a draft agreement from them that may be the appropriate time for you to invite VDOT to come and talk about it.

Agenda Item 6.b. – Public Comment Period.

Chairman Yoder called for the Public Comment Period.

Mr. Bob Smith, Indian Valley District – The subject today and many days in here is high-density cluster development. Without a doubt, we are looking at the most consequential and I think risky decision the Board of Supervisors will be taking in many years. The impact of this decision will no doubt be long-term and irreversible. Once the door to high-density development in Floyd County is opened, there will be no return. Why in a rural and primarily agricultural area would there be demand for high-density development? Would these housing units provide living space for homeowners or become inexpensive rental units for low-income renters? Would such housing not have the negative and suppressive effect of pushing down wages and benefits for the workers who both reside and work in Floyd County? Unless this measure is restrained, we will eventually be subject to an ever greater level of taxation, more regulations, increased crowding of our roads and schools, greater demand on infrastructure and change in the demographic composition of our population. If the goal is the preservation of Floyd County, there is no need for such a drastic change in our subdivision ordinance. What Floyd County really needs is high-value, upscale development in the form of vineyards, office parks, horse farms and private estates; not cheap and crowded apartments. Vote “no” on cluster development and high-density housing in Floyd County. Thank you.

Hearing no further comments, Chairman Yoder declared the Public Comment Period closed.

Agenda Item 6.a. – Constitutional Officers Reports.

Sheriff Brian Craig – On the 20th we will have 4 graduating from the Academy and then they will have another 3 months of field training. It will be exciting to get them out on the road and finally be to where we should be. We’ve dealt with snow storms. I truly enjoy working with Kevin Sowers, our Emergency Services Coordinator. He does an outstanding job at what he

does and he helps us out a tremendous amount. If we get a call on some roads it is impossible for our vehicles to get there. We have to shovel a path, but if we have a National Guard unit here they can get us, fire, and rescue there. He is always thinking about the safety of the community. We are grateful for that.

Chairman Yoder – As Emergency Director he has definitely made my job easier, especially with his sense of humor in stressful times.

Sheriff Craig – We were fortunate in this last snow storm that most people stayed home. When I drove around about 20 farm vehicles was all I saw.

Chairman Yoder – VDOT did a great job. All the roads I drove had at least one lane that was pretty passable with four-wheel drive within 12 hours after the event. With this storm they had a lot of warning.

Sheriff Craig – Traffic accidents were minimal and there were a handful of vehicles stuck. Fire and Rescue were ready to help. Overall we have a great group of first responders.

Chairman Yoder – A lot of the work is unseen, because even if they don't get a call, every station and squad does a lot of work to get ready.

Agenda Item 7.c. – Consideration of Frederick County resolution concerning tax exemptions.

Ms. Morris – This is a resolution from Frederick County concerning tax exemption changes. They are proposing that all the existing exemptions be terminated as of July 2024 and it would allow the localities to decide on those. I showed you the 17 pages in State Code of the different exemptions. They are hoping that this would put everyone on a level playing field and subject everybody to the same criteria. One of the things they talked about at the meeting is that they would like all of these different organizations to come back every three years and renew their requests to the locality for the exemptions to make sure they are still in compliance. Just for curiosity I looked over all of our tax exempt properties in the County. Of course most of these were County, School, church, and cemetery properties; but we have over \$112 million in value of properties which is \$675,000.00 in tax loss. There are a few in here that, in my opinion, should be reconsidered.

Supervisor Boothe – Have we had any discussions with Steve Durbin about if this goes through and we do our review and we run across one that the State approved and they haven't changed their operations, but we don't think it should be that way, what kind of suit are we looking for?

Ms. Morris – All those 17 pages are special exemptions that were requested by legislators to approve for them. Those are the ones that get into the grey area.

Supervisor Boothe – That is my concern.

Chairman Yoder – All this is doing is putting everybody back on a level playing field. I think I would be supportive of that. It is odd to have one County be able to do one thing and another County have to do another thing.

Ms. Morris – It puts it back to a local decision. Of course we would have to follow the guidelines they set. This might be something you want to talk to the legislators about when they come today if you want to defer this item until then.

Chairman Yoder – Are there certain highlights in the Legislative Recommendations we want to discuss with them? They may be able to help us with some of the VDOT items.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – I agree. Not that they haven't heard it before but about how important Rt. 8 is...

Supervisor Boothe – ...Not just upgrading but also maintaining Rt. 8.

Agenda Item 6.c. – Mr. David Clarke, Virginia Department of Transportation.

Mr. Clarke – I talked to Ronald Sowers in the Check area and they have been over everything at least once and cut a path through. We had some good melting yesterday, but it froze solid overnight. We had wind early in the storm, but it dried up quickly so we weren't getting drifting. We may not work a full crew tonight so we can have a full crew tomorrow when there is some good temperatures and sun. But we will probably have to have some out tonight to answer calls and get icy spots. We've done some patching on Conner Grove Road. We were paving up until the storm hit. It was very late getting all of Rt. 8 paved.

Vice Chairman Turman – Will the paving stick with it being as cold as it is?

Mr. Clarke – It is probably not being done per specs. It is supposed to be 50 degrees and rising. We will keep an eye on that.

Supervisor Coleman – Thanks again for the completion of the Rt. 750 project. There are two large sinkholes on White Rock Road that are marked with bright orange paint. I talked to Mr. Sowers about some bridge cleanup on Indian Valley Road at the county line where there is a large amount of brush piled up. I appreciate all the hard work and being able to get out during the storm. Everyone did a great job.

Vice Chairman Turman – Camp Five Road goes through Gardner Road to Indian Valley Road. Some people called about a tree leaning over the road. I called Darrell and talked to him. He said he would take a pole saw and cut it up so it wouldn't be a problem. I think they took care of that, but the guy was really upset because they didn't get road maintenance through there, no gravel or grading. There are only 4 or 5 houses on the road but a lot of people use it as a cut through. Other than that I really appreciate all of your hard work. I can't say enough about the crews in Willis. I got a call about Burks Hollow Road. I talked to them about that one too. One of the storms washed out a culvert and the water is running down the road about a quarter of a mile. Thank you for everything you have done.

Chairman Yoder – I have 2 things. One is Level Bottom Road had a culvert wash out 3 months ago. A few people have called me about that so please take a look at that sometime. The other question I have is on Deer Run Road there is a place with tractor signs. Some of the farmers asked why are the signs located where they are. In between the 2 signs there is nobody farming, but a mile up the road there is more intense farming and a lot of activity. They would like the signs moved down the road. I got out early feeding cows all over the place. I was really impressed with the job VDOT did. Obviously you stayed on it. Within 12 hours after the event on Monday morning a lot of roads were open, even back roads. I really appreciate it.

Mr. Clarke – We had a lot of warning on this storm. You saw predictions all over the place. We knew something big was coming and we were ready. Fortunately we had full crews available. We treated a lot of roads.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – I will echo everyone’s comments. It was a job well done. On brining, is it okay to brine 72 hours out?

Mr. Clarke – We don’t usually do it that far out. Usually we don’t do it more than 48 hours out.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – I really appreciate that you got lines down on Rt. 615. During this snow event it was very helpful. Also on Rt. 615 just past the Little River bridge southbound if you could mark that branch a little bit better. I had a situation develop on Laurel Creek Road where the water was coming off the mountain and undermining the road. The crews got to that right away and fixed it. Job well done. Thank you.

Supervisor Boothe – I want to thank you too. I think everybody did a wonderful job. I have a couple of things. As far as the abandonment at the school we advertised, on an existing road that is a State right-of-way, if we abandon this other section, does VDOT have any requirements for any kind of turnaround?

Mr. Clarke – No, not really. If the County abandons a road, then...

Supervisor Boothe – We would only be abandoning a portion of the road. The lower end going up to Floyd Elementary will still be an open VDOT road. It will go up so far and cut off. I am concerned because there is a little alley way where cars and trucks could turn around if we stay above it, but a delivery van or a panel truck couldn’t use it.

Mr. Clarke – We would prefer before we go through the process...

Supervisor Boothe – Could you look into that?

Mr. Clarke – Yes. We did that in Giles County where we abandoned the end of a road, but the farmer gave us 40’. We need to be able to turn around our trucks if we maintain part of the road.

Supervisor Boothe – The posting for the abandoned road was 2 or 3 trees up. It could be a problem on that end too.

Ms. Morris – The abandonment was to go all the way to Woods Gap Road.

Supervisor Boothe – Shouldn't the sign have been posted at Woods Gap Road then?

Ms. Morris – It was in the ad.

Supervisor Boothe – I know we got in that discussion with Mr. White about where the sign was actually posted. Please doublecheck the rules on that. We may have to re-post it. We can shorten it without another public hearing. But if technically where you put the sign up is where it has to be abandoned, then it was not down at the intersection.

Ms. Morris – As I remember it we just need to put signs at 3 places. I don't know that it has to be right at the end of the abandonment. We have that in our description.

Supervisor Boothe – Hope Road was getting in rough shape before the snow. When things settle down, please look at it because it probably needs machining. They couldn't drive around the holes, they just had to drive through them. Is there a reason that Woods Gap Road was paved over and Barberry Road wasn't? It looked to me that while a crew was patching they would go ahead and do both at the same time.

Mr. Clarke – I'll look into that.

Supervisor Boothe – Did you get a chance to check on the safety study at Wills Ridge?

Mr. Clarke – They haven't returned that yet.

Supervisor Boothe – Don't forget about the culvert by the Little River bridge. It still needs to be cleaned out. While they are there, there is a culvert between there and the mill that probably also needs to be cleaned out. We still have some guardrails on Rt. 8 that are about to topple over.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – Same thing on Rt. 615 at the county line. There are a lot of culverts that need the debris to be cleaned out.

Supervisor Boothe – Any progress on the ditching permits for Gallimore Lane?

Mr. Clarke – I don't know. I will have to check.

Supervisor Boothe – There were several things that Anthony was supposed to get back to me on, like the explanation on Dusty Rock Road and why part of it was allowed to reduce speed and another part wasn't. This goes back to May and June and I still don't have a response. Please look into it.

Ms. Ryan – We just received a phone call from someone asking that plowing be done on Mill Run Road near the intersection with Epperly Mill Road. On Sumpter Circle there is an open

manhole. It looks like when it was plowed the lid was picked up and carried off. I called the Public Service Authority but wanted to let VDOT know too.

Ms. Morris – The caller for Mill Run Road said it had not been plowed at all.

Agenda Item 6.d. – Mr. Scott Wickham – Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates.

Mr. Wickham – The audit went well again this year. I am going to go over the audit report first:

- 1) The report has gotten about 20 pages longer due to new standards, the OPEB (Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions) standard was more cumbersome than we expected;
- 2) On pages 2-4 we have the Independent Auditor's Report and you have an unmodified opinion, which is the best opinion that you can get. It means we feel comfortable with the numbers presented here and that they are materially accurate;
- 3) The impact for you because of OPEB was about \$300,000.00 for the County and about \$2.6 million for the School Board;
- 4) On page 5 is the Balance Sheet on full accrual accounting, which includes everything – all the County assets and all the County debt, with a column for the County, a column for the School Board and a column for EDA;
- 5) Across the bottom is the unrestricted net position. Having \$7.1 million available to use is pretty strong. That number includes the OPEB and the net pension liability;
- 6) The negative \$20 million for the School Board includes the OPEB number and the pension liability for the School Board which is significant;
- 7) About 3 or 4 years ago we started reporting the pension liability and that made it negative for all School Boards because they share one big pool. The budget with the State allows them to pay a lower rate. The School Board pays the rate they are supposed to, but the State said let's make everybody pay 6% even though the actuaries tells us it should be 10%. Also the stock market didn't do as well as they wanted it to for a while;
- 8) On page 7 is the balance sheet for the County on a much shorter term of 60-day payables;
- 9) You have an unassigned fund balance in the general fund of \$8.5 million; negative \$1.1 in Fire and Rescue because you are spending more money than the tax portion generated; and have a total of \$7.3 million unassigned;
- 10) The unassigned number is a good number to watch because those are the funds you actually have to use;
- 11) You might want to address Fire and Rescue at some point by transferring funds or raising the percent of tax to that fund;
- 12) On page 9 is the income statement on the short term accrual basis – they are close to cash, for example capital asset purchases are shown as expenditures;
- 13) On page 90, note 21 mentions OPEB and the impact of the restatement of net position;
- 14) Note 22 discusses new standards coming up. Fiduciary Activities will probably bring the activity funds from the School Board onto the report. Leases will have an impact for most entities. It used to be capital leases and operating leases and now it is just leases. All leases are a liability now and you will recognize the liability and either the capital asset or the right to use something;
- 15) On pages 132-133 is the Government Auditing Standards report, which talks about our compliance testing for the State and Federal governments and general auditing tests;

- 16) We have two issues reported which we reported previously. I have seen improvement but there is still more that needs to be gotten together. We had some adjusting entries, but in general I was happy with what we got;
- 17) In the Treasurer's Office there is limited staff so the Treasurer does a lot of the collections and other things;
- 18) On pages 134-135 is the opinion on the federal funds and this is a clean opinion. It is always good to have a clean federal opinion;
- 19) On pages 136-137 is the list of federal programs;
- 20) On page 2 of the handout is a five year trend so you can see where things are heading;
- 21) An annualized growth rate for property taxes is 4.7%;
- 22) Total revenues are about 3.6%;
- 23) The intergovernmental which is State and Federal there is about a 1.2% increase per year, which makes the County an outlier and shows you are doing a good job in getting all the grants. I have seen intergovernmental decline in most localities. I hope you keep that trend going but be prepared that may not be an on-going trend. A lot of localities have had to increase taxes significantly to offset a decrease in State and Federal funding. Good job to your staff in getting those grants that are out there and hopefully you can keep that up;
- 24) Operating expenditures increased about 3.5% which mirrors the revenue growth;
- 25) Across the bottom is the fund balance so you see a growth of 16%;
- 26) \$1.1 million of the \$1.5 million expenditures over revenues in 2018 is actually restricted funds. It looks bad but you used restricted accounts set aside for those purposes during the year;
- 27) Good growth in the fund balance on the whole;
- 28) On page 3 of the handout is the unassigned fund balance and there is about a 15% growth;
- 29) A lot of times we use total expenditures to gauge where you are financially and the funding balance as a percent of operating expenditures shows you are at 26%;
- 30) Generally we want localities to be at 25% and if you have some projects coming that you plan to use cash on hand for and not finance then you might want to be closer to 30%;
- 31) You are right in line with where you probably want to be, but if you plan to do projects you might want to build it up a little bit more;
- 32) On page 4 is a trend of your tax assessments;
- 33) Assessments have grown about 3%;
- 34) On a State average the local taxes per capita is about \$1,148 per capita; southwest Virginia is about \$842 per capita; Floyd County is about \$765 so you are below average for taxes per capita;
- 35) On page 5 is a five year trend of all debt, including accrued leave, OPEB, pension liability;
- 36) The State average is about \$3,918; southwest Virginia is about \$3,255; and Floyd County is \$2,389 per capita so you are well below averages for debt;
- 37) On pages 6-7 is the same information we just went over but in a graphic form, but the increased funding for education and public safety is very obvious;
- 38) On page 9 is information about the School Fund we don't worry about the fund balance as much as the revenue and expenditure trends. Their expenditures have gone up less than 3% which is a pretty good job. Your local government contribution has gone up 2.25% which is pretty reasonable and higher than the State contribution increase;
- 39) On page 11 is the cost per capita by function which again shows the increase in public safety and education;

- 40) To compare yourself to other Counties you can look at the Auditor of Public Accounts (APA's) Comparative Cost Report for FY2017, but it does include 110s which are regional organizations so you need to look at Floyd in the Comparative Cost report to other counties;
- 41) I feel good about the financial condition of Floyd County, hopefully we can keep this trend of maintaining the fund balance but at the same time getting done the smaller projects that you want. You might want to increase fund balance to do larger projects;
- 42) On page 12 is the County's and School Board's pension liability and it shows the large difference in estimate based on the discount rate assumed. You use 7% but it shows what happens if the market is 1% higher or lower than the amount you use. The market is all over the place and this estimate is very sensitive;
- 43) On page 13 is a similar view of the OPEB;
- 44) On page 14-15 is the report of additional testing required by the State on the Virginia Retirement System on the County and School Board and it all came back clean;
- 45) On pages 16-17 we have management recommendations on small reconciling items with Social Services and several new accounts set up by the Treasurer's Office were not set up as public deposits, which is required by the Code of Virginia to provide additional protection beyond Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation coverage;
- 46) Again we reported that the School Board did not follow the procurement process for fuel purchases;
- 47) On pages 18-20 we communicate with those charged with governance we report the new standards that went into effect and the significant estimates of depreciation and the allowance for doubtful accounts;
- 48) In total the audit went very well. The County is currently as reported in good financial condition. The fund balance is right where I like for it to be. Keep up the good work.

On a motion of Supervisor Kuchenbuch, seconded by Supervisor Boothe, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to accept the FY18 audit as presented.

Supervisor Boothe – yes
 Supervisor Coleman – yes
 Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
 Supervisor Turman – yes
 Supervisor Yoder – yes

Agenda Item 8. – Old/New Business.

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to amend the agenda to allow the Electoral Board and Registrar to address the Board.

Supervisor Boothe – yes
 Supervisor Coleman – yes
 Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
 Supervisor Turman – yes
 Supervisor Yoder – yes

Ms. Tammy Belinsky – We planned to be here the day of the ice storm and we could not make it. We wanted to tell you after the election that we were short on having ballots at the precincts, but we got them out to the precincts in a timely manner. We look at our previously

similar elections and we judge the turnout. We had 6400 ballots that were distributed and used for central and absentee voting and we had 6771 voters, but we did have the capacity to get the extra ballots out to the precincts. It made it exciting and interesting, but we don't want to do it again. We had to do some hand counting because ballots were printed on legal size paper that the machines could not read. Ms. Amy Ingram handed out a paper that showed voter turnout precinct by precinct. We had parking issues at the high school and Floyd Elementary School because there was a scheduled regional meeting that day and they had not considered that voting was going on. We will meet with the Superintendent so we can plan for the future.

Chairman Yoder – Is the absentee voting from certain districts or is it across the board? I ask because I hear more complaints from certain districts about the location. I especially hear about voters who live along Rt. 8 who have to drive all the way to Indian Valley Elementary School.

Ms. Belinsky – I think we had more absentee voters from the Little River district, but they have more voters. Usually it is Indian Valley, but I don't think it varied too widely between districts. I think the overall turnout was about 63%.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – Staff did a great job. It turned out well. You hit it out of the park on this one.

Supervisor Boothe – I think this is the first election where I did not receive any complaints. In these larger districts are we looking at a secondary location? It is something to prepare for.

Ms. Ingram – You have to split a precinct if it is over 4500.

Supervisor Boothe – Pretty soon we will be back to redistricting and it is something to start planning for.

Ms. Ingram – I see it coming if you want to be convenient and serve the voters. We have to look at handicap accessibility for voters. We want to stay out of public safety buildings.

Ms. Belinsky – Let us get back to you on the Code requirements. It is something to consider when we are redistricting.

Agenda Item 6.e. – Closed Session.

On a motion made by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and seconded by Supervisor Turman, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to go into closed session under Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph 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.

Supervisor Boothe – yes

Supervisor Coleman – yes

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes

Supervisor Turman – yes

Supervisor Yoder – yes

On a motion of Supervisor Turman, seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to come out of closed session.

Supervisor Boothe – yes
Supervisor Coleman – yes
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Turman – yes
Supervisor Yoder – yes

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Turman, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt the following certification resolution:

**CERTIFICATION RESOLUTION
CLOSED MEETING**

WHEREAS, this Board convened in a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote on the motion to close the meeting to discuss Personnel in accordance with Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph A.1 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act;

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act were heard, discussed or considered in the closed meeting to which this certification applies; and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting to which this certification applies.

Supervisor Boothe – yes
Supervisor Coleman – yes
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Turman – yes
Supervisor Yoder – yes

This certification resolution was adopted.

Agenda Item 6.f. – Ms. Susan Icové and Mr. Jonathan Vandergrift – Floyd Initiative for Safe Housing (FISH).

Ms. Icové – We are here at the end of 2018 to give you a report on how things are going:

- 1) We are staying true to our mission statement – to develop options for families and individuals in need of safe, affordable accessible housing in Floyd County through partnerships with the faith-based community, business leaders, non-profit organizations, government agencies and individuals;
- 2) Our goals remain the same and that is to facilitate smart, wise development for the workforce labor in our County, seniors, and youth who would like to stay here;

- 3) We continue with our rehab projects;
- 4) We are dedicated to keeping and educating our community about how our housing situation is strained.

Mr. Vandergrift – I want to speak briefly about how we are set up and our projects this year:

- 1) We are a group of volunteers of people in the community who are concerned about this issue;
- 2) We have a steering committee of 5 or 6 individuals then we have 3 areas of focus – I will speak of the Repairs committee which I head; Susan will speak of the Education and New Housing areas;
- 3) The repairs committee identifies people who need assistance with their homes in some repair manner
- 4) Typically we stick to homeowners, because it is a complex situation dealing with landlords;
- 5) Fixing a home can be expensive and we have limited funding so to help as many as we can we have criteria for approval of \$1000 per project, make sure we have the skill set in the volunteer base, keep the work within 3 days;
- 6) This year we have completed 10 projects so far and we have 1 we are still working on;
- 7) Part of our volunteers are licensed professionals like electricians and plumbers;
- 8) We also work with other groups in the community, like church groups and we can take on the administrative functions;
- 9) By doing this through Habitat for Humanity, our volunteers are insured in case of accidents and so is the homeowner;
- 10) There are more repair requests than we have resources;
- 11) Some repairs are too overwhelming for us to take on;
- 12) There is limited awareness in the community of the home problems in the community;
- 13) For our volunteers there is a secondary trauma of dealing with true poverty and depression in the homes, so next month we are setting up training for our volunteers;
- 14) We have projects in each of your districts and we invite you to participate on a project.

Ms. Icove – I thought I would mention a few more things we are doing at FISH:

- 1) We have an education committee that tries to put out some letters to the paper for awareness on housing conditions in the county;
- 2) We publicize the renters workshop held twice a month at New River Community Action for renters and landlords;
- 3) Last month I went to the Governor's Virginia Housing Conference and I am on the New River Valley Commission Study on housing in the area;
- 4) We visit trailers that should be torn down but there are no other housing options;
- 5) It is hard to rent in Floyd and hard to buy at an affordable rate even for regular working people like teachers;
- 6) Manufacturers struggle to find housing for recruits they bring in;
- 7) We have a super active committee of about 10 people with some Town and County officials on it and citizens who meet every month and talk over ways to bring in more housing to the area;
- 8) We have met with professionals who do housing development and nobody is doing it in rural areas because the money isn't there;

- 9) They have visited other counties and met with their officials to see how they are dealing with this problem and while they all have problems, Floyd's appear to be more expensive because it is a desirable place to live;
- 10) Habitat has been working to develop a piece of land where we could have some future townhomes but those 6 units will not have a huge impact;
- 11) We raised the issue of how to create more housing in the County and there are vacant homes that are available housing. We are trying to address it but we are at a dead end;
- 12) We could identify the homes and we approached some homeowners, but there is a real resistance to renting out these homes. Owners are fearful their properties would be destroyed and there is no incentive for them to do it;
- 13) One idea is discussion of a County tax incentive for repairs for vacant homes;
- 14) If there are 400 homes and we got 5% on the market that would be 20 homes;
- 15) If homes are occupied they last far longer than if they stay empty;
- 16) There are services available with local folks as property managers;
- 17) All we can do is educate the homeowners;
- 18) I look to you to explore this because we have come to an impasse about what can be done outside of continuing to talk to people;
- 19) Empty cabins that used to be available are now being used as Air BnBs;
- 20) We need to engage with you and get you more involved in smartly developing while preserving our views and our water;
- 21) Would you consider a workday where we could bring in some people from other areas and hear their solutions for land use that might be applicable here, because if we do nothing, nothing will happen?

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – Thank you both for coming today. We have a workforce here in Floyd who need housing. These are not immigrants; they are not “low income.” They are people who are maintaining families and working hard to provide and cannot afford a house. I think we owe it to our citizens to try to help them in a way that gives them the opportunity to own a home. Do we become a place where only a rich person can live in Floyd County or someone who has a family member who can give you land to put something on? Or are we going to look to the future and see about helping a child of a person that has worked at a business in this community for years and now wants to also live in this community and work in this community?

Chairman Yoder – We are talking about our subdivision ordinance and the changes we make there...it all plays together. In fact the subdivision ordinance may need to come first, because some of those changes may impact how we approach housing.

Supervisor Boothe – ...and the cost of housing.

Ms. Icove – it certainly helps to share the costs of water and sewer. Would you have that discussion and somebody please let me know if you are willing for us to try to develop some people to come in and speak.

Chairman Yoder – That would be good to do through the process of our subdivision ordinance.

Ms. Icove – Floyd County is unique and we want to keep it that way, but doing nothing and keeping things as they are won't facilitate us with any forward momentum. Thank you for having us. We really appreciate all of your service.

Chairman Yoder – Thank you for the existing work you are doing. There are so many needs in the County.

Agenda Item 8. – Old/New Business continued.

Ms. Morris – I asked Mr. Durbin to be here along with Lydeana [Martin] to explain the agreement with the Floyd Economic Development Authority (EDA) regarding Dreaming Creek.

Mr. Steve Durbin – As an overview with the support of the Board of Supervisors, the EDA has proceeded through the bidding process and is now under contract to acquire the former Dreaming Creek property in the Commerce Center. The purposes of this are to add this property to the EDA's inventory to use for promotion of economic development in the County and also to subject the entire parcel to the covenants and restrictions of the rest of the Commerce Center. Eighteen or twenty years ago when that land was acquired by Dreaming Creek, the covenants and restrictions were not in effect at that time. This will give the opportunity to have full covenants and restrictions of the Park. We have prepared a proposed loan agreement:

- 1) The term of the loan agreement is 10 years;
- 2) The principal amount is \$825,000.00 for a total purchase price of the property;
- 3) Repayable at 0% interest by the EDA;
- 4) If there is a need the two parties could negotiate extending the term of repayment at any time;
- 5) The loan agreement does call for the dedication of any rents the EDA receives to be applied to the repayment of the loan;
- 6) For example if they enter into a 5-year lease agreement, each lease payment will be applied to the repayment of the principal;
- 7) The property would be secured by a promissory note and a first deed of trust on the property.

Chairman Yoder – When will the closing date be?

Ms. Martin – All of the equipment is not out of the property yet.

Mr. Durbin – The contract calls for a closing date before December 31. Let's push for a closing date of December 18, 2018 and see if that works.

Ms. Morris – On the notary page one of these signatures needs to be for the County. They both say Economic Development Authority.

Mr. Durbin – We will correct that.

On a motion of Supervisor Kuchenbuch, seconded by Supervisor Boothe, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the loan to the Floyd County Economic Development Authority as memorialized in the proposed agreement along with the closing documents as legal counsel shall tender to the Chairman of the Board, including a promissory note and deed of trust and authorize the Chairman of the Board to execute all documents to move

forward with the loan and closing of the Dreaming Creek property (Document File Number 1020).

Supervisor Boothe – yes
Supervisor Coleman – yes
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Turman – yes
Supervisor Yoder – yes

Agenda Item 7.c. – Consideration of Frederick County resolution concerning tax exemptions continued.

Ms. Morris – Frederick County gave us a resolution concerning tax exemption changes. They are proposing that the decisions be made locally.

Mr. Durbin – I think that is appropriate to adopt. I don't know what the General Assembly will do with that proposal.

Supervisor Boothe – Could there be a liability or some kind of friction between what the State previously authorized if the locality has a 3-year review and the function hasn't changed but we don't think it meets the criteria for an exemption?

Mr. Durbin – The statutory language that authorizes the exemption, if it is a mandatory exemption or something is carved out from taxation then we have no discretion. Generally these kinds of exemptions are enacted so that the Board of Supervisors for any County *may* provide an exemption. Once that exemption is granted, it can be repealed generally speaking.

Supervisor Boothe – Could we be facing a lawsuit if we change it even after the State allowed it even though the use did not change?

Mr. Durbin – Generally speaking, no. You would still have the ability to adopt tax policy. You would want to do that consistently and not single out any group. I think the concern is more of a political one than a pure legal question as to whether you have the authority to repeal an exemption previously granted.

Supervisor Boothe – I am not looking at it for that. I am looking at it for the protection of the taxpayers. It may not be this Board. It may be a future Board.

Mr. Durbin – It can become politically difficult to explain to the public if you are repealing exemptions previously granted. It does argue for caution when you create these exemptions, but generally if you have the authority to adopt an ordinance you have the authority to repeal it. Unless the State Code says, "you shall have..."

Agenda Item 6.g. – Delegate Nick Rush and Senator David Suetterlein.

Chairman Yoder – We appreciate you being here. We thought you might want to give us an idea of big items coming up in the General Assembly that might affect the counties.

Delegate Nick Rush – This is the second session and it is the short session. People are limited as to the number of bills they can put in. Some of the issues will probably be broader:

- 1) State tax conformity – With the federal tax changes this year we have to decide whether we are going to conform State Code to the Federal Code, which means if you take the standard deduction at the Federal level then you must do the same with the State. With the Federal deduction being raised so high, for some that would create higher taxes paid at the State level because they could not itemize;
- 2) Virginia is one of about 39 states that conform; 11 do not;
- 3) Our 3 choices are full conformity, a hybrid model, or all deductions;
- 4) My guess is we will raise the standard deduction for individuals and married couples a little bit and allow some exemptions. We are trying to figure out the sweet spot where we don't have a tax increase on middle income people;
- 5) The State ran about 8 million tax returns through a computer system to figure out the effects of this on taxpayers;
- 6) Senator Stanley has some school construction things coming up;
- 7) I am trying to decide whether to submit a bill that allows private investment into school construction if you put alternative energy into the school which allows you to monetize that energy;
- 8) The good news about the Amazon deal is that the Commonwealth did not overpay because we concentrated out incentives in personnel in higher education and infrastructure, stuff we needed to do anyway;
- 9) With the Virginia Tech postgraduate campus in northern Virginia which we think will elevate Virginia Tech even higher as a research institute, we also get 3000 more undergraduate slots here in the New River Valley which is important to our economy;
- 10) It also gives us proximity to 2 Amazon headquarters and proximity is important to economic development;
- 11) If we want to have a data center in Floyd or Pulaski or Montgomery County, it is much easier for us to go to Crystal City instead of Seattle because the relationship is already built;
- 12) For southwest Virginia I felt it was important to get us closer to a company that would be adding 10s of 1000s of jobs over the next couple of decades;
- 13) The revenue generated from this project will go into the general fund which predominantly goes to K-12 education. Based on the composite index, rural schools will get a good percentage of that.

Senator David Suetterlein – The tax conformity is the biggest issue facing the Commonwealth that hardly anyone is talking about. We have Delegate Rush on appropriations where a lot of that is going to be happening. It will have a huge impact on where we go.

Delegate Rush – We want to see no broad tax increase to middle income workers. We want to be more competitive for the next 20-30 years because we won't have this opportunity for another 20-40 years. We want to position Virginia for creating the jobs for the next 20-40 years. We want to make sure our tax code is fair and efficient. I wake up every morning with one goal in mind: to make the New River Valley the best place to live, work, raise a family and retire. You can have that with an effective tax code and jobs for the next 20-40 years.

Senator Suetterlein –

- 1) We will see what happens with the tax conformity. We have the Governor who said that he would like to give a significant portion of that back in a refundable earning credit, which would mean that folks who don't have a tax burden at the end would now receive tax dollars instead of paying tax dollars. I find that problematic because the reason that money is there to distribute in the Governor's mind is because other Virginians had their taxes increase, but it wasn't something their elected officials voted for. If you were one of those folks who saw your tax burden go up, you can't say Delegate Rush or Senator Suetterlein, "why did you vote for that?" We didn't vote for it. I find the idea of redistributing that money problematic. I think we should take a comprehensive reform approach like Delegate Rush said. I didn't think federal tax reform was going to happen as quickly as it did. It didn't happen exactly as I would have done it, but I was very excited it happened. Now we need to react accordingly.
- 2) Energy will be another big battle. I didn't like the large energy bill that passed last year and what it did to folks' electric rates. It took the authority away from the State Corporation Commission. I think there were constitutional issues when they did that back in 2015. Unfortunately Justice Mims was the only member of the State Supreme Court who agreed with my position when it went there. What happened last year will be reviewed, but the money could still be diverted into these projects. A lot are good projects that we would like and our constituents would like but there are ones where the investors need more exposure instead of just putting it on the constituents/ratepayers.
- 3) Right now if you wanted to start a company in Virginia that sold alternative energy, you practically can't do it because there are 3 different protections in the State Code that block it. To sell you have to find a customer who will buy 5 megawatts and good luck finding customers at that high a threshold. Customers would have to give 5 years notice to the current provider. I think that should be ¼ of a year notice. You can't offer a product if an incumbent provider says they are going to offer a similar product regardless if you are beating them on price.
- 4) We've talked before about speed limits in Floyd and trying to get something through Senate Transportation. Senate Transportation is one of the few committees in which rural Virginia has a larger share of representation.

Delegate Rush – Letting localities have more flexibility with dynamic speed limiting at different times of the day. We did something similar in Christiansburg because they lowered N. Franklin Street to 35 mph.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – On Rt. 221 we have been talking to them about moving the 45 mph speed limit back just a little bit from the Pine Tavern and by Hummingbird Lane where the new Dollar General went in.

Supervisor Boothe – They will do a speed study but the cost for doing one comes out of your secondary road funds if it is a secondary road and out of your primary road funds if it is a primary road. The cost of getting permits to clean out ditches comes out of the maintenance money. It is no wonder we don't have maintenance money any more. I'm not opposed to the permitting. I am opposed to the charges being so much and taking so long. It used to be the local engineers had the authority where they could reduce the speed on a road to 25 mph without

a lot of fanfare. They can't really do that now. They now have an engineer specifically for that who has to stamp any approval. You have to go through all the speed studies.

Chairman Yoder – In my district there was an intersection right below the school. There is a store there and sight distance is a problem. Supervisor Ingram before me tried to work on that area too. Sheriff Zeman pulled a number of years' worth of accident reports for me on that intersection and compared it to other intersections along Rt. 221. We could show there were over twice as many accidents over a 5 year period at that area compared to any other place on Rt. 221. When we took it to VDOT they said they would not look at it because it was not their records. If there is a way in certain instances where the County people know there is a problem, we need an avenue. Sometimes local people know an area well enough.

Supervisor Boothe – Supervisor Coleman and I have a road between us where half of it is at 40 mph and the other half is 55 mph. I have asked why since April. People along the road want to know why. I haven't gotten an answer yet. Supervisors are very familiar with their district. If a request for a speed reduction originates from a local Board to an engineer, then there should be a simpler and cheaper process where it can be evaluated and move forward. We can't spare one penny of maintenance money. If we could give more control to local Boards I think it would save time, money, prevent accidents and save lives.

Senator Suetterlein – We have that issue with some 55 mph roads that shouldn't be driven at 45 mph. We had specific roads in Roanoke County and Franklin County, and Senator Smith started hearing from counties across the State. The easiest way to fix the problem was to change the State policy altogether, which is probably the situation here. I will talk to some of the folks on Senate Transportation ahead of time and talk to folks at VDOT. It would also be good if we go the legislative route this year for you to talk to other supervisors through VACo. I was surprised.

Supervisor Boothe – I serve on the VACo Transportation committee and brought the same subject up. It is not unique to our rural area. It is all across the State. They are going through the same process and the waiting times. Nobody spoke against the local government having more authority over setting the speed limits in their jurisdiction.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – We understand that VDOT is a large bureaucracy. Along with speed we are hitting a lot of roadblocks on guardrails. They put in new regulations on how a guardrail gets put. In Floyd County probably most would no longer fit into the criteria for putting guardrails in. We are looking at guardrails that are falling away.

Vice Chairman Turman – We have been fighting getting a guardrail on Rt. 8 for 4 years. On Rt. 221 they put in new guardrails at each end of a bridge, but are now tearing out the bridge to build a new one, so they will have to take out the new guardrail.

Senator Suetterlein – This is why meetings like this are good. Don't assume we know. You know your business better than we do. We can't advocate for you unless you tell us.

Supervisor Boothe – Our men and women do a wonderful job. I was on the Board when areas were being shut down and consolidated. It has gone exactly to where we on the Board were afraid it would.

Delegate Rush – VDOT has never had more money than they have today. K-12 has never been funded at a higher level than it is today. Higher education has never been funded at a higher level than it is today. Medicaid has never gotten any more money than it has today.

Chairman Yoder – We’ve talked about transportation a lot. We have worked a lot on economic development, but it also for safety of citizens. Rt. 8 from the bridge to Montgomery County in Riner is something that long term...straightening some of those corners and making that road passable I think is one of the biggest things that would help Floyd over the next 20 years.

Ms. Morris – Montgomery County is working with us. They’ve got some Smartscale projects. They are concentrating more on the Riner area, but they are willing to work with us.

Delegate Rush – I suggest keeping that line of conversation open. When you collaborate with another county, those projects usually score better.

Chairman Yoder – I think from an economic development standpoint and for safety our transportation issues hold us back from being able to get industry here.

The Board recessed for lunch.

Agenda Item 7.d. – Consideration of Chamber of Commerce request for budget transfer of \$2,285.00, the amount left in Renew the New River Clean-Up.

Ms. Morris – The next item is consideration of a request from the Chamber of Commerce. We did not get a letter request from them, but I think this was something the Board brought up. They want the funds remaining in the river clean-up to be transferred to them for a part-time person at the Visitor’s Center. We didn’t have the river clean-up this year so we only had a little spent out of it for advertising.

Chairman Yoder – I see a good thing in having a person at the Visitor Center and I do think it is impactful for people. The down side is next year they will want money for it.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – Unless they can fund it next year by increasing membership dues. They had to cut back on hours for retired folks who were funded by SCSEP (Senior Community Service Employment Program).

Chairman Yoder – We discussed this on the Tourism Council and we decided that we wouldn’t.

Ms. Morris – Did they also ask for money from the Town? They also had \$2,500.00 for river clean-up in their budget.

Chairman Yoder – His justification is that because the river clean-up did not happen, it did not funnel as many people to their fundraiser. My position is that we fund tourism through the tourism council. Quite honestly if we wanted to spend \$2,285.00 on tourism, I think we should send it to the tourism council and let them decide where it goes. This position is for tourism.

By consensus of the Board it was decided to take no action on the request at this time and to revisit the request at budget time.

Agenda Item 7.e. – Letter of Support for Blue Ridge Heritage, Inc.

Ms. Morris – We received a request from Blue Ridge Heritage for a letter of support. They are pursuing a grant for private funding. I have drafted a letter for your review.

Supervisor Boothe – We are looking at applying for grants. We are going to start design and construction and we are going after grants and starting fund raising. If you remember the drawings of the main facility we are looking now at doing it in 3 phases: the center phase will be a kiosk area, then adding on the display, then the educational side. We are ready to start moving in that direction. We will be getting with the architect to get preliminaries on trying to do it in three stages instead of all of it at one time. We will probably put the main foundation and retaining wall in, then do the center structure walls, and then add on to that. That would give us an outside area for things until we get further into construction. It is closer to what we dreamed of back in 1993 than it has ever been before.

By consensus of the Board the letter of support was approved as drafted.

Agenda Item 7.f. – E911 Road Name Request – Mountain Horse Way.

Ms. Morris – The next item is a road name request for Mountain Horse Way. There will be 3 different structures but the same person owns all of them.

On a motion of Supervisor Kuchenbuch and seconded by Supervisor Coleman, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the naming of Mountain Horse Way, with the cost of the road sign installation to be paid by the County.

Supervisor Boothe – yes
Supervisor Coleman – yes
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Turman – yes
Supervisor Yoder – yes

Agenda Item 7.g. – Commonwealth of Virginia Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Nomination.

Ms. Morris – The next item is a nomination for the local workforce development board. You make the nomination and then it is voted on by the elected officials of the Workforce Development Board that Chairman Yoder is on. They actually approve the appointments. Mr. Hollandsworth would be serving as the career and technical education representative. On the

Workforce Development Board they have representatives from different areas: business, education, you can see all the ones they have.

On a motion by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and seconded by Supervisor Turman, it was unanimously resolved to nominate Mr. Barry Hollandsworth to serve on the Local Workforce Development Board as the Career & Technical Education appointment.

Supervisor Boothe – yes
Supervisor Coleman – yes
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Turman – yes
Supervisor Yoder – yes

Agenda Item 7.h. – Floyd County School Board requests a budget transfer of \$4,442.06 from the Capital Improvement Fund to Operation & Maintenance category in the FY19 budget.

Ms. Morris – The last item I have is a budget transfer request from the School Board from the Capital Improvement Fund to Operation & Maintenance category to replace a security door lock at Floyd Elementary School.

On a motion of Supervisor Kuchenbuch, seconded by Supervisor Boothe, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the transfer of \$4,442.06 from the Capital Improvement Fund to the FY19 Floyd County School Board budget Operation & Maintenance category to replace an exterior entrance security door lock at Floyd Elementary School.

Supervisor Boothe – yes
Supervisor Coleman – yes
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Turman – yes
Supervisor Yoder – yes

Agenda Item 8. – Old/New Business continued.

Mr. Kevin Sowers – Floyd County has been chosen to be the first county in the State of Virginia to be Next Generation 911. This will take us from an analog-based system that is so out-of-date that it is hard for telephone companies to employ people who know how to work on it to an internet protocol-based network. The main thing you need to know about is the cost. They will pay for two years of costs. Currently we spend \$400.00 each month for trunk lines. It will go to \$4000.00 each month. With that said, there is no opt-out. This is what we have to go to.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – Why were we chosen to be the first?

Mr. Sowers – Because Floyd County is unique. There are some issues the State needs to address and we are so unique that they have to address our issues first.

Ms. Morris – We feel like with us being first they are going to want to make it work.

Mr. Sowers – They are going to put in money where necessary, support where necessary as far as IT people. It is out of our control. The only thing that has to be addressed in dispatch is the call recorder and that is just changing the format a little bit. Everything else we replaced is NG ready. They talked amongst themselves the call handling equipment that will go live in April. They thought that would be a good time to do it. This is being done by VITA (Virginia Information Technology Agency). The federal government has pushed billions of dollars on the backside of this project to get this network going. It is Izzynet and that is where our current information will be stored in the cloud. We have an aging computer system that is 12+ years old that has run 24/7. There is no replacement for the system. The telephone company is tickled because they can get away from the old technology and old equipment. There is a cost and \$4000.00 a month is quite a jump. I don't think Floyd County would be alone in pursuing some 911 tax funding. This has to be paid for some way and that is the only way I see.

Chairman Yoder – At VACo I talked to some people from other small counties and they are trying to figure out how to go about their implementation. They are way behind where we are at right now. The cost is daunting and the speed at which it needs to happen. There are some counties struggling with the whole idea.

Supervisor Boothe – What are one or two of the biggest problems that they will be addressing?

Mr. Sowers – Redundancy on the telephone side of the equation. Floyd County has Citizens Telephone. There is a small portion of Bent Mountain that is Verizon. They need redundancy into the 911 center so that if something happens to the fiber coming out of Citizens and they lose service at Dispatch, they want it pushed in another way. One solution would be to bring in fiberoptic all the way from the County line which would be several hundred million dollars. That is why they need to look at Floyd first. They have to figure it out.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – Is having Citizens here what prompted it?

Mr. Sowers – No. Years ago Citizens may have been behind a little bit, but now they are at the front end. They can handle it. It is just if something happens we need a back door to get the calls still routed. After this is initiated there will be no grey area as to where calls are routed. It simplifies things a little bit as it is a geospatial rich system.

Supervisor Boothe – Will this address any of our dead spots?

Mr. Sowers – Dead spots will be addressed through FirstNet which is not the same. Izzynet is more for your 911 calls. FirstNet has to address the holes and is more of a broadband public safety network system. It is all rolling out at about the same time.

Supervisor Boothe – I think we are already maxed out on what we can charge for the landline tax.

Mr. Sowers – I think once other counties get involved with this there will be a push to raise the tax limit.

Ms. Morris – The tax on cell phones is \$.75.

Mr. Sowers – I think it will take the collaboration of a bunch of counties to increase the tax for E911. From talking to different people, I think that is what they are hoping. Everybody's cost is going to go up. We need to let you know about this and see if you are okay with us proceeding.

Chairman Yoder – We have to do it at some time.

Mr. Sowers – AT&T is very public safety oriented at this time because they have the contract with Firstnet. Fairfax County did a procurement for NG911 and the State did their procurement. Fairfax County's procurement was better than the State's.

Ms. Morris – When Fairfax County did their procurement contract they did cooperative purchasing, which means anybody else in the State can use it and we don't have to do our own procurement. I have already looked at that and reviewed it. They have all the prices outlined in there for every County in the State.

Supervisor Boothe – Is that \$4,000.00 a month an estimate?

Mr. Sowers – It might go down some, but I wouldn't expect much.

Chairman Yoder – I heard from other counties at VACo that they are struggling with what they are going to do. If the State will help us, then we should go forward.

Supervisor Boothe – As much as we have put into safety recently, we would be remiss to start backing up.

On a motion of Supervisor Kuchenbuch, seconded by Supervisor Boothe, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to authorize proceeding with upgrades to the E911 system and authorize the County Administrator to execute the documents with AT&T (Document File Number 1021).

Supervisor Boothe – yes
Supervisor Coleman – yes
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Turman – yes
Supervisor Yoder – yes

Agenda Item 7.c. – Consideration of Frederick County resolution concerning tax exemptions continued.

By consensus of the Board it was decided to take no action on the resolution concerning tax exemptions at this time.

Agenda Item 6.e. – Closed Session continued.

On a motion made by Supervisor Turman, and seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to go into closed session under Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph 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.

Supervisor Boothe – yes
Supervisor Coleman – yes
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Turman – yes
Supervisor Yoder – yes

On a motion of Supervisor Turman, seconded by Supervisor Coleman, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to come out of closed session.

Supervisor Boothe – yes
Supervisor Coleman – yes
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Turman – yes
Supervisor Yoder – yes

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt the following certification resolution:

**CERTIFICATION RESOLUTION
CLOSED MEETING**

WHEREAS, this Board convened in a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote on the motion to close the meeting to discuss Personnel in accordance with Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph A.1 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act;

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act were heard, discussed or considered in the closed meeting to which this certification applies; and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting to which this certification applies.

Supervisor Boothe – yes
Supervisor Coleman – yes
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Turman – yes
Supervisor Yoder – yes

This certification resolution was adopted.

Agenda Item 7.b. – Appointment to the Floyd-Floyd County Recreational Authority, Locust Grove District, four year term.

On a motion of Supervisor Turman, seconded by Supervisor Coleman, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to appoint Mr. Michael Wade to the Floyd-Floyd County Parks and Recreation Authority representing the Locust Grove District for a term expiring December 16, 2022.

Supervisor Boothe – yes
Supervisor Coleman – yes
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Turman – yes
Supervisor Yoder – yes

Agenda Item 8. – Old/New Business continued.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – Floyd County Schools will have elementary school cafeterias open from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. tomorrow for a warm place to be and a hot meal. Please spread the word.

Ms. Morris – I want to remind you of the Board retreat on Saturday, January 5, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in Christiansburg at Steve Durbin’s office. We will try to be through by 3:00 p.m. Mr. Kevin Byrd will be the moderator. This will be your retreat so it will not be staff doing all the talking. I think he is going to send out a survey ahead of time to find out what you think the greatest needs are. Part of the day you will meet with EDA.

Supervisor Boothe – We talk about how we can help small business in the community, but we have never talked about ideas on how to help the biggest small business in this county – farmers. I don’t want to talk about land use programs. I am thinking about other things we can be doing. How can we help the next generation to take over the family farm and keep it going.

By consensus the Board decided to meet at 8:00 on January 8, 2019 to handle their reorganization as part of their regular scheduled meeting.

Agenda Item 9. – Adjournment.

On a motion of Supervisor Kuchenbuch, seconded by Supervisor Boothe, and carried, it was resolved to adjourn the meeting to the joint Public Hearing with the Planning Commission to be held on December 18, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.



Terri W. Morris, County Administrator



Lauren D. Yoder, Chairman, Board of Supervisors