

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 14, 2020**

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Floyd County, Virginia, held on Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. in the Board Room of the County Administration Building thereof;

PRESENT: Joe D. Turman, Chairman; Jerry W. Boothe, Vice Chairman; Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch and Lauren D. Yoder, Board Members; Terri W. Morris, County Administrator; Cynthia Ryan, Assistant County Administrator, Tabitha Hodge, Operations Manager to livestream and film the meeting.

PRESENT FOR PART OF THE MEETING BY PHONE: W. Justin Coleman, Board Member.

Agenda Item 1. – Meeting Called to Order.

Chairman Turman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m with the reading of the handicapping statement.

Agenda Item 2. – Opening Prayer.

The Opening Prayer was led by Ms. Ryan.

Agenda Item 3. – Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Turman led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item 4. – Approval of minutes of June 9, 2020; June 23, 2020; and June 30, 2020.

On a motion of Supervisor Yoder, seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and carried, it was resolved to approve the minutes of June 9, 2020; June 23, 2020; and June 30, 2020 as presented.

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

Agenda Item 5. – Approval of monthly disbursements.

Questions and discussion followed.

On a motion of Supervisor Yoder, seconded by Supervisor Boothe, and carried, it was resolved to approve the FY20 July 2020 monthly disbursements and additional bills as presented.

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

Agenda Item 6.a. – Ms. Lydeana Martin, Community & Economic Development

Director.

Ms. Martin discussed the proposed Floyd County Growth Center Building – Grant/Project Administration Contract between Floyd County and New River Valley Regional Commission:

- 1) The template for the contract is largely from the U.S. Economic Development Authority (USEDA);
- 2) We received full funding of \$100,000 for the grant administration of the project with 80% coming from USED A and the other 20% from the Tobacco Commission;
- 3) There will be draws at different stages of work and a payment schedule is included in the contract;
- 4) We will pay and then seek reimbursement;
- 5) The scope of work goes through December 30, 2022 when we hope to have the building completed and ready to move in.

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and carried, it was resolved to approve the Floyd County Growth Center Building – Grant/Project Administration Contract between Floyd County and New River Valley Regional Commission and to authorize the County Administrator to execute the contract (Document File Number 1118).

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

Ms. Martin provided an update on the Floyd County RISES program:

- 1) We have received 14 applications.
- 2) If the Board were to increase the limit to \$1,000 per job if there was 20% or more reduction in revenue or net income for the period and those who already applied could receive assistance retroactively, it would increase outlay to \$140,000.
- 3) If the Board were to increase the limit to \$1,500 per job if there was 30% or more reduction in revenue or income and \$30,000 or more in losses for the period and those who already applied could receive assistance retroactively, it would mean a total outlay of \$223,000.
- 4) That would leave funding for 27 people at \$1,000 each for self-employed and non-profits.

- 5) About 200 Floyd County businesses received funding from the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). Initially there was only 8 weeks to spend that money which has now been extended. Those businesses may not have applied for the RISES program initially because they were still working through the PPP.
- 6) If you want to update the program the deadline could be extended to August 31.

Discussion was held regarding applicants to the initial Floyd County RISES program, possible reasons why more businesses haven't applied, and ideas for assisting businesses in the application process for the revised RISES program.

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Yoder, and carried, it was resolved to approve the Floyd County RISES program as presented with an increase to \$1,000 per job if a business had a 20% or more reduction in revenue or net income for the period and \$1,500 per job if a business had a 30% or more reduction in revenue or net income and \$30,000 or more in losses, and to be expanded to include nonprofits and the self-employed, and to extend the deadline for the program to August 15, 2020.

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

Agenda Item 6.b. – Public Comment Period.

Chairman Turman explained the rules for speaking and called for the Public Comment Period.

**Mr. Tom Moser, Little River District** – I have only been a resident of Floyd County for 49 years and three months so I am a “newbie.” I was educated at Duke University. I got a Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Sciences. I got a Master’s degree in Forestry. A few days after I finished college, I started working for the Virginia Department of Forestry. I helped Ms. Morris’ father, Paul Webb, with his forestry work here. In the end of 1978, a person could not afford to work for the State anymore. I got a real estate license. I started a corporation to do forestry consulting and for the next 40 years that was my career here. I am still here and I love it here. How many here in this room have been to the Civil War Trails next to Carter Bank, got out of the car, and actually read the plaque? Raise your hand. In 1860 the population of Floyd County was 7,745 white people and 475 slaves. There were about 1,800 Floyd County able-bodied men who at some point in time served in the Civil War. I have too many notes here. I need 44 minutes. My dad loved Civil War history. I learned some of it from him. But in about 1985 Arnold Simmons and I went to hear Dr. James I. “Bud” Robertson speak at the Roanoke Civil War Roundtable. I was impressed. I asked the Roundtable to tell me about your organization. I asked, “What’s the cost?” They said, “\$15.00 a year.” I am a past President and past Program Chairman of that outfit. I’ve been a big-time student of the Civil War ever since. I’ve provided you with lots of interesting information about Civil War history. If you throw it all away, keep the beige-colored sheet of paper because it has the link to Dr. James I. Robertson’s presentation on the importance of the Confederate monuments in the South. If you don’t do anything else, I beg you to watch that video. He passed away. His obituary is part of your

packets so you will know who he was. There is information in the packet I gave you on Floyd citizens in the Civil War, prison camps, letters home. I hope to educate you a little bit so you will have a better understanding of the monument. The monument supposedly serves two purposes. One is to promote the Jim Crow anti-Black laws that were being passed in the Constitution of Virginia in 1902. That's some history. The other is to remember these guys who got their legs shot off, got killed, got buried, got lost in the Civil War. They are local guys. I've included in your packet from this book, "54<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry," which is where most Floyd Countians served. In the back of the book is a member of every member of the regiment, what he did, where he went, and what happened to him. I've copied the Phillips and Quesenberry records out of the back of this so you can see what some of these guys did. Some deserted, some got killed, some went to Sisson's Kingdom and hid. You need to know about it. One June 19<sup>th</sup> I phoned The Floyd Press office and said your article on June 18<sup>th</sup> has an error or two in it. The editor told me, "I stand by my article." The article said there is a Confederate general statue in front of the Courthouse. I said, "I would very much like you to watch Bud Robertson's monument presentation." The reply was, "I'm not going to waste my time on the weekend watching something you want me to watch." So, I find out I'm a little argumentative about someone who is covering the news on the Civil War monument not being interested in one of the best historians around presentation about it. So, I did some research. Our editor came from the Orange County newspaper. For 4 years she was on the Cavalier Daily University of Virginia newspaper. And you can see I've included some information about her aspects on history. One of her comments is that you can revise history. You cannot revise history. History is what happened. Thank you.

**Mr. Steven McClain, Courthouse District; Ms. Kielen Gale; Indian Valley District and Ms. Kristin Kotch, Courthouse District** interrupted the meeting to complain about the sound and video quality of the livestream broadcast and to demand that the Public Comment be closed to a time and place where the public could be heard and seen.

**The Board of Supervisors** tested the equipment and explained the Public Comment process to the citizens.

**Ms. Cindy Akers, Christiansburg** – My relatives came out of Floyd County. They were here long before it was Floyd County – the Quesenberrys, the Altizers, the Ratliffs, the Akers, the Dulaneys, the Reeds, you name it. They all fought in that Civil War. That monument out in the Courthouse lawn doesn't say a thing to, for, or against any race, creed, religion or any other minority. The words on that simply say, "To the Confederate Soldiers and Veterans." The Confederate Army was the most diverse army in the United States. They had every race and relation, every creed and ethnicity that lived in the South fought in that war. There were Mexicans, there were Spanish people, there were African Americans, there were Jewish people. It's on record. You can't say that monument was put up against Blacks. Right here is a whole book of Black people just in the State of Virginia, and this isn't all of them, that fought for the Confederacy. Floyd County had two that we know of and they are in this book. Their families live here still. I don't think it is fair and I think it is a little on the racist side to take down a monument that is dedicated to those men's service as well as everyone else, to deny them the honor that they fought for and that they deserve and to say that they did not exist. I appreciate the time. Thank you.

**Ms. Virginia Neukirch, Courthouse District** – I have lived in the Courthouse District for 20 years now. It is embarrassing to admit. I really didn't know very much about how the Confederate statues came to be. I never thought they were a good idea but being a 63-year-old white woman, I had the luxury of really not having to think about it. In educating myself about this subject I learned there is a lot of misinformation about the statues. The statue in Floyd was erected in 1904 long after the Civil War. I did know that President Andrew Johnson issued pardons to all Confederate soldiers for the offense of treason during the Civil War. In his statement the President said his action would, "renew and fully restore confidence and fraternal feelings among the whole." The President was hoping it would start a healing process for the nation to come together as one. When I looked into the statues I was led to the United Daughters of the Confederacy. I'd heard of the UDC but didn't really know what they were about. I have to say it was an eyeopener to read about their values and goals. There is a lot of information out there, but the best source I found was a book "Dixie Daughters: The United Daughters of the Confederacy" by Karen L. Cox. Ms. Cox is an Assistant Professor and Director of the Public History Program at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte. The UDC's whole goal was to glorify the Old South and the way it had been. Nostalgia and sentimentality colored the UDC's essays, particularly when the master-slave relationship was the subject matter. Most UDC members didn't want slavery re-established but argued slavery had been more difficult for the master than the slave. Interesting viewpoint, wouldn't you say? Mildred Rutherford, a UDC historian and member wrote, "There has never been a pleasantry so happy as the negro slave of America." Mildred wanted future generations of southerners to see that slavery was not an evil institution. Laura Martin Rose of Westpoint, MS, another historian, general and member of the UDC viewed Klan activities as necessary to restore law and order to the South and to restore Anglo-Saxon supremacy to the South. Her portrayal of Klansmen were as chivalrous knights. Rose developed a program of study for children in which the KKK was prominently featured. The book she wrote "The Ku Klux Klan or Invisible Empire" was provided to be used in schools in the South by division presidents of the UDC. The book was adopted as a supplementary text in Mississippi schools. The UDC worked intensely with the southern youth educating them to revere and uphold southern ideals. The UDC established their own textbooks and education committees for that purpose. They were allowed to take this message directly to the schools. Other books were written and distributed by the UDC. They started chapters for the youth called Children of the Confederacy to promote this propaganda. This was all during the UDC's time when they were campaigning for monument building. They were very successful in their endeavor. In learning the history of the UDC, it made me realize they were a very racist organization and the statues were put up to intimidate people of color. At first, I agreed with the thought of putting the removal of the statue to a vote in the community, but now knowing the history behind it I disagree with that idea. There shouldn't be a choice to vote on something that was wrong to begin with. I strongly recommend that the Supervisors do the right thing and remove the statue from the Courthouse property. Thank you.

**Ms. Edna Whittier on the telephone, Little River District** – I am white. Please remove the statue from the courthouse lawn. Put it at the historical Phlegar House or in the cemetery by Hotel Floyd which has at least seven Confederate Army crosses. In a recent Roanoke Times article, a Giles County criminal defendant asked for a different venue. As a Black man he feels he will not get a fair trial in a courthouse that has a statue of a Confederate soldier at its entrance. This is a legal argument for removing the statue. I am one of the organizers of the 2018 Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration in Floyd County. We announced it

only once in The Floyd Press and that was in the calendar listing. We didn't feel safe letting the larger public know about it. Both Black churches, the Quakers and anyone on Mara Robbins' list of safe whites were told. We asked the Sheriff's Department to check on us throughout the event. In 2019 we announced it more. There was a three-paragraph article in the back of the Press plus a listing in the calendar. We invited the County Board of Supervisors and the Town Council. Again, we asked the Sheriff's department to check on us. This time there was a follow-up Floyd Press article with pictures. This year's Martin Luther King Celebration had much more advertisement. There was a Floyd Press article before the celebration with an invitation to the public for the when and where. We made sure the Sheriff's Department was also invited. I am trying to tell you how cautious we were about telling the larger Floyd community we were celebrating a Black man. We were afraid of violent reactions against Black Floyd citizens. Four months before the first Floyd Martin Luther King Celebration, on September 9, 2017, there was a Rally for Freedom Ride from Bedford to Floyd by White people. They were protesting the possibility of removing the courthouse statue. That ride attracted people flying Confederate flags to Floyd from two counties away. This worried the White people of Floyd enough to have State Police with sharpshooters during the ride. This was how White law enforcement reacted to the Rally and Confederate flag. Imagine how Black people of Floyd felt. The statue was the reason for the ride and the sharpshooters' presence. At the same time as the ride, a fundraiser occurred in a Floyd Black church. The media press and television stations wanted to interview someone from the fundraiser. The church attendees refused the request. The fundraiser was as invisible as possible to the larger community. It was at least four months after this before an article appeared in The Floyd Press about the fundraiser and it didn't mention the Rally ride. Again, a real possibility of violence against Blacks in Floyd. This fear occurred because of the statue's presence on the courthouse lawn. To restate: a Floyd church fundraiser was hidden from the media because of possible white supremacy violence. This occurred only two and a half years ago. It is time to remove things that cause this kind of fear in Floyd. Thank you.

**Ms. Joyce Hill, Little River District** – I have been quite public about making my opinion against the Confederate monument clear while wanting us to be able to have a peaceful path to its removal. I hope that we are currently undergoing an age of enlightenment. In the past we have been slow to accept the world is round or that people have no right to own other people, among many other things. With education and exposure, people learn to look at things a bit differently than the stories they have been told. Once that happens you cannot get away with what you got away with before. To the idea that everything was fine until people suddenly brought all these issues up with the current unrest going on, let me tell you I have been against Confederate monuments at courthouses since first laying eyes on them. I had been told there was no way to penetrate the Confederate mentality in this Town. I will give credit to the national civil unrest for making me do some serious thinking. I had my own age of enlightenment. I felt guilty for being a quiet and passive citizen. I was told it was going to take publicity so I decided to rise to the challenge. I will tell you though, it is a lot easier being a quiet and passive citizen. There will always be those who will cling to how things used to be. The Confederate statue was considered by some to be a monument to the lives lost in the South during the Civil War. To many others both in Floyd and the world beyond, it is seen as clinging to a lost war that divided this country and fought on behalf of slavery. It may be a symbol of those lost in a war, but there can be no doubt it is also a symbol of a divided country. With an image such as this why is there any question as to whether it belongs in front of a courthouse? There may be an appropriate

place for the statue. It is not in front of a courthouse. Moving the statue to private property does not erase history; it makes history. It is not a precedent for socialism. It is an emphatic statement that we are a democracy, with liberty and justice for all. I moved here 3 ½ years ago from Pittsboro, North Carolina. Last year Pittsboro removed its Confederate monument from in front of the courthouse. I ask you to do the same. If you are worried about your re-election or what people will think, I ask: Why are you serving Floyd County? To be re-elected or to make Floyd County be the best it can be? Look to the future. Now that you know the full story and the symbolism behind the monument, do you want to be known as the Town that kept a Confederate monument in front of a courthouse? The fact that I just moved to Floyd only a few years ago seems to give long-term locals the right to say that I don't have a right to say anything and if it is so bad here, why did I move here and go back where I came from. I moved here for all the wonderful things we know and love about Floyd. I certainly didn't move here because of the monument, but in spite of it. I ask you two things and I ask them as a White Christian who should not feel the need to clarify that in a government meeting. It should be irrelevant within our government. I ask you to remove the Confederate symbol from in front of the Floyd County Courthouse. I also ask that if you continue to feel the need to pray before a Board of Supervisors meeting, despite the promised separation of church and state that you do not end your prayer in Jesus' name and I say that as a White Christian. If you can't think of the non-Christians in Floyd, then perhaps you can imagine the face of my 93-year-old Jewish mother-in law. She spent four years in a concentration camp during the holocaust and watched her little sister die on a 500-mile trek from Romania to Ukraine. If she were able to travel now, she would be standing here beside me. Should she or her descendants ever have to be in a meeting of the government that prays in Jesus' name. There is no place for any symbol of White Christian supremacy in our Town or any town in front of a government building. You know the old adage that we should leave a place better than you found it, I have no intention of going anywhere. I love Floyd, but I am trying to make Floyd an even better place. I ask you to do the same. Thank you.

**Mr. David Whitaker, Courthouse District** – I didn't come here to lecture you. I think you get enough lectures without me. I just wanted to remind you that we as public officials – I am on the Town Council – took an oath to protect the Constitution. We also pledged in God We Trust. Our Constitution begins with the words, "We the people," so we are obligated to carry out the will of the people. We need to listen to the people before we make any decision. In this body people have not made their voices known in spite of the false claim that the Town of Floyd and Floyd County are in favor of the removal of the monument to the common Confederate soldier. I have talked to as many citizens as possible in the last two weeks. There is overwhelming support for not removing the memorial. The only democratic way to decide the fate of the monument would be to put it to a vote and let the people speak. In socialism the government tells the people what to do and what to think and the people accept. In a democratic republic the people tell the government what it is allowed to do. I urge you to put this in the form of a referendum and let the people of Floyd decide. Thank you.

**Mr. Steven McClain, Courthouse District** – Thank you for having us here this morning. I appreciate that. Thank you for the attempt to let us hear out there. First of all, I am not here to chastise. As the others have said before me this morning the public should have the right to vote on this. I understand that by the time it is all said and done the presiding judge will be the one making that decision on the matter if we have a vote on it or not. It will end up in his lap. That being said, all I wanted to do this morning was ask a few questions. How many of us

here are Floyd natives or Virginia natives that goes back to its founding? I for one, my family is. My family was first in Henrico County in the 1640s. I have family who have served this nation in every war since the Revolutionary War. I have family members that fought and died in the Civil War, like many of us. I had family members who were imprisoned in prisoner-of-war camps during the Civil War. I have family members that fought and died in the Second World War or were prisoners-of-war, Viet Nam War, Korean War, the Gulf Wars. With that being said, my heritage is not just White, but Native American. We have African American. I don't look at your skin color. I don't care. I look at your actions and what you say and what you do. I'm not going to look down on you as a person other than to give you a hand up. I will do that. Beyond that, for example, when we had the BLM (Black Lives Matter) protest, whether I agree with that protest or not, I'll fight for that right. Our ancestors, my family fought and died for them to be able to do that. On that point as I said, I have family members who died in the Civil War. I can go to their grave today. That memorial, while some are highly offended by it and see it as a preservation of racism, to me it's not. Because I am looking beyond the skin color. There were people at the BLM rally who were there to instigate and fight on both sides. I want to keep this clean. A person was way out of line carrying a Confederate flag. He didn't need to be there. That was wrong. To me that was pure racism with what he did and what he was trying to do. But beyond that...that memorial was raised because the North during the war...historical fact is that they took the Confederate bodies... as I said members on both sides of that war had to fight. They took the Confederate bodies and they did not put them in individual graves most of the time. They put them in large pits and left them. The North spent over \$7 million at that time – think what that would be in today's dollars – to remove the Northern remains and take them back North and bury them. We got pits. That is what we got down here. So, the Daughters of the Confederacy came in and they erected monuments. And yes, there was racism then. There were some that didn't want to let go of the war.

**Mr. Dan Vest, Locust Grove District** – Good morning. First of all, I'm probably going to say some things that have already been said here, but it is just my feelings here. I'm going to start off, I'm concerned about the indifference locally and nationally regarding indiscriminate demonizing of historical monuments. When is this cleansing of our history, good or bad, going to end? History and historical representation through monuments are reminders of the past for stoic reflection. Some say the losing side should not have a monument, but did they not suffer and die just the same? Who are we to judge all men's hearts? Just looking to the right of the monument now in question and under scrutiny, there is another one honoring the sacrifice that the soldiers made in international conflicts. Many of those fallen patriots fought and died fighting anti-democratic world conquest regimes that were Marxist, communist or imperial. The persecuted populations in these conflicts many times went through an initial cleansing of their history and monuments. Very interesting. Will these monuments honoring those who fought in foreign lands defending the individual freedoms of the oppressed be the next to be attacked by the anti-democratic, anti-God movements? What happened to the time when monuments were regarded as sacred? Have our hearts been hardened to the point that empathy is only afforded to the politically correct? History I believe is a study of the successes and failures of the past so we remember what path to take. Our written history, especially in our public schools, has been glossed over to just a few bullet points in order for students to get just enough knowledge to pass a silly test. Is it no wonder that many are so ignorant of the fine points? One of those fine points – a lot of you don't know this – is that during the Civil War Floyd County had the highest desertion of any county in the South. And yes, one of my great-great grandfathers was one of



those deserters. He walked back from Floyd – some people say it was from Chattanooga, Tennessee, I'm not sure – and hid under a rock outcropping on Goose Creek Road until the war was over. You want me to show you that rock? I can take you right to it today. Interesting that my family was allowed to remain in Floyd with that type of family history. Guess there was more grace, empathy, and godly forgiveness back then. Thank you.

**Ms. Kielen Gale, Indian Valley District** – I am a 6-year resident of Floyd. I am not political. I am for standing up for my rights. My right I believe is to express myself to government, so I get a little passionate. I'm a writer and I ask first that the Board consider having their meetings where the public can actually attend comfortably, make it so that we can hear you or at least see you. I got mad not because of the statue or mad at you, but because you did not make allowances for what you knew was coming. Having said that, in the United States I believe that the best answer to speech that we don't like is speech that we do like. We have a right to our opinion. I ask the question, "Is your perception of something any more valid than mine?" What kind of equity is it when you take down, rather than build up a community for every citizen who lives in it? The monuments are currently in front of the Courthouse and they represent one thing: respect for American veterans who believed in their families, their country enough to put their life on the line. I don't see anything wrong with that. All wars have a winner and a loser. This war was fought over something dreadful – slavery. Nobody is for slavery. I don't support and I didn't walk in front of the Courthouse with the man with the flag because I support slavery or because I am against Black Lives Matter. I believe all lives matter. I did that because I am a cultural anthropologist by degree and an American historian. I wanted to know both sides. Both sides are valid. Both sides are protected under the Constitution. Our Constitution was ratified and at that time there was more than one view of slavery. The two-thirds of a person was not to denigrate the value of a Black person, but to punish the South when it came to elections by representation. The North felt that would be a punishment because they wouldn't have as many votes and as much power. There is a big history to that. But I don't support a plan that shows disrespect to any veteran. We moved to Floyd to quote my husband, "one of the reasons we came here was because of the mix of monuments at the Courthouse, the hippy mixed non-traditional atmosphere, the unique mixture of lives and peaceful co-existence that was very uniquely Floyd and makes Floyd who it is." I love Floyd. My family's history in this area goes back to the Skaggs. It goes back to the long hunters. I didn't know that when I moved here but when I found it out, it made me even want to defend what Floyd and this part of the country means to the rest of the country. The monument to the soldiers who fought in the Civil War didn't stop women from getting the vote. It didn't stop the Civil Rights movement. It didn't stop (indistinguishable) versus Virginia. It didn't stop anyone from getting a job. The monument has stood silently in the County as the country has struggled and continues to struggle against racism. We are here to form a more perfect Union. We didn't say we were a perfect Union in the beginning. They could not have envisioned 200 years ago what is happening today. I don't think I could have envisioned it 2 years ago. The only impediment to progress is when the hearts of people are not on that lawn anymore. There is no equity when you take down rather than build up so why not add monuments? Put up something, so that the people who don't respect that monument or how they feel about that monument isn't good, they do respect. Start a campaign; raise funds; take donations. I'll be the first and people like me to donate. We want Floyd to be the eclectic peaceful community it was. And you are pushing people who have a long history of conservatism here – and liberalism is not wrong – to a place they don't want to go. We don't want to defend ourselves. We want to exist here. I thank you for your time and I

apologize for interrupting your meeting, but I felt...that was the first time I ever did that in my life.

**Mr. Bob Smith, Indian Valley District** – I don't know if this has been entered into the record yet. I have six copies of a document I would like to present to you. I will say pretty quickly I've been to Washington D. C. and as we speak there are forces there tearing down the monuments. Richmond's Monument Avenue is becoming Richmond's Pedestal Avenue. To take down our history is stupid, foolish, and irresponsible. The statue needs to remain here. It has stood here over 100 years as a symbol truly of reconciliation in this country. It has stood underneath the flag of the United States of America in honor of those who died for their interpretation of our Constitution. Thank you for your time and have a great day. I appreciate you letting us speak.

**Joint Resolution of the Town of Floyd and Floyd County to Preserve the History and Monuments of the Town and County of Floyd, Virginia:**

Whereas, Monuments to the fallen in the cause of the Confederacy, which were installed throughout the Southern States in the latter 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries, financed by private funds, and permitted by governmental authority, have stood for well over a century under the consenting flag of the United States of America; and

Whereas, One such statue, depicting an average Confederate Soldier, today stands proudly in front of the Floyd County Courthouse, a public property, next to an obelisk honoring the fallen of Floyd County from all other military conflicts; and

Whereas, This monument was paid for by a private organization, the Daughters of the Confederacy, to honor lost fathers, brothers and sons, many of whom were never brought home, and the ownership thereof has not been passed to either the Town or to the County; and

Whereas, Historically, the Confederacy was formed in response to a perceived overreach by the Federal Government over the self-governance of the several states, and it fought against the subsequent invasion of the Southern States by the Federal Government; and

Whereas, The majority of the residents of the County strongly believe it is oppressive and foolish to remove and erase the memory of those lost in any conflict, and to slander as racists and traitors all of those who in good faith defended the Constitution of these United States; and

Whereas, The Town of Floyd and Floyd County strongly denounce the injustices of Slavery and the subsequent institution of "Jim Crow" Laws in the Commonwealth, recognize that this stoic representation of a solitary soldier which, having stood over a century in perpetual silence, did not until recent weeks elicit any complaint, and posit that there is at this time, no reason to engage in an ill-considered rush to judgement or to employ the Code of Virginia statute 15.2-1812 or any other statute or order to hastily remove or destroy this relic; and

Whereas, The Town of Floyd and Floyd County are committed to promoting individual Liberty, Equality before the Law and Justice, and desire to express this commitment through the

preservation of this part of our shared heritage as an acknowledgment of the errors of the past which deserves to remain as an object lesson for all; and

Whereas, The Town of Floyd and Floyd County have seen no great upwelling of citizenry at-large demanding that any action be taken to remove, relocate or demolish the monument in question; and

Whereas, The Town of Floyd and Floyd County have not overtly and actively sought out any large-scale measure of opinion by way of open and Public Hearings from the Citizenry on this matter; and

Whereas, The Town of Floyd and Floyd County both desire to preserve and protect the History, good and bad, of the Commonwealth, Town and County of Floyd, and the lessons to be derived therefrom; and

Whereas, The Town of Floyd and Floyd County both approve this Resolution jointly and severally at separate public meetings of their governing Boards;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Floyd Town Council and Board of Supervisors of the County of Floyd that:

In the interest of Preservation of our Historical Monuments, that no action be taken to remove, relocate or demolish the Confederate Monument, as it serves first as a remembrance of those of our ancestors lost in a futile conflict, and more importantly a century and a half later, as a reminder of poor decisions taken in the past, and as such it deserves be retained for all to see, under the same reasoning that Repealed Amendments are permanently retained within the United States Constitution.

**Ms. Karen Baker, Little River District** – I am here again. I came before and talked to you about the history of the Common Soldier Monument. Today I just want to talk about who's right and who's wrong. Nobody's wrong, nobody's right. Both sides are right. That is the issue here. When people see that monument as a reflection of the regard they have for their ancestors, they see it as a monument to the sacrifice their ancestors made. You have people who see the monument as the edification of Jim Crow, which it also is. It was put up as part of the Jim Crow effort to separate the races that continued in the South well into the 1970s. You have two sides here who are both right. What do you do when both are right? You compromise. You make a decision that as much as the monument reflects the hearts of people who are honoring their ancestors, it doesn't belong on the Courthouse lawn. It was put there to let people know they didn't have equal access to justice. There were differing motivations for the original placement of the statue. At this time, now, it is time for Jim Crow to finally be over which means the statue has to return to being a monument to lost lives rather than a political statement. If the Common Soldier were moved to a cemetery, it would be a monument to lost lives and no longer a political statement. Then as one young man suggested yesterday you could plant a tree on the lawn, possibly the dogwood which is Virginia's State tree to be a symbol that we are all Virginians now. We would have a symbol on the lawn that spoke to everyone. You would have a monument in a cemetery to honor the dead. There is a monument on the Courthouse lawn that honors all that served, including in the Civil War. Last time I was here there was some question

as to whether the Civil War was included on that monument and it is. Nobody is suggesting that be removed. Nobody is suggesting that the Common Soldier be destroyed. Beside the fact that the law doesn't allow it, it doesn't make sense to destroy it. Just move it to a cemetery and there are Confederate soldiers buried in both of our cemeteries and that would be a place that is appropriate for the purpose that people honor here. I don't believe that people here want a symbol of Jim Crow on the Courthouse lawn. They want their ancestors honored. They can be honored in a cemetery and then we can have a dogwood instead of a Jim Crow statue. Thank you.

**Ms. Kristen Koch, Courthouse District** – I would like to address the Code of Virginia “§ 2.2-3707. Meetings to be public; notice of meetings; recordings; minutes. A. All meetings of public bodies shall be open...” I have been very frustrated in the past because not only is there not room in these meetings largely for people to come to address and hear what is going on. It's a small room. It's not accessible to the public that is all standing outside there. We are standing room only in the lobby. There is a line of people out in the front yard. No one is getting in here unless to speak. Our only access to the meeting out there is a video that is not audible. It's extremely quiet and it continues to buffer every ten minutes or so. We are missing a lot of this meeting. And even if we try to connect to the recording, which I have done many times in these meetings, we cannot hear what is going on. It is not becoming a priority for this particular Board to engage their population. I see us sidelined and we need to be at least able to hear the meeting for it to be considered public. These are things I really would love to see addressed so that we have some sound quality on our meeting video. So that people can hear what is going on in the County. So that people can be involved and this can be a community effort instead of just a few deciding the fate of the many. I am speaking for many people out here. We would really appreciate being able to hear what you have to say at your regular meetings, being able to hear what people are coming to say and upholding the law that I just spoke of to ensure that our public meetings are open to the public. Thank you.

**Ms. Sharla Conner, Riner** – I just wanted to say that I am in support of keeping the statue up. I have Union ancestors from Floyd County that fought for the Union and were brought here through Stoneman's Raid. I have many, many Confederate ancestors that fought in the 54<sup>th</sup> Virginia. Many of them are buried in Floyd County. The blood and the bones of my ancestors are here. The statue in no way represents anything to do with slavery. It was purchased with the money raised by the women of the soldiers – their wives, their mothers, their daughters, their sisters, their aunts and nieces – to honor the veterans that fell in war and the ones who returned both Union and the Confederate. My Union ancestor married into a very Confederate family. The union produced 9 children. Many of the local names in the Burks Fork and Indian Valley areas are the products of that Confederate and Union marriage. The silent soldier statue stands for my ancestors, both Union and Confederate. Thank you.

**Mr. Nathan Smith, Locust Grove District** – This whole thing over the statue is, I think, bull crap, myself. It's not hurting nobody. If we take this down what's to keep us from realizing where this county may have gone wrong? I said may have went wrong. I don't think the Civil War was over slavery to start with. I don't agree with you. Money is a big thing and that is what a lot of us out here is thinking. Some of these rich people around here stole the money. It's uncalled for. You are elected officials by the people of this County. When you vote on that you need to remember, the way I see it. That's all I got.

**Mr. Carl Conner, Montgomery County** – I own land in Floyd County – my parents' old place. I was born and raised in Floyd County and educated in Floyd County and I have a burial plot in Floyd County. If I can't get any more Floyd County than that, I don't know what is. But all I wanted to come before you today and say, I have 5 great-great grandfathers who served in the Civil War. I can guarantee you that not one of them had slaves. I don't even know if they joined or they were forced to serve. But I do know that memorial at the Courthouse has nothing to do with one individual person or the right to have slaves. The only thing it does is a memorial to those who fought and served and those who died as well. I think it would be a mistake to tear it down. I just wanted to make that known. Thank you very much.

**Mr. John Hylton, Willis** – My family has been in this area since the late 1700s, right after the Revolutionary War. I would very much like to see the statue stay. One of the things I saw someone state a while back – the monument can take the place of headstones for family members who did not return. My great-great grandfather served and it was either 8 or 9 of his brothers served. Three of them did not come home. I know where one is at in Marietta, GA in a Confederate cemetery. The other two were in prisoner-of-war camps at Camp DAVIS and Lookout. There is no grave. That is a monument to the men who fought for what they believed in. I don't really see racism as being a part of this. It's kind of like what we've got going on now between Richmond and D.C., part of the population is not being well represented. I would respectfully ask if this needs to go any further that it become a referendum for the County to decide. Thank you very much for your time.

**Mr. Ian Stabler, Courthouse District** – I would like the statue to come down. I am a newcomer to Floyd. I moved here three years ago, but I am an American citizen. I pay my taxes here. I feel like I have a right to say what is in front of our Courthouse as much as anybody else. I was listening to the man in front of me who just spoke. I think he's right that the men who died in the Confederate Army are not who anybody is against. They fought bravely and died for their States. I respect them for that. Memorials belong in cemeteries, not in front of our Courthouse. In terms of a referendum, I think the reason we have governments it is your job as our elected officials to protect everybody in this County. If 98% of our County wanted to re-instate beheadings on the Courthouse floor, we wouldn't let that happen, right? It is our job, your job, to protect everybody and that includes people of color that have to walk through the Courthouse doors and remember a time when they were owned as property, and their children were owned as property, and the fighting that happened to keep that happening. I think it is worth...if one person has to walk through those doors and think I am not going to have a fair shot at a court, then that is not something we should have on our Courthouse lawn. Thank you.

**Mr. Richard Dimmel, Burks Fork District** – I am a retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel having served over 21 years for the country. I took an oath to defend our Constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic. Today I believe our great nation is under attack from the radical left. They are attempting to destroy statues and erase history all around the country to make way for a Marxist Utopia. You may remember Pol Pot, the ruthless Marxist dictator of Cambodia, who upon gaining power in the 1970s slaughtered nearly 40% of his countrymen in order to consolidate his power. His ruthless campaign of extermination especially targeted people who wore glasses. Why glasses? Because he reasoned those people could read and therefore might resist his efforts to re-write history as he attempted to establish his communist

Utopia. Those Cambodian killing fields should serve as a grim warning for those who do not learn from history. They are doomed to repeat it. Our history must be preserved and when the people of the Commonwealth of Virginia, through their elected representatives, determine to resist armed invasion. The men represented by this statue, some volunteers, some drafted, answered that call to duty to defend their community. What better location to remember their years of bloody sacrifice than at their local courthouse, that place of official remembering where records of births, marriages and deaths of the residents of Floyd County. The statue of our County should be preserved at the location in the Courthouse that asked these men to sacrifice so much. Thank you for your time.

**Mr. Jack Wall, Little River District** – The Constitution and the founding of the country is based upon some complicated principles. We are a democracy where the rule of the majority is generally the way we make decisions. We also have a Bill of Rights that protects the rights of the minority and prevents oppression toward the minorities. The issue we are dealing with today with a statue that represents the Confederacy that is memorializing and honoring the Confederacy, which of course was built around slavery, is basically a racist representation. The important thing, I think the primary position today is that this is not really a decision that should be put up for a referendum because it is a decision that is not just for the majority to decide. It is for making a decision that is right for everyone including the minority. The fact is that we have a statue that honors the Jim Crow laws, the white supremacists' era that was there at that time when this statue was put up. Even if it wasn't consciously put there, it is basically what it represents – the way of the South before the Civil War and during the Jim Crow period when people of color, Black people were oppressed to a serious degree. The issue is to make this thing right in this time when we are all considering how the Black Lives Matter movement, and the awareness of consciousness about the systemic racism that exists in our country, and how we incarcerate ten times more people in the United States than any of the European countries do. There is a very oppressive regime in terms of instead of helping people we are putting them down in various ways, so you are looking at that whole thing. The thing is with this statue it is there to honor that Jim Crow period and putting it right in front of the Courthouse where the equality of lives of all citizens is important. It is really important that we remove that statue and that a decision gets made not as a referendum, but as a decision of what is right and what is proper to represent all peoples so all people feel that their needs and wants are considered in a fair manner. We have a very small Black population in Floyd. They are not going to be able to speak out unless we as White people, as people who have been involved with this privilege, makes some effort to respect and honor the rights of the minority. That is all I have to say.

**Ms. Linda Wagner, Courthouse District** – I would like to address the last speaker. Mr. Wall talks about a democracy. I think too often in our country we refer to our form of government as a democracy. It is not a democracy. It is a representative republic where we elect you people to represent the whole of the community. As he indicated it would be lesser than the whole. I'm opposed to that and that's not what we have. Anyway...first I would like to thank you, the Board of Supervisors. You have a monumental job before you and I appreciate all of your efforts. What is history? The word history is a Greek derivative "to know." History is a chronological recording of significant past events. History helps us develop a better understanding of how things work or have worked. History paints a detailed picture of society, technology or lack thereof in government how it's worked so we'll better understand how it works now. It teaches analytical empathy for the past. It focuses on context and reflects

carefully on the reading of primary sources. History can teach analytical and emotional abilities and convey real knowledge. Studying history enables us to develop a better understanding of the world in which we live. Building knowledge and understanding of historical events and trends enables us to develop a much greater appreciation of current events. Was all history good? No. Was all history bad? Absolutely not. Regardless, history is the building block by which we work to avoid those ills and repeat what proved valuable. If we remove history, we remove the ability for future generations to learn from the past. I don't believe this will be the end if you remove the monument should you decide against the preservation resolution. What could be next? Will it be our American flag? Will it be our synagogues? Our churches? Our cemeteries? Or our homes like what is going on in Missouri right now? This could be endless. And I don't think any of us wants mob rule. Therefore, I support the preservation resolution as presented.

**Ms. Becky Howell, Burks Fork District** – Our Declaration of Independence establishes, “that all men are created equal.” You and I know, as did our founding fathers, that slavery is wrong. I do not believe the Confederate statues commemorate slavery. They honor the people who fought and died in the Civil War. It's not just Confederate statues that are being removed throughout our country. Removing statues is one step toward re-writing history. Our nation is made up of people and people are imperfect. We have many examples of evil in our history, but remembrance should not be eliminated. Rather we need to keep our historical facts, teach them to our young people, and avoid making the same mistakes as we go forward. I do not believe Floyd is a racist community, but I can see that calls for removing the statue and accusations of White privilege can cause problems. Unfortunately, there is, and always has been, discrimination. Women are discriminated against. Conservatives are discriminated against. Christians are discriminated against. Ethnic groups are discriminated against. Let's promote respect for everyone rather than promoting division. Leave the statue. It honors those who died in the Civil War and is a reminder of a dark time in our history. It was here before anyone in this room was here. We are not a perfect people. We will make mistakes, but slavery is not one we must repeat. After listening to some of the speakers I would like to urge you...I believe we have a lot of work to do to combat the unreasonable and unfounded fear of retaliation against some Floyd citizens that needs to be dispelled. You have gotten several history lessons today. I would encourage you to study the references mentioned by Tom Moser, particularly the work of Dr. Robertson. I would also urge you to read and consider the resolution that Mr. Smith gave you. Thank you very much. You have a terrifically difficult job and I know you will do what you think best for the people of Floyd County.

**Mr. Jeff T. Walker, Little River District** mailed in his comments for the record – The General Assembly did not relieve our elected officials of responsibility by enacting an option to hold a referendum of public opinion prior to removing the statue placed on our property by the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) in 1904. As the attorney elaborated the responsibility lies solely with the Board, who are entrusted with authority to assure the safety and welfare of all citizens are protected. SB183 [Senate Bill] provides for public comment, it does not require referendum. In my opinion the presence of the UDC statue is a monument to corruption, powerful interests placed that statue to send a message to all who had business in our county. Floyd has a history of population loss, free people left the county in pursuit of opportunity elsewhere; whether our forebears were motivated by ambition, or intimidation the loss of human assets concentrated wealth in the hands of supporters of the UDC, rather than

improving the circumstances of the population at large. We now understand cost, and loss in modern context; I have privilege of serving landowners who's forebears left the county in pursuit of greater opportunity, and now return to develop property for their own purposes; universally they describe family history of loss and abandonment due to public pressure restricting their ability to thrive here. You hold power to correct the record, and deliver on our trust in legal process, to protect our freedoms. It seems holding advisory referendums perpetuate division, including threat of intimidation such as we witnessed individuals displaying the battle flag of NOVA disrupting lawful protest. It is my sincere hope the Board will consider the responsibilities attendant after July 1, 2020 and move to dispose of that monument post haste. Indeed, as surplus property, it should be auctioned to the highest bidder in accordance with policies. Thank you for hearing my opinion.

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

Agenda Item 6.c. – Constitutional Officers Reports.

There were no Constitutional Officers present for the meeting.

Agenda Item 6.f. – Ms. Margo Lander and Ms. Kamala Bauer, Floyd Community Action for Racial Equity.

**Ms. Margo Lander, Locust Grove District** – I've come here to speak to you today about the removal of the Confederate monument from the Courthouse lawn. I was born and raised in Floyd County. I'm a local. I'm a former student and a concerned constituent. As you have heard from people prior to today, the historical legacy and implementation of the statue was racially motivated. We need to ask ourselves: Who are we as a community today? Who are we discriminating against? Who does this statue intimidate? Why do we not do more to ensure their safety, their equality, and their belonging in this Town? If you make the decision to fall on the backs of your voters this fall, then who will be in fear of going to the polls? Who will be at risk of harassment? Who will be silenced? I believe in this Town. That we too can be on the right side of history. That we want to sustain a community that is welcoming and safe for all families. I believe that this is a fundamental step that needs to be taken to show our community we care about all its citizens. We don't want this to wait. Today I am going to introduce to you Cieara Little and we are going to read to you a resolution we propose to remove the Confederate monument. Thank you.

**Ms. Cieara Saunders Little, Locust Grove District** – I am a long-term member of Floyd as well as several generations before me. Today I would like to read a Resolution of Floyd County to Remove the Confederate Monument from the Floyd County Courthouse Lawn:

Whereas, Monuments to Confederate soldiers and military leaders, which were installed in Floyd and many other communities in the South in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries by White Southerners seeking to preserve the Confederacy, are widely perceived as offensive and painful public reminders of the legacy of slavery and present realities of systemic racism in our country; and



Whereas, A statue of a Common Confederate Soldier currently stands in front of the Floyd County Courthouse, sitting on county-owned public land; and

Whereas, This monument was paid for and erected by a private organization known as the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and ownership of these monuments have never passed to either the City or the County; and

Whereas, Residents of Floyd County have issued a clear call to remove this monument as expeditiously as possible due to the harm it poses; and

Whereas, The Confederacy was formed by its political leaders for the purpose of perpetuating and expanding slavery of Black Americans; and

Whereas, Floyd County recognizes that the legacy of slavery, institutional segregation and ongoing systemic racism directly harms public safety, public health and peace of mind; and

Whereas, pursuant to Virginia §15.2-1812, the County is authorized to remove the Confederate monument from public property; and

Whereas, Floyd County is committed to promoting racial equity and justice, and desires to express this commitment through a resolution of their governing board; and

Whereas, Floyd County desires to remove Confederate monuments from the public spaces within the Town of Floyd; and

Whereas, Floyd County has sought citizen input exploring options regarding the removal of the monument; and

Whereas, Floyd County approves this resolution at a meeting of their governing board;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Floyd County that:

Request is hereby made to the United Daughters of the Confederacy to immediately remove the Confederate monument located at the Floyd County Courthouse. If said removal is not completed within 60 days from the date of full adoption of this resolution, then Floyd County shall take action to remove the monuments.

**Ms. Kamala Bauers, Little River District** – I am here to speak to you in support of this resolution. I am living in the Little River District but own quite a bit of property in the Courthouse District as well. I am a business owner. I own several businesses that create quite a bit of economic support for this County. Today I want to make it clear that I am an American patriot. I am a daughter of two veterans. I am currently the grandmother of an individual serving in our military. I want to remind you that Mississippi is taking Confederate symbols off their flag. NASCAR has banned Confederate symbols from their races. Farmville, a community about our size, has removed their Confederate statue from their lawn. The time is now for Floyd County to be on the right side of history. There are two statues on our lawn. Sometimes we forget that. One actually honors all of the soldiers – Union and Confederate – on its statue on the

Courthouse. We support that one staying. It honors all of the soldiers for all of our wars on the Courthouse lawn. That one should stay. The other statue – the Confederate statue – was placed by the United Daughters of the Confederacy in a coordinated effort across the South to re-write history and to continue to control and intimidate Black Americans. It serves no other purpose in that space. Let's be clear about that. The war dead from the Civil War deserve to be honored, both sides. The Floyd County history is so rich in this area. We had a great number of Union and Confederate soldiers and a great deal of deserters, a great number of deserters in our County. That is an amazing history that deserves to be remembered accurately. It makes us unique. I've learned a lot through this process and I do think our history deserves to be remembered when it includes all of it. I am here today in absolute support of a resolution to remove the statue off the Courthouse lawn where people of color by law have to come by it and do their business. Where it can be argued that they cannot receive a fair trial. That is happening right now. You read the newspaper. A defense attorney is saying in Giles County that they had to walk by the statue in order, a person of color, to get a fair trial in the courthouse. It is an important argument. I believe as a business owner I worry about the economics in this County. It is a really challenging time for all of us right now. The ability to attract new businesses is important. When a community is looked at, it is looked at for quality of life for all people. If you are building a business here you want all of your company employees to be respected. You are going to look at that for economic reasons. It is just not the right place for that statue. Like you I've been reading and learning and listening a lot since the George Floyd incident. You are kind of like that statue has been here forever and nobody has made any complaints about it. Well, part of it is, we may not be as awake as we should have been. I know I for one was not awake as I should have been. I'm awake now. I understand. I've done a lot of research. I've watched hours of documentaries, not just Facebook posts. The history behind those statues is clear. To take this issue to a nonbinding referendum is a waste of time and you will get a lot more of what you just got this morning where people come up and they tell you their side. And it is possible that the people who want to keep the statue outnumber those who want it removed. It is very possible that's true. I'm not sure that's true anymore, but it is possible that's true. It doesn't matter. Our Constitution was founded on protecting the rights of the minority and we have to remember that at all times. There's a reason why we protect the rights of the minority. It's American. I believe in history. I don't want to destroy history. I love history. I want history to be remembered and placed in context where it can be understood, in museums. We have an amazing number of museums in Floyd County for a community this size. I am certain with a little bit of effort we can figure out how to come to an agreement that yes, we need to remember our history in the appropriate place and all of the history. As a business leader there are times, like you, that I have to make a decision that other people just don't like. If I was not good at firing people, and I'm good at firing people, I would not have a business. I have to make decisions that not everybody likes. That is part of being a leader. For me to take every decision that I make to my employees and saying, "Do you think I should do this today?" would create mass chaos. That is why we have leaders. I'm asking you as the leaders of this community to make the right decision, to look at all of the evidence, and then make the decision and lead us through this challenging time and always, not just pandemic, the racial uprising we are having right now, the disagreements we have. Because I'm telling you I love Floyd County and I love everybody who has shown up today regardless of what side of this issue they are on. We make community. That is one of the things I love about Floyd. We can do this. We can do hard things. We'll get to the other side. It is important that we protect the rights of the minority. And one other thing because I have been listening for a long time, I noticed today that you are letting

people from outside the area speak and I am concerned about that. Why does someone who lives in Christiansburg decide? I make a life here. I live here. This matters to me. I appreciate your efforts. I know how hard it is to be a leader. I understand and I appreciate your efforts. I know it is not an easy decision, but I hope you will come to the right one. Thank you.

Discussion was held as to Supervisor Yoder not being able to respond to emails received from constituents because of unresolved email issues.

Ms. Lander – We've been gathering signatures in this Town and from people just in Floyd County. We have over 400 signatures of all of your residents. We will be producing that data specifically for you. I encourage you that email malfunctions and phone calls, those things are hurting the way people can express their needs and feelings about this issue.

Supervisor Yoder – Hopefully we will have that email issue resolved. We are working on it. It was part of another issue in the County. I want to ask all of you – one of the suggestions I've heard was some way to contextualize the statue. Maybe leaving it there but also adding something that reflects the problems of slavery, but not just that...but all the way up to today's time the suffering that people of color went through. I'm not sure what that would look like. I'm curious what your thoughts would be on that.

Ms. Little – I am here today to let you know that slavery or any type of remembrance of that is extremely hurtful. My ancestors were raped, beaten, killed, hung. I don't want to go to my Courthouse and be reminded of that. I would like to be that liaison between the Board of Supervisors and my community. My community, some of us are afraid to speak out. I'm here today to speak out for everyone who is on the line of removing this. I don't want to be reminded of slavery. I really don't. My children do not. I have a 12-year-old who I would like to come and speak. She is in Floyd County Public Schools. She is twelve. What she has come home and told me; it hurts me. I'm a mother. She shouldn't have to go through this. I want you to hear it from a child, from her in her own words, if we can make that possible. I just don't think that's something that is appropriate – to have a statue of an enslaved person.

Supervisor Yoder – The people who have suggested it, I don't even know if it was another statue. It was just some kind of way of documenting history. I'm not sure what they had in mind.

Ms. Little – History has taught us a lot, but as a citizen of Floyd County and an American citizen, I think we can all come together to find a resolution that makes us all feel comfortable. I understand that is part of our history. It is dark times. It was. But that gives us the opportunity to place it where it needs to belong and that is like in a museum or a place where it can be observed in a different manner. On the Courthouse lawn is not the place for it. It is not to destroy it; it is to put it where it belongs. It is just not in front of our Courthouse.

Chairman Turman – As far as your daughter, you can bring her to public comment. We have public comment at every meeting.

Ms. Little – Absolutely. I just want to make sure to ensure that we would have a safe environment so that we are able to speak out. That is the main thing. We have even residents

who no longer live in Floyd, but they grew up here and they own land here, but they may reside in a different County. We even have African Americans who are still landowners, but really may not be able to reach out to you because of where they live. They may not live here but they own land here. There have been several questions and concerns of people wanting to speak out, but just don't know how. I want to be that liaison so that we are able to get a resolution. This is a wonderful County. I love where I live. I am a graduate of the class of 2006. I've lived here all of my life as well as my family before me and currently. We are those workers who are out there who are working face-to face jobs now – the essential workers. They may not be able to come to these meetings, but I have the ability to come. I have the ability to help bridge that gap to where everyone has the opportunity to speak and there is a clear and concise resolution that is put in place.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – I would like to take a moment to make a couple of comments. I have known Cieara since she was little. I have known her since she went to school. I know Margo as well. There have been many people, among them, who have come here today speaking about an issue that is truly uncomfortable. I think everybody admits that. I think it takes a lot of courage from every side that we saw today to come and speak in person. This is not a very comfortable thing to do for many. For us in our leadership roles, we have to do that. Some of us are more comfortable in doing that than others. I think it took a lot of courage, particularly Cieara, for you to come and give us your insights. No matter how we look at this issue, from whatever side we are on, your testimony this morning – and you didn't use the word "racism," but you have felt it in your hometown and in your community. Is that correct?

Ms. Little – Yes, that is correct.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – It's not easy. It is not easy for any of us, but I appreciate every single person who came today to discuss how they felt. I just wanted to go on record saying that.

Chairman Turman – To your point about people from outside the County speaking, we would love to keep it for Floyd County people, but it is public comment and I can't deny them the right to speak.

Ms. Lander – I just hope you can take what they said in context with that. Thank you.

Chairman Turman – Oh, yeah, we've been around a while. Thank you for coming.

Ms. Lander – I believe in this Town.

Agenda Item 6.g. – Ms. Sue Anne Boothe.

**Ms. Sue Anne Boothe, Courthouse District** – I thank you all for serving Floyd County. I know it is an important job and it is often thankless. I speak as a daughter of a former Supervisor so thank you for letting me take my turn to speak. I am, of course, here to speak about the monument. Also, I may repeat a few things that people have said. But I am opposed to removing the monument. I would just prefer that it just be left alone, but if the Board believes that something must be done, at least with a referendum you would have consulted the citizens and not just gone along with this movement to rewrite our history. I strongly disagree with many

of the reasons people give for removing the monument and I would like to present my thoughts. First, the monument was not placed because of Jim Crow laws and White supremacy. Many monuments were placed in that same time period in both the North and South. Floyd was devastated by the war and it took many years of recovery. So that is one reason why the monument wasn't placed until the first part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Also, the veterans were getting older and the community wished to honor them while they were still living. The ladies of Floyd raised \$1,100 for the monument, probably by having suppers and things like that with very small donations. That amount of money would be equivalent to roughly over \$31,000 in today's money. Second, the monument represents the Common Solider, most particularly men who never returned home. Confederate veterans were recognized as American veterans. Veterans, North and South, respected each other instead of the current fad today that condemns and disrespects the Confederate soldier. Many families did not know what happened to their loved ones or have a grave to visit to mourn their loss. The monument served to acknowledge their loss. Third, some claim that Floyd had more deserters than other locations as claimed in Rand Dotson's article in the Virginia Magazine of History and Biography. I think the situation is not exactly as Mr. Dotson portrayed. If any of you knew Marguerite Tise, she was a very well-known Floyd historian. She did not agree with Rand Dotson. But at the time about 1,457 men out of 1,927 who were eligible by age served in the Confederacy. Yes, there were deserters and Unionists in the County, but they were also in many other counties across the South. As everybody knows it was a very divisive time. Many who deserted came home to take care of their families. Many of them returned to their units later. Some records are really not complete, because some are listed as deserters but they also received pensions from the State. It is a complex situation. It cannot be accurately dealt with in one paragraph. I understand that there is opposition to the monument and that some members of our community may not feel the same as I do. Contrary to the so-called national narrative, there were free Black men who served the Confederacy. I can provide National Archives cards that document this. They may not have carried a gun, but their service as cooks, teamsters, or support positions was still serving in the Confederate service just as support positions today are part of our military. Are the Black men who served the Confederacy to be disrespected also? Removing monuments does not solve any problems that we have. I don't know what the solution is, but perhaps the community could have some sort of conversation about race if people can be respected for their opinions and not condemned. Too often those of us who honor our Confederate heritage are denigrated and accused of being ignorant racists. I have heard some say that we shouldn't wait until we have a referendum. Are these people opposed to following the law that was set up as the procedure for removing monuments? Don't they trust the people? Please do not remove our Confederate monument. Removing the monument disrespects the men from Floyd who did what they thought was right. It is condescending of us to look back and judge our forefathers through modern perceptions. Instead of removing our history, I think we should add to it. If some believe that some other segment of the population or segment of our history should be honored, add that monument. I think that is perfectly legitimate and very desirable. The current effort to be diverse and inclusive is eliminating those of us who honor our Confederate heritage and history. I do appreciate you for letting me come and present my position. Thank you.

Agenda Item 6.h. – Closed Session §2.2-3711 A.7. and A.8., Legal Counsel.

On a motion made by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and seconded by Supervisor Yoder, and carried, it was resolved to go into closed session under Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph 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 open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body to get an update on the opioid litigation and A.8. Consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel to find out legal options in regard to the monument.

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

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

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

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and 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 for Consultation with Legal Counsel and Briefings by Staff Members in accordance with Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph A.7. and Consultation with Legal Counsel Regarding Specific Legal Matters requiring advice in accordance with Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph A.8. 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 Coleman – absent
- Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
- Supervisor Yoder – yes
- Supervisor Boothe – yes
- Supervisor Turman – yes

This certification resolution was adopted.

Agenda Item 7.e. – Discussion of referendum calling for question as to whether the Confederate “Common Soldier” statue should remain on the Courthouse lawn.

Chairman Turman – The outcome of our closed session is that we don’t have all the Board members here today. We have heard a lot of stuff today and we need time to digest it, plus things are still coming in. We will table any motions today and bring it up at a later date.

Agenda Item 6.i. – Mr. Ry Winston, Abandonment Request Regarding Portion of Weddle Road.

Mr. Winston – Thank you for considering our request to abandon the old road on our farm down along Burks Fork. I left for each of you copies of maps of the portion that was in the abandonment request. I am here today to be able to answer any questions that you may have about it. The users of the road are generally us hiking along it, farmers that are leasing property for access to fields, and we have a hunt club over there also. Otherwise nobody seems to use this road. It dead ends at the old bridge next to Ms. Baker’s property. She is fully in support of the abandonment request. She asks that the bridge itself not be abandoned but that the abandonment begin on the southerly end of the bridge and run through our farm down to the common boundary we have with Billy Martin. I think it would be nice to see it abandoned just to avoid the potential for an accident on the old bridge there. It is not a safe bridge to be travelling on. I have on one occasion seen some young people on 4-wheelers down there on our property going that way. I did not chase them away, but there is concern that when someone is on a 4-wheeler who is 12 years old something bad could happen. I think it would help the County, our neighbors, and us to make the likelihood of an accident on the bridge lower if we could at least close our segment. What we have proposed has no impact on the bridge itself. It has no impact what is on the northerly side of the bridge, which is known as Weddle Road. I understand there has been discussion by my neighbors and others about what should happen with that road. This request has nothing to do with that previous request. It is a completely separate request.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – How long is the distance between point A and point B on your third map?

Mr. Winston – According to Google Earth it is about .8 of a mile. I took some pictures back in March and the road is just about impassable at that point. The pictures also show how little traffic that road has. When I made the request, I thought it was a winning proposition for everybody and my neighbors agreed. I really haven’t seen any objections so far.

Discussion was held as to the layout of Bunkie Run and Weddle Road in relation to this request and the possibility of access for emergency vehicles.

Mr. Winston – Both Ms. Baker and the Martins will stay on public roads. There will be an easement granted to Ms. Baker to give her a back-door entrance for her use in the future for timbering or whatever it may be.

Vice Chairman Boothe – Do you recall how wide that easement is?

Mr. Winston – I don't recall. We tried to make sure she could use the existing road that is there. The main goal was to make sure they kept the access rights they have today.

Supervisor Yoder – I was a little bit worried about making sure whoever owned the property had access. As far as I am concerned, I am definitely in support of it. It is not a public safety issue. I don't know why we would want to maintain that for public access.

Mr. Winston – Someone can always get hurt and sue us. But if we have taken steps to make access a little more challenging to say, "No, you are not welcome to go here," it helps us in a court whether it is the County defending its interests or me defending my family's interest with this farm.

Vice Chairman Boothe – Do I understand that you are opposed to abandoning the bridge with this abandonment?

Mr. Winston – I have revised the abandonment request per the comments from my neighbor Ms. Baker and her daughter. Their preference is to keep the bridge as is and make it clear that the abandonment would begin at the southerly edge of the bridge. I want to stay out of the situation where reasonable people can differ on opinions of abandoning the bridge or Weddle Road. I want to stay with a noncontroversial abandonment request that starts with the southerly side of the bridge. If that is the case, Ms. Baker and her daughter will support the abandonment request. If somehow the bridge got involved with it, she is going to have an issue with it. I'm trying to make everybody happy. It is my hope that you would be inclined to call a Public Hearing and ultimately to vote in favor of abandonment of this section of the road.

On a motion made by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and seconded by Supervisor Yoder, and carried, it was resolved to authorize the County Administrator to advertise for a Public Hearing on September 8, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. regarding the abandonment of the southerly edge of the bridge and the road that runs through the Winston property to the Martin property as stated in the application.

Supervisor Coleman – absent  
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes  
Supervisor Yoder – yes  
Supervisor Boothe – no  
Supervisor Turman – yes

Vice Chairman Boothe explained that his "no" vote was because of his concern about the bridge. He is not opposed to abandoning the part on Mr. Winston's property but thinks the bridge should be included in the request.

Agenda Item 7.f. – Acceptance of bids for the Floyd County Public Schools Collaboration and Career Development Center.

Supervisor Justin Coleman joined this part of the meeting remotely from Sevierville, TN due to a personal matter, which is that he is on vacation. This participation is in accordance with Floyd County's Remote Participation Policy which was duly adopted by the Floyd County Board



of Supervisors. Supervisor Coleman has not done this more than two times in calendar year 2020.

Ms. Morris – We are on item 7.f. which is the acceptance of bid from Frith Construction. As you can see, we received 7 bids. All bids were responsive and consistent with our bid specifications. It is the recommendation of our architect and staff that the low bid of \$11,898,407.00 from Frith Construction be accepted.

Supervisor Boothe moved to accept the bid of \$11,898,407.00 from Frith Construction. Supervisor Coleman seconded the bid.

Supervisor Yoder – My issue is that I haven't even seen the final plans for it. I missed two meetings because of being sick this year and I may have missed it then. I came into this with the impression that we were going to have a joint meeting with the School Board like we did with the air conditioning.

Ms. Morris – We were planning on doing that, but with the virus that got bumped out of the way. Dr. Wheeler has all the plans on the website so they could be reviewed that way.

Supervisor Yoder – I would prefer to have discussion with the School Board or at least Dr. Wheeler. That is why I am hesitant about voting on this today.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – I remember Supervisor Coleman your saying that you wanted to have a meeting again.

Supervisor Coleman – Didn't we have one scheduled and then COVID-19 came about and it got postponed?

Ms. Morris – Yes, sir. That is correct.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – Now that we are at level 3 it appears that we could have that kind of meeting now so we could discuss it. This is a large amount of money. I know you and I were feeling that when we got to this point that we would have another joint meeting. Since we are in a different state of time with the COVID-19 crisis, I would think that it would be good to have that meeting. I didn't think we would be voting on this today.

Supervisor Yoder – I want to support it, but for me I have to have more information before I vote to spend that money.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – I am wondering about enrollment in schools and just what we are looking at moving forward. I am really concerned about the whole thing. I have gone on record stating that and I will say that again.

Vice Chairman Boothe – What is the deadline on accepting bids?

Ms. Morris – I don't have the whole bid file in here with me but they are usually good for 30 to 45 days.

Vice Chairman Boothe – So if we hold another meeting it has to be immediately.

Ms. Morris – Yes.

Discussion was held as to arranging a meeting with the School Board and/or Dr. Wheeler.

Ms. Morris – I gave you a spreadsheet of all the other anticipated costs and it will be below the amount that you approved. I have taken bids on the nutrient credits we have to obtain. I will bring those back to you later also. They came in lower than what we estimated on here. We estimated \$42,000.00 and they came in at \$36,000.00. The bids were taken on the final plans so any changes to the plans from the joint meeting would require bids to be taken again.

Mr. Durbin – Potentially you might have to re-bid it. There are some areas that might be within the scope of the contract so that they would clearly still be the low bidder, they would be the successful contractor, and you would negotiate with them on a change. It is not clear that you would have to re-bid, but you might have to.

Supervisor Yoder – I am not talking about making changes. I just want to know what I am voting on. I talked to James Ingram, Chairman of the School Board, probably two or three months ago. From that conversation I was under the impression that once we got bids in, we would talk about them. I am just uncomfortable with that kind of money without anything other than the basic drawing that I saw 1½ years ago. For me to spend \$11 to \$12 million I want to know what I am voting on, but I want to be supportive of it. I have been supportive of the project from the beginning. I feel like we are taking the borrowing power of the County for the next 15 years to do this project. I want to make sure when I sign on to this that it will be a space that is really usable. I don't feel like it is my role to say make these changes, but I do want to know how to use it and we are not just throwing money at it. I've looked at projects in the past and wondered why the Board did not catch on to parts that cost a lot of money and didn't give us what we needed. I feel like it is my role to review before we write the check.

Supervisor Coleman withdrew his second to the motion on the basis of a meeting with the School Board and/or Dr. Wheeler to discuss the final plans.

Supervisor Boothe's motion failed for lack of a second.

Agenda Item 7.g. – Approval of resolution to appropriate the approved FY21 budget.

Ms. Morris – Ms. Ryan gave you two options for the quarterly appropriations as you discussed last time. The first option is just for 25% of the appropriation for all items. Option 2 is for 25% for most items but a full year appropriation for insurance, County and School debt, and Four 4 Life funds. We did find out one more thing yesterday. I gave you a copy of a letter that Mr. Belcher received where we were awarded a grant for an ambulance. The grant was for \$111,500.00, which \$96,500.00 was for the ambulance and \$15,000.00 was for the powerlift. Even though it was wonderful that he received this grant, we are required to order it before September 1. I would ask that you include our amount of \$153,500.00 in that appropriation also for whichever option you choose.

Supervisor Yoder – I talked to Roger Hollandsworth and he said he talked to one of you about Rescue?

Ms. Ryan – The reason option 2 included 100% for Four 4 Life was because the County acts as a conduit for Four 4 Life to Rescue. They use that exclusively to pay their insurance for the year.

On a motion made by Supervisor Yoder, and seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve option 2 for the FY21 appropriation in the amount of \$15,161,334.00 which is 25% of all line items and 100% for insurance, School and County debt, and Four 4 Life Funds and includes \$153,500.00 for the County's match on an ambulance/powerlift grant (Document File Number 1119).

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

Supervisor Coleman had to leave his electronic participation in the Board meeting.

Agenda Item 6.d. – Mr. David Clarke, Resident Engineer, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

Mr. Chris Price came instead of Mr. Clarke but had to leave without presenting when public comment ran into his scheduled time on the agenda.

Ms. Morris – Mr. Price provided a report for you on work completed. He did not have anything else, but if you had particular requests, we could relay those to him.

Vice Chairman Boothe – I was going to talk to him about work under the bridge. The tree work done was fine and helped a lot, but they need to get in there and dig out what needs to be dug out while they can. It has been 2½ years now since I brought it up. This might need to be dealt with at the State level, but I tried to avoid that at all costs. But to get it done that might be the way I have to do it.

Ms. Morris – If you want to send all of your concerns to me, I will compile it and send in one list to him.

Chairman Turman – That would be best.

Vice Chairman Boothe – I have one more thing for the Board. If you get an opportunity go up there and see where they have placed the crosswalk light poles at the intersection. It is a "T mortal" mess.

Ms. Morris – I did ask him about that and he said that they are supposed to be over here tomorrow and review those again.

Vice Chairman Boothe – I talked to David [Clarke] and gave him my opinion. I am getting complaints from citizens. They've put the poles up in the crosswalk where if someone is coming across, they have to wait for the foot traffic to move before they can get around it and onto the sidewalk. In front of Gallimore's is that way. The one in front of Farmer's Supply is on the back side of the sidewalk, but the one at the Blue Ridge Café is in the front which is blocking pedestrian traffic. I went back and looked. It is not the contractor's fault. They put it in where they designed it. I just didn't realize where they designed it was going to end up like it was. The one at Wall Residences to the Gallimore Building is backed up into the bank. The one at Wall's to the Courthouse is sitting in the sidewalk. They could have done a better job locating those lamp posts, I think and a lot of my citizens think that too. If you get a chance go up there and walk it yourself.

Supervisor Yoder – They are not working all that often, are they?

Vice Chairman Boothe – There was a time when they worked but from my understanding, they are having a problem getting it to shut down all four ways at one time. They were working, but they weren't shutting down all four ways.

Ms. Morris – They are having trouble with the timing of the light also. They have been working on that off and on.

Vice Chairman Boothe – They're working on it; I'll give them credit, but the placement of the lamp posts is ridiculous.

Agenda Item 5. – Approval of monthly disbursements continued.

On a motion of Supervisor Yoder, seconded by Supervisor Boothe, and carried, it was resolved to approve the FY21 July 2020 monthly disbursements and additional bills as presented.

Supervisor Coleman – absent

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes

Supervisor Yoder – yes

Supervisor Boothe – yes

Supervisor Turman – yes

Agenda Item 6.e. – Dr. John Wheeler, Superintendent of Floyd County Public Schools.

Dr. Wheeler had to leave without presenting when public comment ran into his scheduled time on the agenda. Ms. Morris presented the School Board requests for approval.

On a motion of Supervisor Kuchenbuch, seconded by Supervisor Boothe, and carried, it was resolved to approve a supplemental revenue appropriation in Federal Funds source for Additional Summer Food Service Program funds reimbursed due to the emergency feeding of all children during the closures of schools in the amount of \$280,718.70 in the FY20 School Board budget.

Supervisor Coleman – absent

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes

Supervisor Yoder – yes  
Supervisor Boothe – yes  
Supervisor Turman – yes

On a motion of Supervisor Yoder, seconded by Supervisor Boothe, and carried, it was resolved to approve a supplemental expenditure appropriation in School Food category for Additional Summer Food Service Program funds reimbursed due to the emergency feeding of all children during the closures of schools in the amount of \$280,718.70 in the FY20 School Board budget and in the FY20 School Board budget to approve the transfer of \$40,000.00 from Instructional category and \$40,000.00 from Operation & Maintenance category to Technology category in the amount of \$80,000.00 to pay several FY21 annual technology invoices.

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

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Yoder, and carried, it was resolved to authorize the year-end carry-over of \$106,968.89 from the FY20 Floyd County School Board budget to the Capital Improvement Fund.

Supervisor Coleman – absent  
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – no  
Supervisor Yoder – yes  
Supervisor Boothe – yes  
Supervisor Turman – yes

Agenda Item 7.a. – Subdivision plats as approved by Agent for June 2020.

Ms. Morris – I will be glad to take any questions or concerns to Ms. Turman.

No questions or concerns were raised.

Agenda Item 7.b. – Reappointment Board of Supervisors Representative to Floyd County Social Services Board for a four-year term effective July 1, 2020.

On a motion of Supervisor Yoder, seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and carried, it was resolved to reappoint Mr. Jerry Boothe as the Board of Supervisors Representative from the Courthouse District to the Floyd County Social Services Board for a four-year term effective July 1, 2020.

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

Agenda Item 7.c. – Acceptance of Abstract of Votes cast in Floyd county, Virginia at the 2020 June Republican Primary Election held on June 23, 2020 for a Member of the United States Senate.

On a motion of Supervisor Kuchenbuch, seconded by Supervisor Boothe, and carried, it was resolved to accept the Abstract of Votes cast in Floyd County, Virginia at the 2020 June Republican Primary Election held on June 23, 2020 for a Member of the United States Senate.

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

Agenda Item 7.d. – Request from Virginia War Memorial Foundation.

Ms. Morris – As you will recall this came up last year. The Board instructed me to obtain further information. I've tried to contact them several times both by phone and email. This is the first time I've heard back from them. They are requesting a contribution for the 57 Floyd heroes enshrined on the war memorial in Richmond.

Discussion was held about who was included in the list of names from Floyd County. The Board requested that someone from the Virginia War Memorial Foundation come to a Board meeting to provide additional information.

Agenda Item 8. – Old/New Business.

No old or new business was brought up to discuss.

Agenda Item 9. – Board Member Time.

Supervisor Yoder – I appreciate everybody who has reached out to me about the statue issue. It has actually been eye opening for me because I have had conversations with people who I have been friends with for a long time. I asked them about issues I had never asked about. I really appreciate people being open with me about the way things are. I am learning and I hope other people are learning too. I apologize that I have not called back everybody who has called me because I have been so busy. A lot of people have called and left messages to share their opinion. I appreciate that. I've listened to all of it and I feel like it is a time for me to continue to learn. It is a busy time of the year for a farmer.

Chairman Turman – If you are like me you get in at dark and can't call until 11:00 p.m. and you don't want me to call at that time of night.

Supervisor Yoder – I've lived here since I was a kid and have heard about some things I didn't know happened. It has been a learning experience for me.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – I would like to say that this Board is a very thoughtful Board. This Board works hard to understand all the issues that come before us. That is what I believe we are doing with this one.

Also, I wanted to say something about Route 8. I'm not sure what happened to the repaving of Route 8. I know it is off of topic, but I just wanted to go on record that I know and I have seen it and drive it. There is an issue with that repaving job. Ms. Morris I will put that in my email to you about the road situations. I am very concerned about the safety of Route 8 right now and even the painting of the lines.

Vice Chairman Boothe – This surface treating the side roads – I know we wanted to make gravel roads paved but now we seem to be making paved roads gravel. My understanding from a phone call last night is that over time it should pack down and be as hard as asphalt.

Agenda Item 10. – Adjournment.

On a motion of Supervisor Yoder, seconded by Supervisor Boothe, and carried, it was resolved to adjourn the meeting to July 28, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.



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Terri W. Morris, County Administrator



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Joe D. Turman, Chairman, Board of Supervisors

