

Minutes
Board of Supervisors
Regular Meeting
June 28, 2022, 7 pm

1. Meeting called to order – The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Turman.

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

3. Pledge - The pledge of alliance was led by Deputy County Administrator Kim Chiddo.

4. Determination of Quorum - Dr. Millsaps called the roll to determine quorum. All Supervisors were present, so a quorum was met.

5. Agenda – Dr. Millsaps indicated that the Park Road discussion has been removed from the agenda, after conversation with the Chairman, to be added to the next day time meeting. In addition, Dr. Millsaps asked that an additional item be added, 10b (1) for discussion. It relates to economic development and the VATI grant. The information was provided in the board member packet. On a motion by Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and passed unanimously, the agenda was approved with the amendments suggested by staff.

6. Disbursements – The board asked clarifying questions related to plants, plumbing and the NRV Rail. Upon motion by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, seconded by Supervisor Bechtold, the list of disbursements was approved unanimously.

7. Public Comment – Chairman Turman read the statement related to ADA participation and opened the floor for public comment, with a 4-minute limit. The speakers were as follows:

Sean Jackson – Locust Grove District

Very good, thank you. Okay, good evening, everybody. My name is Sean Jackson. I live in Locust Grove district. I'm a consultant in the government and public sector division of a big four firm. I say that because some of the information I'm going to share tonight, it's been gained in part through my work. However, I want to be very clear that my opinions are entirely my own. As you're well aware, state local governments have planned for many things from transportation and housing to health, safety and economic well-being. Few however, plan for agriculture. This really needs to change. For as others have noted, ultimately, despite our many accomplishments, we owe our existence to a six-inch layer of topsoil, and the fact that it rains. Agriculture is Virginia's largest private industry, with nearly 3.3 million acres of nationally significant agricultural land or land best suited for growing food. Over the last two decades, however, the United States has lost development lost to development, more than 11 million acres of farmland according to the American Farmland Trust, every day 2000 acres of agricultural land are paved over fragmented or converted to use that jeopardize farming. This threatens the integrity of our local and regional food systems. In fact, there are some estimates that by 2050, we are going to need to increase food production by 60% to feed a world of 9.3 billion people. But there's even more at stake than food. That's because we also need farmland to restore our planet. When properly managed,

farmland and ranch land supports wildlife and biodiversity. When properly managed, farmland and ranch land, cleans water, restores aquifers, and sequester carbon. My wife and I moved here to expand our regenerative farm and to serve our community through responsible sustainable stewardship of our land. We chose to move here after reviewing your master plan is it appeared our values aligned with those of the community and its elected officials. And then we learned with another plan, a plan to take 200 acres of land 200 acres of land, most of which is designated by the USDA as farmland of statewide importance, land best suited to growing crops and raising livestock. 200 acres of rich farmland and we're going to turn it into a parking lot to accommodate the 20 to 30,000 concert goers who are going to descend on our community. But it's just one week a year it's magical music for one week, a year. What's the big problem? What's the big deal? The big deal is what's at stake. And what's at stake is nothing less than our future. It's very straightforward farms. The food, no future. 200 acres of rich, productive, vital farmland gone. Traded for a parking lot. And one week of chaos to be visited upon our community every single year. Ladies and gentlemen, we need to preserve our farmland. We need to establish a public policy framework to support agricultural economic development and to retain and protect our farmland for current and future generations. No farms, no food, no future.

Dan Vest – Locust Grove District.

Along with this gentleman so eloquently talked about the issue at hand is this. You can go down Meadow Run Road, you can go down Hummingbird Road, and probably collect one of these every resident down that way, and probably on timber lane too or timber line. I'll just want to talk about the first bullet here. This is from FloydFest. And these are steps taken to date. And the first one is environmental due diligence. Environmental due diligence is listed as a step taken to date. And many of the letter letters sent to Check neighbors that reside around New FloydFest site for 2023. What does this mean? Have we endangered species, have the endangered species on the property in Check been cataloged? Has an environmental impact study been done? I thought these things took years to do. Where can we get a copy of that to review? If it's been done, I'd love to see it, needs to be for public review. How about the county commissioning a study for the impact of Checks human population as well. I'm suggesting a real study. Just don't go out and pay a couple of college students to do the work as FloydFest did prior to the pandemic for their economic justification. That's on this paper. Real studies take time and yes money. Better be proactive than reactive. I guess FloydFest folks and possibly some, some standing in front of me right now don't have to get up almost every day and use the roads to go to Roanoke. This is not going to be a venue for one week a year. It's already been stated in the Roanoke Times, it's going to be in an event place. Due to the failure of county government not focusing on attracting living wage jobs for the county residents. Again, we're taking a backseat for the benefit of the select few shakers and movers. Yes the residents of Floyd county could in the end be subsidizing the Floyd Fest event venue through unexpected county burden law enforcement, emergency services etc. Just to remind everyone, our taxes keep on going up every year. Physical acumen seems very lacking in this building. The county staff do their due diligence and vetting all critical data before committing to citizens Check to FloydFest I have to ask that question. We need to make sure the county sees a clear unprojected revenue stream from this event, no surprises and no trust who are known as earn. I've always considered the greater Check area my home. My family has been in the county since the 1700s. Bringing big city traffic on county roads, noise and crime to the Check area does not seem like what someone would be bragging about bringing home. I attend the church right next to FloydFest property. As of this past Sunday, the church has not had any contact with

Floyd fest. I wonder what is going to happen on Sunday morning, Sunday evening and Wednesday nights when we're trying to have our services. We will be even able to drive to the church to conduct our services when Floydfest is in full swing, as well as other events that you're talking about. Mentioned in the Roanoke Times articles. Will we even be able to hear ourselves speak to each other in the church. To me, this event venue is more of a home breaker slash wrecker event rather than a homecoming. Thank you very much.

Kiersten Vest – Locust Grove District

One of the many concerns we have about Floyd Fest coming to Check is the crime that occurs and the effect that that will have on our peaceful community. Thanks to Wren Williams office, we have some statistics from the Patrick County Sheriff's Department, but 49 cases which originated FloydFest over the past 10 years. 38 drug or narcotic violations including distribution, larcenies missing persons assault or domestic disturbances 2 rapes or sexual assaults. One of those victims was a 16-year-old girl, disorderly conduct, drunk and intoxicated in public. They're still working on getting us an estimate of the costs, but the sheriff's department did say the large part of the cost was incurred when the drug charges were indicted. And Patrick County had to pay to transport the offenders to get them back to the state. Because people come from all over the country to Floyd fest. I wonder how many of those charges were dropped because it was just too hard to bring the druggies back to Virginia. Well, that same thing happened now in Floyd county. And if you're tempted to say, well, that's not a bad crime rate. You need to think again. Did you know that there's a law firm in Roanoke that has advice on its website related to Floydfest? Here are the headlines, five tips for avoiding legal trouble and FloydFest. What to do if you're arrested at Floyd Fest, and sexual assault at music festivals in Virginia, which includes information about Floyd fest, and then they say to call them if you're arrested at Floyd fest to speak with a lawyer who will who quote will aggressively protect your rights and defend your freedoms. Sounds a little more like predatory advertising to me. I don't think any law firm would spend time targeting Floyd fest attendees if there wasn't a dire need for representation. The elephant in the room with Floyd fest is there anything goes Montra that encourages lawlessness. We do not want Woodstock in Check or anywhere else in Floyd County and you shouldn't either. Regarding our festival code, it's a good thing that it requires an applicant to hire security staff at their own full expense. But what kind of security are they hiring? Consider this Facebook post that came from Floyd Fest Facebook page. Fella says "work in security at Floyd Fest this year who's coming through", somebody comments "come on everybody that's basically is an invitation to bring illegal substances in", the fella who posted I respect the law wink wink. That other fella can't wait to see smoking in the reef bongos, somebody else you let me in LoL somebody else, Yeah, that's what I'm saying. The fella who wrote the post. I mean, I'm not running if you jump the fence. So is that the kind of security that they hire? Sounds like a free for all for the main entrance. I would like to encourage a modification to the code to define security staff to be a combination of armed and unarmed officers from a reputable event security company or locality. But that it shall not be anyone from the Floyd County Sheriff's Department either on or off duty. We are struggling to handle all the calls in Floyd as it is much less during a chaotic event that has 15 to 20,000 people and believe me there will be that many people because for fest is coming home to Floyd. No more like they are wrecking Check. Thank you

Chairman Turman declared the public comment period closed.

8. Board Time – No members spoke during this time.

9. Old Business –

a. HVAC Bid Approval using ARPA funds – Dr. Millsaps reminded the board that at previous meetings we had discussed going out for bid for replacements of the HVAC systems. She informed the board that the winning bid was from Smith Heating and Air. Because the documents were not available in the packet as expected, the issue was tabled until later in the meeting.

10a(1) – Appendix A on Commerce Center project - The group moved to forward to Lydeanna Martin to address economic development items. Ms. Martin outlined changes to Appendix A based on direction from VDOT. First, she clarified that the bid needed to be at least 10% over this number before you could reject all bids. She also indicated that the contingency rate was reduced to 10%. As such, the cost estimate has been reduced by \$400,000. She reminded the board that the county already has \$101,000 in the project. And that almost two and a half million in grant funds have been committed. She also clarified that an additional \$177,000 of local commitment may be needed. It was clarified that unless the bids come back more than 10% over target, the county will be committed. Discussion continued on the details of the Commerce Center project, associated costs, and the financial situation of the county. The item was tabled until the next board meeting, to give the board and staff time to do more research and consider options.

10b – VATI Letter of Interest for FY23 Cycle – Ms. Martin directed the board’s attention to a draft letter of interest. She indicated that the county is working with Citizens on a VATI telecommunications Initiative grant that will cover the last 3% of state-maintained roads in the county as well as some long driveways that Citizens had identified that’s beyond the range of their free extension will cover. She also indicated that the county will have to submit a letter of interest if we might want to apply again. Given the grant deadlines, the staff is asking for board approval of a letter of interest. This would give the county time to do research on if there are pockets that could get covered beyond the state roads.

On a motion by Supervisor Bechtold and seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, the board voted unanimously to approved sending a letter of interest, authorizing all appropriate signatures.

9a HVAC Bid Approval Using ARPA Funds (continued) – Dr. Millsaps shared with the board that the county received 4 bids, three from the county. Smith provided the lowest bid and created the least financial risk for the county. On a motion by Supervisor Cox, seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and supported unanimously, the bid was approved, and the staff was instructed to move forward utilizing ARPA funds.

9b – Park playground equipment purchase approval using ARPA funds – Dr. Millsaps brought forward the staff recommendation to purchase a particular set of playground equipment using ARPA funds. The recommended set was on a special sale so the cost to the county would be reduced. On a motion by Supervisor Bechtold, seconded by Supervisor Boothe, the board unanimously approved moving forward with purchasing the proposed playground equipment, with appropriate signatures, using ARPA funds.

10. New Business

10a – DSS Board Member Re-appointment – Deputy Administrator Kim Chiddo reported that both Jennifer Claytor from the Locust Grove district as well as the vice chair, Molly Hunter Sloan have been serving on this board. They were elected in July of 2018, with their term ending in June 2022. Both individuals would like to continue for another four-year term. On a motion by Supervisor Cox, seconded by Supervisor Boothe, the board voted to reappoint both individuals.

10c – Fire Engine Donation – Dr. Millsaps drew the board’s attention to a letter from the Virginia Fire Museum requesting that the county donate the recently retired truck from Station Two to the museum. The museum is a 501©3 organization focused on the preservation of the fire service in Virginia as well as the restoration of fire apparatus that is either served in or been manufactured in the Commonwealth. And this comes at the request of the fire chief. On a motion by Supervisor Bechtold, seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, the board voted unanimously to donate the fire truck to the Virginia Fire Museum.

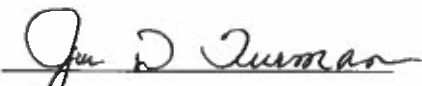
11 – County Administrator’s report – Dr. Millsaps updated the board on good staff news with the Transfer Station and paid EMS. In addition, she noted that Jessie Thomas has been working with the high school on an EMS program related to EMS. She also provided an update on county administration staffing and thanked Kim, Mark, and Dan for helping cover staff shortages. Board members asked questions related to green boxes, recycling, bears, and new green box signage. Dr. Millsaps also let the board know that the Recreation Department successfully hosted a regional tournament and received the Chairman’s Award for having such beautiful grounds (thank you to the volunteers!).

Updates were also received for budget requests by the Sheriff’s office, the Fire Department, and Solid Waste.

12. Approval of the FY23 Floyd County Budget – After staff updates, amendments, discussion, and personal statements by each member of the Board, the Board voted unanimously for the FY23 budget as amended. On the motion by Supervisor Bechtold, seconded by Supervisor Cox.

13. Correspondence – the board reviewed correspondence in the packet.

14. Adjournment – on a motion by Supervisor Bechtold, seconded by Supervisor Cox, the board voted unanimously to adjourn.


Chairman Joe Turman


County Administrator Linda Millsaps

