

Minutes
Floyd County Board of Supervisors
Regular Meeting
December 10, 2024

1. Called to Order –

Chairman Turman called the meeting to order at 8:30 am or soon thereafter.

2. Opening Prayer –

Supervisor Bechtold offered the opening prayer.

3. Pledge of Allegiance –

Electoral Chairman Mr. Kitchen offered the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Quorum –

Linda Millsaps called the roll. A quorum was found. Supervisor Kuchenbuch is attending remotely in a secure location.

PRESENT: Joe D. Turman, Chairman; Jerry W. Boothe, Vice Chairman Kalinda Bechtold, Levi Cox; and Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch (attending remotely from a secure location) Board Members; Linda Millsaps, County Administration, Kim Chiddo, Deputy County Administrator/CFO, and Danny Lowery IT Operations Manager to live stream and film the meeting.

5. Approval of Agenda –

On a motion by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, seconded by Supervisor Boothe and carried to approve the agenda as amended:

Amend § 2.2-3711 A.1 to remove the original reason of EMS to County Personnel

Amend § 2.2-3711 A.6 to remove the original reason of Sparrow to PSA

6. Approval of Disbursements –

On a motion by Supervisor Bechtold, seconded by Supervisor Cox, it was unanimously carried out to approve the disbursements as presented.

7. Approval of Minutes –

On a motion by Supervisor Cox seconded by Supervisor Bechtold and unanimously carried to approve the minutes from 10/22/2024

8. Presentations:

a. Dr. Cromer, Floyd County Superintendent

Dr. Cromer updated the Board on the following:

- A week and a half until Christmas break
- Highlighted – American Welding Society- hosted.
- Policy revisions were finalized, including Cell phone revisions. There are no phones at all in elementary school and no phones bell to bell in high school.
- Electric buses doing well especially performing in the cold weather.

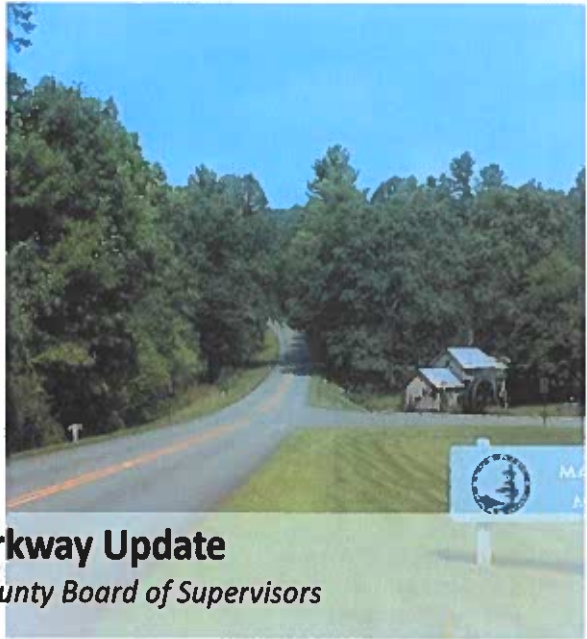
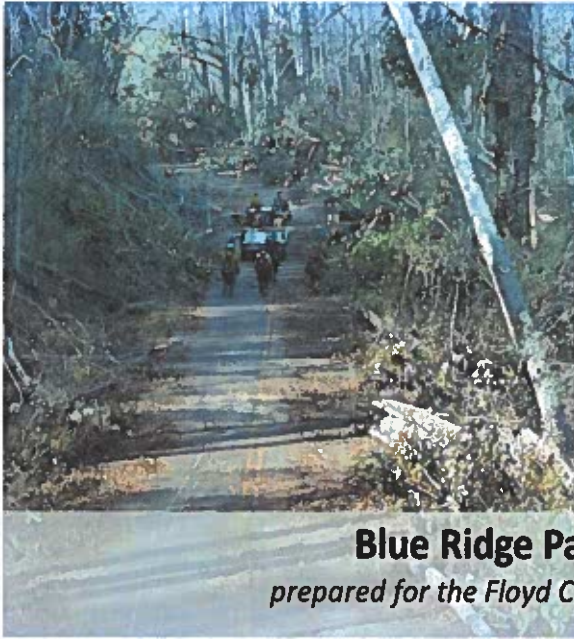
A conversation ensued with the board members thanking Dr. Cromer for all that she continues to do. Dr. Millsaps noted that she too wanted to thank Dr. Cromer for the positive relationship, especially around the shared fields and working with Parks and Recreation.

b. David Clarke, Virginia Department of Transportation

Mr. Clarke was unable to attend the meeting due to illness.

c. Leesa Sutton Brandon and Rachel Stasny, External Affairs Specialist, National Park Service – Blue Ridge Parkway

The following PowerPoint was presented to the board:



Blue Ridge Parkway Update
prepared for the Floyd County Board of Supervisors

December 10, 2024

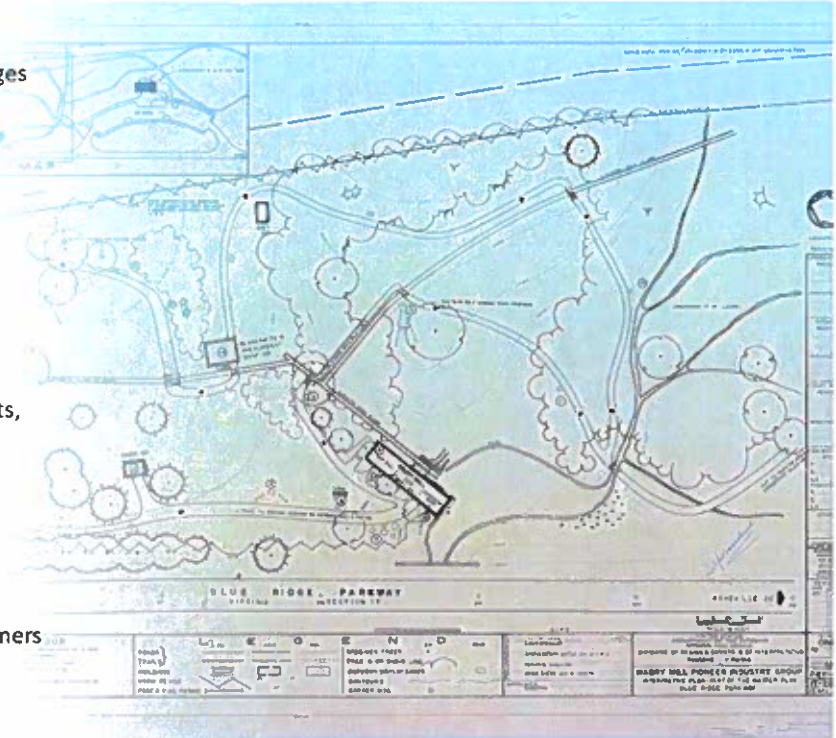


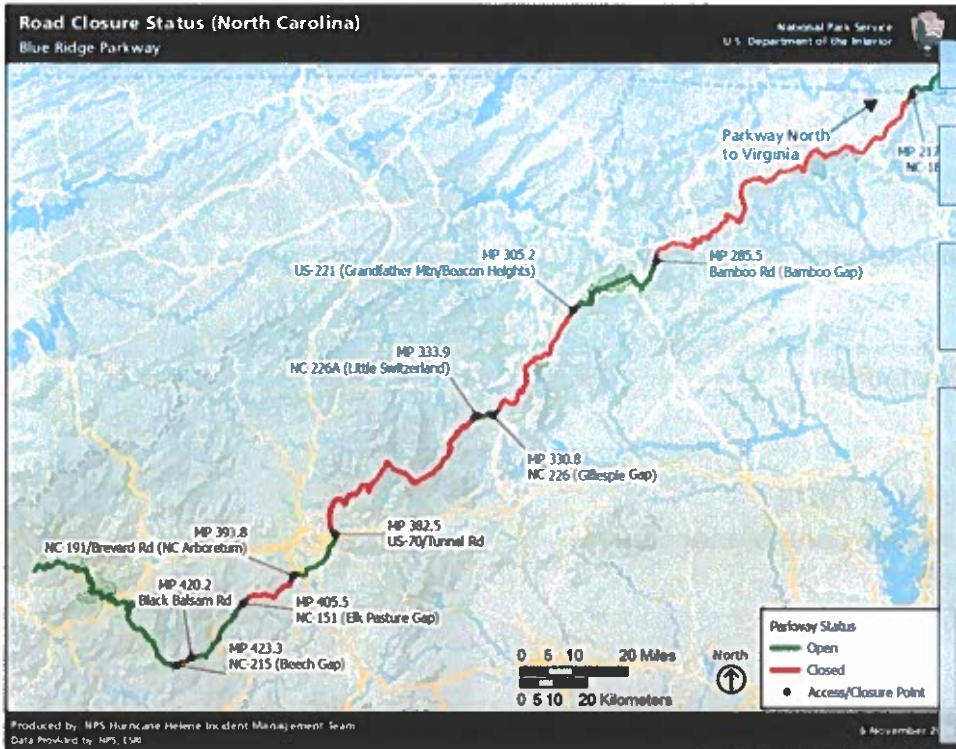
National Park Service Mission

To “**preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values**” of the national parks and to provide “**for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this a future generations.**”



- 469 Mile Scenic Parkway across 2 States
- 8 Campgrounds, 14 Picnic Areas and 2 Lodges (and all associated infrastructure)
- 369 Miles of Trails
- Over 2000 Species of Trees, 200+ Birds, 60 Mammals, 43 Amphibians, 99 Fish and 31 Reptiles
- 4,000+ Private Adjacent Landowners
- 91 Historic Buildings
- 101 Private at-grade road accesses
- Over 200 Archeological sites identified
- Over 690,000 Artifacts in park museum collection
 - Including, 10,500 archeological artifacts, 32,000 biological artifacts, 2,400 geological artifacts
- 20 Cultural Landscapes
- 889 managed vistas
- 182 road bridges
- 141 overlooks in North Carolina
- 75 overlooks in Virginia
- 410 Agricultural permits issued to local farmers working park lands
- ~3800 law enforcement cases annually





CURRENT STATUS

310 miles open

- All of Virginia

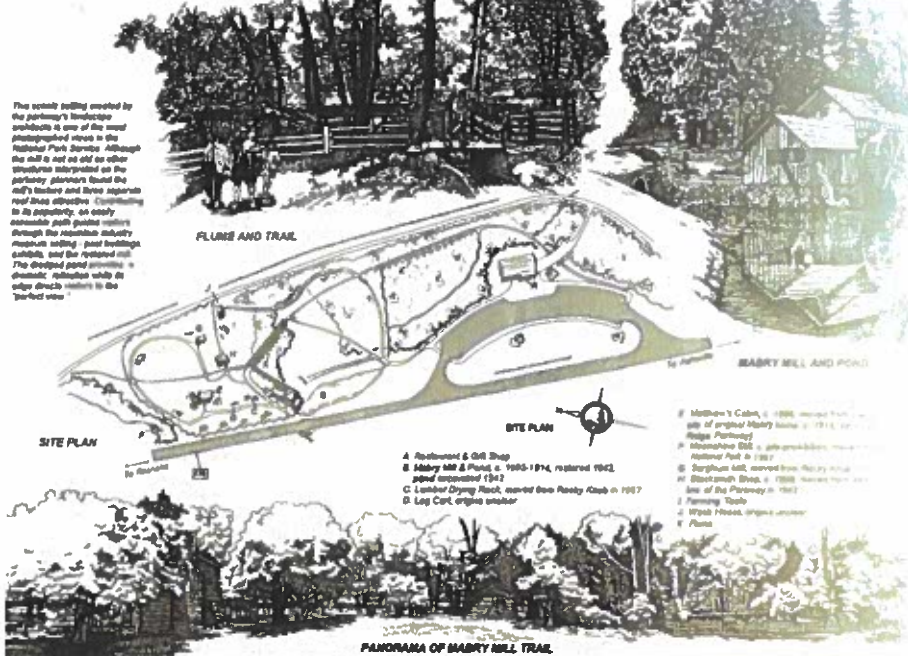
159 miles closed

- Some could open with slide repairs complete

Recovery work begins

- ERFO (\$25M approved)
- Slide Repair
- Culvert Clearing
- Debris Removal
- Guardrails
- More debris removal
- Historic Structure repairs
- Fuels Management
- Trails clearing
- Contract Management

MABRY MILL



A timeline

- 1930s - Site purchased by NPS
- 1945 - Mill restored
- 1956 - Park concession built
- 1990 - Current wheel built
- 2013 - New concession operator begins
- 2014 - Mill wheel refurbished, pond dredged
- 2017 - Flooding accelerated sediment
- 2019 - Flume restoration
- 2019 - Road resurfaced
- 2021 - Matthews Cabin repairs
- 2023 - Mill wheel repaired



Historic Blue Ridge Parkway Concessions Operations, North to South

- Whetstone Ridge Restaurant
- Otter Creek Restaurant & Gift Shop
- **Peaks of Otter – Lodge, Bus Service, Restaurant, Country Store**
- Rocky Knob Cabins
- **Mabry Mill Gift Shop & Restaurant**
- Cumberland Knob
- **Bluffs Restaurant, Lodge**
- Northwest Trading Post (closed 2024)
- **Parkway Craft Center at Moses Cone Manor House**
- **Price Park Lake Boat Rentals**
- Crabtree Falls Restaurant & Gift Shop
- **Folk Art Center**
- **Pisgah Inn – Restaurant, Gift Shop, and Country Store**



Mabry Mill Restaurant and Retail is operated by third party concessioner, governed by National Park Service Concessions Management Improvement Act of 1998

- 2014- 2023: Previous contract term, Mabry Mill
- 2020: NPS-wide moratorium on all concession's prospectuses until Dec 2020. Automatic extensions offered to all concessioners.
- November 2023: Prior concessioner declined to accept one-year contract extension
- December 2023: America's National Parks agreed to operate retail under umbrella cooperative agreement with BLRI
- Spring 2024: Offered temporary food service opportunities, with no takers
- June 2024: Public release of prospectus for Mabry Mill & Peaks of Otter
- Late Summer 2024: No proposals to operate Mabry Mill received





Deferred maintenance and repairs is an estimate of how much it would cost to repair and restore deteriorating facilities to an acceptable and safe condition. DM&R is created when routine maintenance and repairs are delayed because of limited resources.



There is an estimated \$449.3M in Deferred Maintenance & Repairs associated with the Parkway's asset and facility inventory.



Buildings

441



Miles of Trails

285



Miles of Paved Roads⁶

524



Waste Water Systems

86



Water Systems

48



Housing Units⁴

24



Miles of Unpaved Roads⁵

15



Campgrounds

10



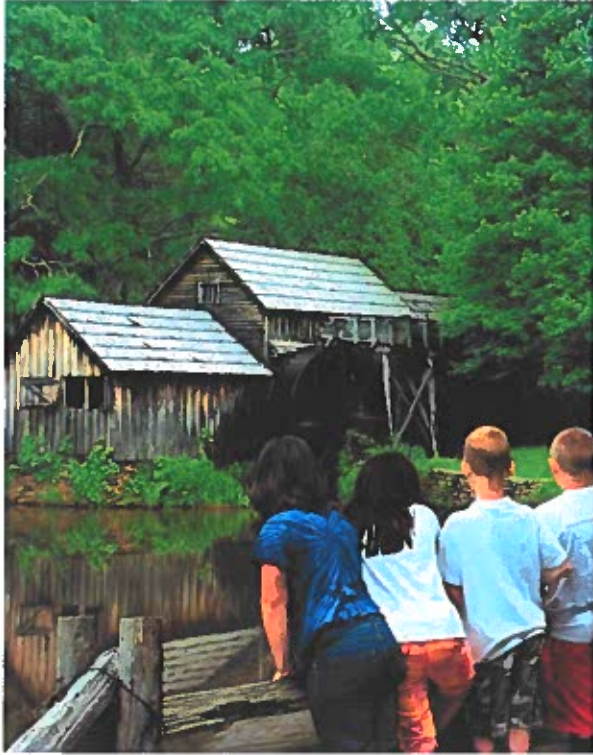
All Other Assets⁷

286



Maintenance needs today

- Mill wheel replacement
- Mill building roof repair
- Septic system repairs
- Rehabilitation of blacksmith shop
- Pond dredging
- Concession building interior improvements
- Accessible trail system
- Split rail fence



Closing thoughts...

- Our goal to provide a high-quality visitor experience in 2025 and beyond remains
- The NPS is committed to investing in the natural and cultural resource experiences at Mabry Mill
- We plan to readvertise the restaurant and gift shop business opportunity in 2025 and will continue to plan for high quality visitor services on site.
- Questions?



- d. **Lisa Baker, Commissioner of Revenue**
 - i. Real Estate Values
 - ii. Tax relief for the elderly/disabled

A conversation ensued about the assessment and the board stated that once they have a gauge on the assessment figures, they will address the need to adjust especially the elderly/disabled tax relief to accommodate any changes that would affect this.

- e. **Anna Nunez, Public Affairs Specialist, U.S. Small Business Administration, Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience.**

Anna Nunez contacted Dr. Millsaps and had to cancel her presentation scheduled for today.

- f. **Kathleen Legg, Tourism Director**

Ms. Legg presented the following:

Floyd County Board of Supervisor Meeting Presentation 12-10-2024

Although we don't have complete data for 2024, Fiscal Year 2023-24 saw Floyd welcome over **92,000 visitors** (PlaceAI), representing an impressive **8% increase** compared to the previous year. Visitor spending in Floyd County in 2023 had an estimated economic impact of **\$18.3 million**, up **2.5%** from the year prior.



\$18.3M
 Visitor Spending
 YOY: ▲ 2.5%



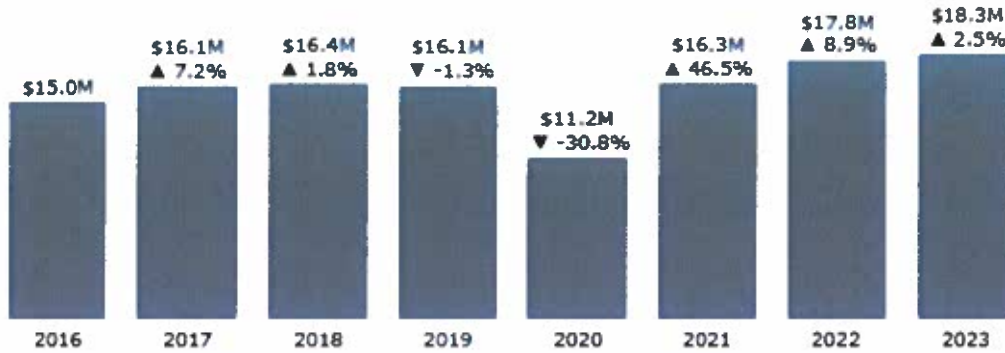
5.0% is the share of all county jobs sustained by tourism



Visitors generated **\$1.1M** in state and local taxes

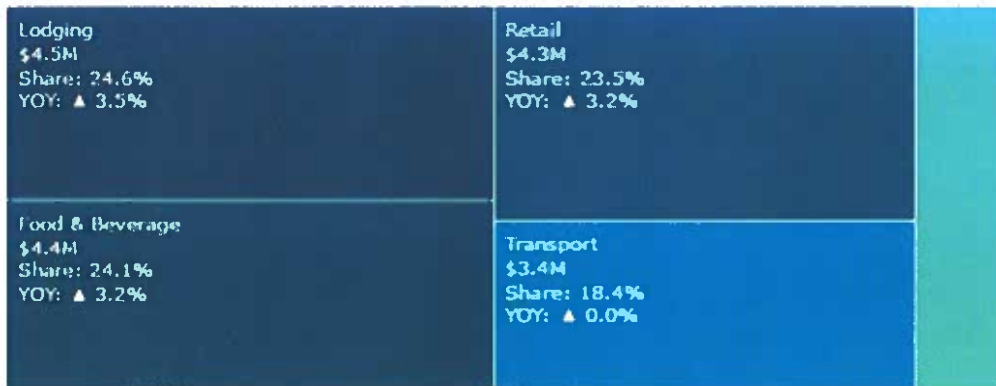
Visitor Spending

Actual & % change YOY



Visitor Spending by Category in 2023

Actual, share & % change YOY



Grant funding played a significant role in the success of our marketing efforts: In 2024, the tourism office secured **nearly \$30,000** in marketing leverage grants through the Virginia Tourism Corporation. These funds helped produce a map of Floyd, paid advertising on social media, radio ads in North Carolina, and created high-quality digital assets to showcase Floyd County.

These grants also ensured that the Floyd Visitor Guide was displayed in Virginia Welcome Centers and funded the year-round window graphic and **three-month display at the I-77 Welcome Center in Lambsburg.**

Despite a brief dip in travelers in October due to a hurricane, our Floyd display was seen by over **20,000 travelers**, marking a **2.5% increase** in visitation compared to last year.

Additional funding accomplishments include:

- The completion of **\$30,000 in County ARPA funds** allocated through Virginia Tourism Corporation. These funds were primarily used to print the redesigned Floyd Visitor Guide. A portion of these funds were also used for advertising in the *Blue Ridge Outdoors* magazine and was also directed toward updating our digital assets, such as photos and videos, to enhance future marketing efforts.
- Through the **Drive Outdoor grant** (received from Virginia Tourism Corporation), we partnered with the Floyd County Parks and Recreation Department to invest **\$20,000** in park enhancements. Improvements included items for a new batting cage and practice mats for the baseball fields, as well as benches and informational signs at the Dodd Creek Trail entrance, and picnic tables for the Warren G. Lineberry Park. These updates aim to attract more travel ball teams and enhance overall visitor experiences.

Exciting collaborations and projects:

- Through an exciting partnership with Franklin and Patrick Counties and the West Piedmont Planning Commission, we launched **Mountain Spirit: Virginia's Moonshine Trail**. This project celebrates the region's moonshine heritage. We collaborated with the Floyd County Historical Society to launch the trail at the Curtis Turner 100 event in August, which drew significant interest and enthusiasm. With a recently secured grant from Virginia Tourism Corporation, we're boosting social media promotions and printing a trail brochure to further elevate this initiative.
- **Floyd Farm Trail:** Floyd Tourism is continuing to work with Sustain Floyd and the Floyd Farmers Market to promote the **Floyd Farm Trail**. This past Fall, we hosted a meeting with farmers to gather their ideas for enhanced marketing. Initiatives under consideration include hosting open farm days and producing a trail map of participating locations, which is currently in progress.

Looking ahead:

With updated digital assets and strong partnerships in place, we're well-positioned to amplify our marketing efforts next year and tap into new target markets (ie. Charlotte, Washington D.C., Virginia Beach/Norfolk, Richmond, etc.)

9. Constitutional Officers –

No Constitutional officers were present at this time.

10. Public Comment:

Paul Kitchen, Little River District:

Paul touched on the following

- Came specifically to hear the presentation of the National Park Service, Lessa and Rachel.
- Volunteered at Mayberry Mill
- Thanked Kathleen, Tourism Director
- Thanked the Board and Administration staff for all the work done and the care in doing so for the County
- Looks forward to work as a team in the New Year
- Wishes all a Happy Holiday and a Happy New Year.

11. Old Business:

a. Land Division Workshop Schedule

A conversation ensued regarding the scheduling of the workshop. The Board agreed to schedule it after the Organizational meeting which is tentatively scheduled for January 2, 2025.

b. ARPA disbursement update

The board was presented with the most recent updated ARPA expenses. A conversation occurred regarding the remaining funds. The following motion was taken.

On a motion by Supervisor Boothe and seconded by Supervisor Bechtold and unanimously carried to approve staff and give the authority to expend the remainder of ARPA fund, if left over, less than \$10,000.

12. New Business

- a. **Appointment of Floyd County Economic Development Board, 2 positions, four-year term, beginning 12/2024-12/2028.**

On a motion by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, Seconded by Supervisor Bechtold and unanimously carried, to approve the appointment of Melissa Cox for the Floyd County Economic Development Board for a four-year term to begin 12/10/2024 – 12/10/2028.

On a motion by Supervisor Boothe, Seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch and unanimously carried, to approve the appointment of Jim Newlin to the Floyd County Economic Development Board for a four-year term to begin 12/10/2024 – 12/10/2028.

- a. **Parks and Recreation Pipeline Bid –**

On a motion by Supervisor Boothe, Seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch and unanimously carried, to approve Shortt's excavating for the Parks and Recreation pipeline bid.

- b. **Court House Roof Bid:**

On a motion by Supervisor Bechtold, seconded by Supervisor Boothe and unanimously carried to approve Professional Roofing Services for the Court House Roof Bid.

- c. **Excavating/Timber Bid:**

On a motion by Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch and unanimously carried to approve the Turman's Hardwoods for the Excavating/Timber Bid for the Willis property.

- d. **Sheriff Enterprise Vehicle Lease:**

On a motion by Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Cox and unanimously carried to approve the contract with Enterprise lease, of the 5-year term lease to the Sheriff department vehicle as presented.

e. Electoral Proclamation:

On a motion by Supervisor Boothe and seconded by Supervisor Bechtold and unanimously carried to approve the Floyd County Electoral abstracts reflecting the November 5th, 2024 election as presented.

f. Carry-Over Request:

On a motion by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, seconded by Supervisor Bechtold and unanimously carried to approve the departmental carry-over requests as presented.

13. Closed Session -

On a motion by Supervisor Boothe, Seconded by Supervisor Bechtold and unanimously carried to go into Closed Session under § 2.2-3711 A.1, § 2.2-3711 A.3 and § 2.2-3711 A.6.

- 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. County Personnel
- 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. Radio Tower and Volunteer Rescue
- c. § 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. PSA

On a motion by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, Seconded by Supervisor Boothe and unanimously carried, the approval to come out of closed session.

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

On a motion by Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch and unanimously carried to approve staff to create a letter to VRS for a retirement study and utilize contingency funds for the cost.

On a motion by Supervisor Bechtold seconded by Supervisor Boothe and unanimously carried to approve December 23, 2024, as a paid county day off.

14. Board Time

Supervisor Turman stated that he would like to make it known that the Re-assessment is not complete. They were given a 3-month extension. So, we do not have any information regarding taxes, and we have not increased taxes. The present board is not looking to raise taxes.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch discussed the two green box sites in the Little River District and would like them returned, Christiansburg Pike and Bethlehem Road.

15. Correspondence.

Deputy County Administrator Ms. Chiddo, read the contents that were placed within the Correspondence folder of the Board Packet.

16. County Administrators Report

- a. Munis Update
- b. Peer Center
- c. FEMA application updated
- d. Christmas Parade
- e. Board Retreat January 13th

- f. Organization meeting date – January 2nd, 2025
- g. Onward update
- h. NRVCS
- i. Radford University
- j. NR Community College – Dr. Huber

16. Adjournment – On a motion by Supervisor Bechtold, Seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and passed unanimously, the Board voted to adjourn until the next meeting on January 2, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. (or soon thereafter).



Chairman, Joe Turman



County Administrator Linda Millsaps