

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2019**

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Floyd County, Virginia, held on Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. in the Board Room of the County Administration Building thereof;

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

Chairman Lauren Yoder 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 Supervisor Coleman.

Agenda Item 3. – Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Boothe led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item 4. – Approval of minutes of August 13, 2019 and August 27, 2019.

On a motion of Supervisor Kuchenbuch, seconded by Supervisor Coleman, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the minutes of August 13, 2019 as presented.

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

On a motion of Supervisor Kuchenbuch, seconded by Supervisor Turman, and carried, it was resolved to approve the minutes of August 27, 2019 as presented.

Supervisor Boothe – abstain, absent due to illness  
Supervisor Coleman – yes  
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes  
Supervisor Turman – yes  
Supervisor Yoder – yes

Agenda Item 5. – Approval of August 2019 monthly disbursements.

Questions and discussion followed.

On a motion of Supervisor Turman, seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the August 2019 monthly disbursements and

additional bills as presented.

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

Agenda Item 6.a. – Constitutional Officers Reports.

There were no Constitutional Officers present.

Agenda Item 7.a. – Subdivision plats as approved by agent for August 2019.

Ms. Morris – Ms. Turman is out of town at a conference but she provided the subdivision plats for you. I will take any questions you might have for her.

Vice Chairman Turman – It seems like we are not having too much activity.

Supervisor Boothe – Usually when we start looking at the Subdivision ordinance there is a run of plats submitted but that has not happened this time so far.

Agenda Item 7.b. – Designation of representative and alternate to the Board of Directors of the New River Valley Agency on Aging.

On a motion by Supervisor Boothe, and seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, it was resolved to reappoint Ms. Terri Morris as representative and Ms. Cynthia Ryan as alternate to the Board of Directors of the New River Valley Agency on Aging from October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020.

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

Ms. Morris – We will be having a benefit Guns and Hoses ballgame on September 21 at Calfee Park if any of you are interested in attending. We had a lot of fun at it last year. All the proceeds go back to benefit agency programs. Nothing goes to administration.

Agenda Item 7.c. – Participation in Community Signage Project – Crooked Road.

Ms. Morris – As you will note in their letter counties that continue to provide funding will receive 2 signs at no cost. We would be responsible for installation of the signs. I also provided a copy of their activity report for your information.

Supervisor Boothe – Don't we already have signage?

Discussion was held about the number and location of existing Crooked Road signs in Floyd County.

Chairman Yoder – It is interesting that the year we didn't fund them that they came up with this offer.

Supervisor Boothe – Floyd County has funded them since day one haven't we?

Ms. Morris – We have. This is the first year that we haven't.

Chairman Yoder – Did they even request funding from us this year?

Ms. Morris – No. They didn't; we were surprised.

By consensus the Board decided to table this item until budget time.

Agenda Item 7.d. – Request to Submit Letter of Interest to Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).

Ms. Morris – The next item is a letter request from Lydeana Martin who is at training today in Williamsburg. As she explains in the letter this program is a saving/matching program for low-income residents. Up to \$200,000 in grant funds may be provided. Right now all she is requesting for your consideration is that you consider allowing her to submit a letter of interest for this program. If we were accepted, any applications would come back to you for approval before we applied for anything.

Chairman Yoder – Essentially this program provides an incentive for people to save money.

Ms. Morris – DHCD has had this program before but then the General Assembly did not fund it for a number of years and they have come back with it again.

Supervisor Boothe – I have several questions but I have no problem with a letter of interest as long as it is non-obligating at this time. Prior to anything happening I have a lot of questions that need to be answered.

Ms. Morris – Absolutely. This letter of interest does not obligate us in any way. It just secures our place in case the program is funded.

By consensus the Board requested that Ms. Martin submit a letter of interest from Floyd County to DHCD for the savings-matching program for low-income residents.

Agenda Item 7.e. – Approval to Extend Term Contracts with Engineering Firms for One Year.

Ms. Morris – It is hard to believe that we have had the engineering contracts for three years. Within the Request for Proposals we had the option for two 1-year extensions. I can do these by letter with the same terms and conditions if you agree with that.

Supervisor Boothe – Is that continuation at the same price?

Ms. Morris – Yes, everything is the same.

By consensus the Board requested that Ms. Morris execute one year contract extensions with each of the four engineering firms currently under contract.

Agenda Item 8. – Old/New Business.

Supervisor Boothe – I want to give you an overview from the Transportation Committee at VACo [Virginia Association of Counties] meeting. Fairfax County had two of their paid lobbyists who are on their staff lobby our Transportation Committee for stuff. They wanted to give VDOT [Virginia Department of Transportation] vehicles with blue flashing lights and have the same powers as State police to go through traffic. It was soundly defeated in our committee and then it went to the Board of Directors and I don't believe it got any footing there either. I guess they have enough employees to dispatch them to accident scenes. I don't recall seeing VDOT employees being dispatched to accidents but we don't have a major interstate either so it is a little different. But there are major safety concerns for all involved so that did not go anywhere.

Chairman Yoder – I don't think that was just directed at us. I think that was directed toward the General Assembly and they were looking to VACo for support.

Supervisor Boothe – VACo has not supported it so far but it will still come up before our legislative leaders. If a majority of this group is against this then we need to let them know and specifically say that when we put out legislative stuff together.

Chairman Yoder – Some of the counties who are pushing for this are from the I-95 area and are understaffed. Mr. McKay from Fairfax said then we need to be supporting more staffing for the State police. We don't need to move their duties to VDOT.

Supervisor Boothe – We are trying to get a sidewalk/walking path. There was a short presentation about e-scooters. If localities want to pass ordinances to keep them off their sidewalks, they have until January 1 to do so. I thought that might be something we need to discuss with Steve [Durbin, County Attorney]. I also need to talk to Will [Griffin, Town Mayor] so he can get Jim Shortt [Town Attorney] to look into this. I expressed our opinion on the fuel tax situation. Not surprisingly everyone who was in attendance that didn't have I-81 in their County agreed with us. Even the gentleman who was giving the presentation said he understood. He thought it should have been done across the board.

Ms. Morris – A lobbyist called last week to see if we wanted to hire her to help us fight.

Supervisor Boothe – I think we have proven that we can speak for ourselves. I spoke to a gentleman from Carroll County. They have to pay for I-81, but I-77 also passes through so people in their County could potentially be hit twice. I explained that we are not opposed to a fuel tax to take care of these problems if they had done 3¢ or 4¢ all the way across the State, then they could have designated a certain amount to I-81 and had more money to work on other roads.

Vice Chairman Turman – I brought that up to David [Suetterlein, State Senator]. If you had done 3¢ across the State and earmarked so much for I-81 and fairly distributed the rest to all the Counties you would have done more good for everyone.

Supervisor Boothe – A question that came up at the meeting is “Why does the State continually raise funds to take care of a Federal road?” Our federal legislators should be ensuring that we are getting our piece of the Federal roads for the upgrade and maintenance of all these Federal roads.

Ms. Morris – You talked about doing a field trip to the Recreation Park at your September 24 meeting. We need to schedule one of the engineering firms to meet with you and the Economic Development Authority with you that night. Do you still want to do the field trip that night?

The Board discussed when they would like to do the Recreation Park field trip and by consensus decided to have lunch at 11:00 a.m. on October 8 at the Recreation Park.

Supervisor Boothe – The light is out in the bathroom. One of the swings is broken at the playground for smaller children.

Ms. Morris – Have you given any consideration as to what dates you want to hold meetings in November and December?

Discussion was held as to whether one meeting or two meetings were needed in November and December and what dates to hold the meetings.

Agenda Item 6.b. – Public Comment Period.

Chairman Yoder called for the Public Comment Period.

**Mr. Charles Whiting, Indian Valley District** – The reason I am standing here is I would like the Board of Supervisors to take a look at the fee system that is in place across the Commonwealth regarding conceal carry permits. In 1995 the legislature allowed for a \$50 fee for the issuance of the conceal carry permits. That fee was broken down into the background check by the Virginia State Police \$5, \$10 for the County Clerk, \$10 for the Sheriff’s Department, and \$25 for the FBI. Well in 2012, that fee was done away with; it was repealed in 2012...the FBI \$25 fee. The fees currently in the 99 counties and jurisdictions range from \$15 to \$50. Currently Floyd is at the upper end, \$50. I’m asking since the \$25 fee is certainly no longer valid that the Board look at this matter, discuss it with our Sheriff and decide, perhaps, to bring it more closely to the lower end rather than the maximum. I don’t have any problem paying fees to cover necessary background checks and whatnot that is crucial. But the \$25 FBI

fee has been done away with since 2012. I just bring that before the Board for your consideration. I asked everybody else in the County and nobody else wanted to do it so I did. I missed two people who went to Myrtle Beach. Thank you. And let's not forget what tomorrow is...unfortunately the anniversary of the attack on America. The two issues aren't tied together, but I am afraid that many of us are forgetting. Thank you for the work you do Board members.

**Mr. Bob Smith, Indian Valley District** – I did want to say on behalf of the people of the County thank you for addressing this goofy system where we have to pay extra for gasoline and don't even have an interstate. I can drive to any contiguous County that has an interstate and pay substantially less for gasoline. I am on the Electoral Board. We did our machine testing process the other week. We were very pleased to see a member of the Board, Linda, come and participate. We actually let her vote on one of the machines. We would like to have all of you come and see what we really do. It is a lot of work. I want to thank you again for all the work you do. Have a great day.

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

Agenda Item 8. – Old/New Business continued.

On a motion of Supervisor Turman, seconded by Supervisor Coleman, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt a resolution that the Board of Supervisors of Floyd County, Virginia, will hold their regular meeting on the second Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. and cancel their regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 26, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. and hold their regular meeting on the second Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. and cancel their regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 24, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.; and that this resolution be advertised for one week in the local newspaper, *The Floyd Press*, and also this resolution be posted at the front door entrance of the Courthouse, Floyd, Virginia (Document File Number 1070.)

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

Agenda Item 6.c. – Mr. Chris Price, Virginia Department of Transportation.

Mr. Price said he had a few project construction and maintenance updates:

a. On the project construction side –

Downtown Floyd project	E. C. Pace was awarded the contract on this project and all the paperwork was finished this week. They have a subcontractor, Richardson-Weyland that will do a lot of the work as well. I am not sure of their schedule but they will be able to begin work in about a month and a half and the hope is that they will.
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	<p><i>Supervisor Boothe – We have a PSA meeting this week so is it okay if we get them in contact with you because we were talking about adding some lines?</i></p> <p>Mr. Price – Yes that would be a good time to do it. We will have a pre-construction meeting in about 3 weeks with them. If I can get that information I will pass it along and we can have some discussions then.</p>
Moles Road (Rt. 727)	<p>The completion date is October 16, but it sounds like they will beat that by a little bit.</p> <p><i>Vice Chairman Turman – I talked to someone who said it looks nice. I thought they were already paving, but they said it is just graded, graveled and ready. They said access is much better.</i></p> <p>Mr. Price – It is not paved yet. They are putting down base stone. I look for them to finish it in the next couple of weeks. I am going out there today to see it.</p>
Surface Treatment Schedule	That should be started in the next week or so you will see a contractor around on secondary roads putting on a chip seal surface treatment.
Mira Fork Bridge	They are close to finishing this project.
Firehouse Road	<p>We are doing some preliminary work like surveying. We met with some property owners. That has gone well and we answered some questions.</p> <p><i>Supervisor Boothe – Is it the intent to extend the 35 mph speed limit? One of the concerns was that the speed would be raised once it was fixed.</i></p> <p>Mr. Price – Yes, if we move forward with the project it will go to a maximum speed of 35 mph.</p>
Mill Run Road	I have a meeting tomorrow for a walk through. We are looking at doing that one in the Spring.

b. On the maintenance side –

Mowing	Darrell Sowers put crews together to mow all the primary roads. He had people from all over. This morning he said we are getting around to the secondary roads now.
Machining gravel roads	I have a long list of those if you have a certain one you are curious about.
Pothole patching	
Pipe repair	We finished the head wall on the pipe out here outside

	of Town.
Shoulder maintenance and ditching	<p>Darrell Sowers is putting together a crew to do shoulder work.</p> <p><i>Supervisor Boothe – Ditching as well?</i></p> <p>Mr. Price – Yes, as a department we are really starting to push ditching. They have been doing more of that this year and we will continue doing that. The department should probably do more of that. The mindset is centerline out so you start with potholes and work out. But we are going to continue ditching through the winter. We have an environmental person who is working for us and is going around looking at roads and seeing what we can ditch.</p>
Other issues	<p>We met with Mr. Via on the bridge. Our Hydraulic Engineer out of Salem came down and made recommendations on cutting some trees. We are looking at possible excavation of gravel and dirt. Since then the environmental department come down last week to see if there were any red flags. You have some things with the trout over here. We are checking on the right of way, hopefully it is on our right of way, but if it is not we will work with the owner to get trees cut. We are continuing to grade and gravel roads and some more concrete work on pipe projects. We need to finish headwalls on pipe we replaced from the flood.</p>

Supervisor Coleman –

- 1) I've noticed the gravel work on the dirt roads. Thank you very much.
- 2) I received a call last night regarding Sowers Mill Dam Road needing some work on the portion that is paved and where it turns to gravel there is some deterioration. The person also requests that some speed limit signs be posted on that road. It has been an ongoing complaint for years. It is a dead end road but has a fair amount of traffic because it provides access to the river.

*Mr. Price – I can look at different signage. They won't allow us to post gravel roads. I will look at that.*

Vice Chairman Turman –

- 1) I thank you for all the work you all are doing.
- 2) The only thing I've had in my district is a person wanting to know when you are going to machine the road, especially Deer Valley Road.
- 3) I appreciate the liquid chloride that was put down the other day, but apparently there isn't enough moisture in the ground to pull it up. It is about as dusty now as it was before.



- 4) I appreciate all the patching you did on Shady Grove Road.

Supervisor Boothe –

- 1) I appreciate you all and what you've done. I talked to you and David [Clarke, Resident Engineer] earlier this week on different stuff.
- 2) I just want to remind you about the culverts at the bridge at Mr. Via's back toward the mill, the last time I saw it the company had not come in and augured them out.
- 3) I want to remind you about the guardrails and the work needed on Rt. 8 from the County line all the way into Town. I am sure there are others on other roads.
- 4) Culverts under the road on Red Oak Grove Road...they did not give me the exact location but they did say it has orange cones... but it appears that it is still eroding out into the road so you may need to temporarily dump some gravel there.

*Mr. Price – Do you know if that is a new pipe? It may be the ones where we will be doing the concrete.*

*Supervisor Kuchenbuch – It may be ones you are already going to do because they may have been affected by the storm.*

*Chairman Yoder – Those have been bad for a while. It has gotten worse lately. It would be difficult for two cars to pass.*

- 5) I wanted to remind you that we discussed taking down one light on each side of the traffic light downtown and just have the four. Right now it gives the appearance that there is a turning lane. I got a complaint from a citizen who almost got T-boned there because the person did not pay attention to the "Do not turn on red" sign and they pulled up beside and turned. We discussed this with David [Clarke, Resident Engineer] and he said he didn't see why they couldn't take one down on each side so it will go from 8 to 4.

*Mr. Price – I will check the contract. That may be how it is set up, but if not I can work with them. I think we have done a good job getting the message out and the plan out, but if you are asked the work is being restricted to night time.*

Supervisor Boothe – On our end the shrubbery needs to come out along the light pole to open up the view.

*Ms. Morris – Kenny [Cox, Maintenance Supervisor] will be doing that. He just took out the shrubbery around the Courthouse steps.*

Supervisor Kuchenbuch –

- 1) Thank you for the work done on Rt. 8 and that the work was done at night. We have no issues with those flaggers.
- 2) Laurel Creek Road and Sowers Road have a lot of potholes. I know you are grading all of these roads so they may be on your list to do.
- 3) Darrell [Sowers, Area Manager] talked about dead trees on Sunny Ridge Road and Sowers Mill Dam Road.

- 4) I was there the day Sowers Mill Dam Road was machined and he did an excellent job but a little gravel may be needed where the pavement ends and the gravel begins. There is erosion down there at one of the culverts.
- 5) I am very glad to hear about the ditching. That is a big step in the right direction toward fixing so many of our problems here.

Chairman Yoder –

- 1) Thank you for the work done on Thunderstruck Road before our cleanup. I was one of the ones walking the road picking up trash and the mowing and grading helped tremendously for our being able to clean up. I talked to a few residents down there who said how thankful they are.
- 2) I got calls from several people on dust control on several different roads. That is just the result of not having much rain.
- 3) There are some pipes on Deer Run Road near Hummingbird Road that I have brought up multiple times. One of them is getting pretty bad again.
- 4) I asked David [Clarke, Resident Engineer] last time about a speed study on Countyline Road and whether one had been done. I haven't heard anything back yet.

*Mr. Price – I remember seeing something. I know he sent it in.*

Chairman Yoder – The residents on the road said one had been done in the past. Please look into that. They really want to get the speed lowered as you first pull off Rt. 221 it is really curvy for the first ½ mile or more. They want to get at least to the Roanoke County line speed dropped because it is windy and there are a couple of school bus stops in the middle of that. There have been cases where cars almost hit buses as they come around the curves.

- 5) I got a call about Diamond Knob Road. The top part is great where it has been paved, but once you go down the hill it gets a little rough.

Supervisor Coleman – Yesterday there was an accident on Alum Ridge Road about 6:00 p.m. that took out the electricity. You had a crew out there directing traffic so Appalachian Power could put a new pole up and restore everyone's power. I appreciate them getting out and helping that get done.

Ms. Morris – Last month you asked me to get information on “Children at play” signs. We can order as few as 5 and pay \$35.00 each. We would use the same poles and brackets as our other signs.

By consensus the Board asked Ms. Morris to order 10 “Children at play” signs.

Agenda Item 6.d. – Mr. Don Thomas, President and Chief Operating Officer, Wingate Appraisal Service.

Ms. Morris – We are getting closer to the end of our assessment process and a couple of you have had questions about how they actually come up with the assessed value. I thought it might be good to have Mr. Thomas here today to explain the process.

Mr. Don Thomas – Thank you for choosing to use our firm once again to do your reassessment work. I would like to explain the process to you a little bit before I get into the methodology we use:

- 1) We have a directive to comply with the Code of Virginia. That is why you have to have a reassessment periodically. In their inception reassessments were determined not to be a revenue generating function, but more of a function to equalize the tax burden among all the property owners.
- 2) Our real directive is pretty simple. It is to try to assess as best as we can the market value and also to equally apply the assessments to various properties according to the value of each property. If someone has a home that might be worth \$150,000 and half a mile down the road there might be a home to compete with that home on the market, then it should carry a \$150,000 assessment too. That is our mission.
- 3) Perfect information gives us a lot better result, but often we are working with less than perfect information. As the process goes we do a market analysis where we look at property sales that indicate benchmarks of value. That is the first thing we do and we did that at the end of last year.
- 4) Based on that we say these types at this particular location fetch this kind of money. We line up the values to calibrate our model for property values.
- 5) Then we visit properties to see if the property record we have from the Commissioner of Revenue's office adequately depicts the property as it currently sits. If it does, then we are good. If it doesn't then we make whatever revisions are necessary. It could be a condition change or something that was added to or taken away from the property. It could be an improvement to access or it could be a removal of timber. Those are the types of things we are trying to get a handle on as we visit the properties.
- 6) We bring the information back and input it into a system that generates the value. Floyd County had been using a Tyler product and that system is no longer supported so the County made the decision to move to Concise CAMA System. I want to compliment the Board on this decision. We work with several different types of software as we go across the State. You matched the size of the company and the size of the software to the duty that needs to be performed. CAMA is headquartered in Roanoke and we have done 1 other reassessment on CAMA. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> one. We get excellent support from CAMA.
- 7) After the information is input, we generate a value.
- 8) We review the information from several directions. We compare it to qualified sales prices and in relationship to the old assessments. We run several different queries that allow us to analyze the data.
- 9) Once we are confident that this is as good as it is going to get, we send out a notice of proposed assessment change.
- 10) Some property owners have the reaction that there is no way that this can be right. If you get a complaint or if someone has a question or a serious issue with an assessment, please send them to us. We are ready to answer questions and explain what we found and the reasoning for our values. The assessment notice has our contact information.
- 11) We allow a few weeks for hearings when property owners can come in and meet with us and an appointment is not necessary or we can talk to them by phone.

- 12) After we hear all of the appeals we do a review of those appeals and that can take a couple of weeks.
- 13) Our timeframe for all of this is that we can mail the notices in early November. We still have 2500 parcels to do data entry on, which is not unusual when inputting to a new system. Everything has been visited at this point. We should be able to conduct hearings in mid-November and be through by Thanksgiving. The next step of our process is to make whatever changes we think is necessary, advise the owner of the change, and send out a revised reassessment notice. The final phase is we will create a reassessment book which tends to be your tax base as a result of the reassessment. We will file that with the Clerk of Court and Commissioner of Revenue offices and send recapitulations to the Department of Taxation. By Code this all has to happen by the end of the year. We are in good shape to do this on schedule. You have about 14,800 parcels of real estate in the County.
- 14) It is too early in the process to speculate on what the assessments will be overall as a net change.

Supervisor Boothe – Years ago assessors looked at the actual use of the property. Then the State had potential use included in the mix. How does that play in now? If you are looking at a piece of property, the actual use still plays a big part of it, but how big a part does how it can be used play?

Mr. Thomas – In appraisal theory, every property before you can put a value on it you have to determine its highest and best use. There are some criteria that go along with that. The highest and best use is predicated on physical possibilities, legal possibilities, whether it is financially feasible to do what you want to do, and the use that gives the maximum return. You also have to step back and say, “Is there demand for 15 lots on this frontage of farmland?” In your County your subdivision ordinance is fairly liberal compared to others. You have to figure out the absorption rate of these lots if they are exposed to the market. In a rural community like this, it is a little on the tough side to say for sure what the absorption rate is. You have to observe how many vacant lots there are and how fast they are moving. That does not answer your question about how we do our work, but I am working to it. If you have a property that is in a desirable area and it has adequate road frontage and it has desirable features, we’re certainly going to assess that property higher than one you can only access by right of way. That is a common sense kind of thing. We are not taking our surveying stakes to the property and saying every 50’ we have a 2 acre lot. But certainly if a property lends itself to offering that type of value to a potential buyer then we have to reflect that.

Supervisor Boothe – The value for that will increase a little bit next to a piece of property that doesn’t lend itself. The question came up when we were discussing the potential of the cluster developments. Right now under our subdivision ordinance with public water and sewer you can have a .25 acre lot, which are 4 houses to an acre. Under the cluster development if it ever goes through, you could have anywhere from 8 to 12 houses or lots per acre. The discussion was could that impact property values. From what I understand from you if the property lends itself and the demand is there, it certainly could impact the valuation. It wouldn’t be the only factor.

Mr. Thomas – Those types of development opportunities lie close in to where your water and sewer serve. For rural property the impact to the property owner may not be as great because a nice piece of farmland that has nice road frontage and nice views many times those properties are participating in land use assessments anyway. We may say that the land is worth \$10,000 an acre because the land is so nicely situated, but the practical impact to the property owner won't be that because of his use of that.

Supervisor Boothe – We have quite a few property owners who don't participate in that program. It would impact them more.

Mr. Thomas – To step back and summarize, it has to be considered. We really don't have the data in a locality like yours to go ahead and say we have 4 months' supply of lots on the market right now. It is difficult to pinpoint that. If we had an analysis that said demand is not high, then there would be less pressure on these lots because there is so much supply.

Supervisor Boothe – The biggest impact I have seen on me is when the State brought in the view shed. Please express my gratitude to your employees. They have made the process much easier this time.

Ms. Morris – Would you please explain the Board of Equalizations' role in this process?

Mr. Thomas – After we file the book with the Clerk...the County has already identified and sworn in your Board of Equalization members, you are in front of the curve. The Board of Equalization is the next tier of appeal. Even if a property owner does not choose or cannot make it to our hearing, they can still appeal to the Board of Equalization. The Board of Equalization is more focused on equalization of assessments as the name implies. If a property owner comes and says my property is comparable to my neighbor's property and their assessment is lower, that is a better argument for the Board of Equalization. They get trained from the State Department of Taxation, usually with a webinar. They learn what constitutes a good appeal. They should hear appeals early next year within a 45 day window of our sending out assessments. I will be present during the Boards' training. I will acclimate the Board with how we did our work and what we found in different neighborhoods and the benchmarks we used. We don't have an active role in their decisions. They are an independent Board and will make their decisions based on what their findings are. After that your assessment base is pretty well set. Another way for a property owner to appeal is with the Circuit Court.

Ms. Morris – The training is scheduled for December 9 at 9:30 a.m.

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

Dr. Wheeler – The \$64,043 request was to finish the Check annex deck so that nobody will fall through it. We put the additional preK there and put in a new set of steps. We did work out at Indian Valley Elementary. We put in a new floor in the high school weight room.

I sent you all an email with the facility updates. By the end of September we hope to have the concept. We have received a lot of input, including from the teachers. I just sent a long list to the architects. I meet with them again on Friday and a few other people and they will start

the concept drawing to see the best lay of the land. They are still doing some surveying for the geotechnical to see the most efficient way. I haven't heard any negatives about we can't do it here or it is going to cost too much here. Obviously in construction you might hear that once you get started. I think Bill Thompson, the lead designer and one of the co-owners of Thompson & Litton, made the comment that he has never been involved in a project that had so much work done before we got to the kickoff meeting. He said it is laid out completely and it is excellent. We know exactly where we are going. It allows for the feedback everywhere else. We are going to the Science, Engineering, Architectural and Design program and Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology Center at Virginia Tech. We have a memorandum of understanding with them. They will give input to the architects about what is needed in the infrastructure for 20 years from now. The architects are getting some great input because these people are designing facilities now for 20 years from now. These people are the ones designing the programs to meet the needs of jobs that don't exist yet. They will know what to put in it. Everybody knows we have \$14.5 million. We will work to stay in that budget.

Supervisor Boothe – Do you know how far they are drilling?

Dr. Wheeler – When they did the geotechnical? That drill I asked and they are coming back. Schnabel Engineering is going to donate their time. I asked them for information teachers can use for their classes and they are going to come back to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. They said the drill will go up to 110', but here they are looking at 30' to 50'. That is all they felt like they needed to go down. They did their other surveys with sonar and did earth samples.

Supervisor Boothe – They will give you the compaction numbers?

Dr. Wheeler – They will give it to the architects who will translate it and say, "Here is the best lay."

Supervisor Boothe – From my point that is the biggest concern. I know when that was built there was some fill in there. I want to make sure the compaction ratio is what we need. If there is any problem they will let you know.

Dr. Wheeler – Right now it is more of let us look at all the possible ideas so we can get input to know what wouldn't be good instructionally and flow wise. Right now everything is on the table as far as the lay. Construction is more efficient if you don't have to go down 3 levels because there is slope to that. That is where we are at. We are on time with all the other improvements. Instructionally we are in a really good place. I am working with the Blueprint Committee for the State to try to get the appropriate assessments that we need to make things better. We've got the graduation requirements and that is going well too. We've got some good things in place. We need some more 3-year-olds here. That is what predicts your average daily membership and there just aren't many in all of southwest Virginia. It is unbelievable and that is what you look at. I think the schematic is the next thing. Once we get that our Board will look at it and I will send it to you too.

Supervisor Boothe – Are the 2 separate projects still moving forward with the State?

Dr. Wheeler – Kent Dickey and Hunter Barnes have been on the phone with me and they have been awesome. I know Kent. I just sent the last thing and they cleaned everything up so it is in the best presentable way and will give us the best opportunity. That is a tough one to get now. Everything is in and they said, “You are good to go.” Everything has to be in by the bid process which won’t be until July 1. But once we get the drawings and everything from Thompson & Litton we will send those to them. Up to this point they have everything as two separate projects. There may be some stipulations from the bidding process that it has to be bid separately. Thompson & Litton will work with them to make sure.

Chairman Yoder – Are the boilers going in okay?

Dr. Wheeler – Yes. They dug the other tanks. We are ready for when heating season goes with the other ones. Obviously at the high school they are going to look and make sure where they are running the lines won’t interfere with the Collaboration and Career Development Center.

Vice Chairman Turman – I was at Willis Elementary School yesterday for Grandparent’s Day. I was impressed with the interaction between the teachers and the kids. It was the first time I got to meet the principal. He is a super great guy.

Dr. Wheeler – It is a good relationship between teachers, students and parents there and Shane [Reed, Willis Elementary School Principal] does a good job with that listening to the input. There are good people there.

Vice Chairman Turman – I talked to the principal. He said the only thing holding their heating up was getting inspectors from Tennessee to come.

Dr. Wheeler – Yes. It is not a big hurry because we are not hitting any rain. Their boiler won’t go in until...our heating season usually ends in the middle of April. But they will all be made so when those 3 are done they will be put in but the other 2 should be September 30. We will get the air conditioning bids in now.

Supervisor Boothe – When are they due?

Ms. Morris – September 19.

Vice Chairman Turman – One concern I have...and I brought it up to your predecessor a couple of times and he wasn’t very interested...and I can’t remember if I have mentioned it to you but at Willis the refrigeration unit sits outside. That thing is going down fast.

Dr. Wheeler – We put a cover on it and we are waiting for the air conditioning to come through with the loads. That is what is holding us up there. Once Thompson & Litton tells us what the loads are we will see what we can do. That is on our list too. The tough thing was going out there in the weather so we put in a deck and put an awning over it, but we would like to get it all inside. We have another unit at Floyd Elementary that we are waiting on the engineers with the air conditioning before we add anything.

On a motion of Supervisor Coleman, seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the transfer of \$64,043.00 from the Capital Improvement Fund to the FY20 Floyd County School Board budget Operation & Maintenance category for the Check Elementary annex deck, new flooring in the Floyd County High School weight room, new fencing and bleachers at the Indian Valley Elementary ball field and a new mower.

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

Supervisor Coleman – Feedback is continuing to come in about the improvements at Indian Valley and I appreciate that. It was mentioned again this morning. I continue to hear it. I heard it this weekend. I heard from a grandparent how pleased they were to see you so involved in the school. I appreciate you going around to these elementary schools and being involved.

Dr. Wheeler – Thank you. That is the enjoyable part. I am glad I am in a place where I can do it.

Supervisor Boothe – This is another area where leadership is showing. You listen to people.

Dr. Wheeler – Part of my job is to remove barriers so people can do their jobs, the same way you all do.

Agenda Item 8. – Old/New Business continued.

Mr. Kevin Sowers, Emergency Management Coordinator – I come to you today to tell you about a problem, but we have solutions. It is called “robbing Peter to pay Paul.” This is in regards to the call handling equipment upgrade that we have been doing over a year. We have had some unexpected things come up. Just the program alone was budgeted for \$300,000. By the time we fulfill our contract we are over \$4,268.79. \$2,300.00 of that was a radio add-on the dispatchers wanted to make their job a little easier as far as going to one panel and be able to play back phone recordings and radio recordings. I thought that was good to just go over that little amount until we got to the ALI (Automatic Location Identifier) situation. This is complicated and I won’t go a whole lot into it. ALI is part of the call handling equipment. It dips in and grabs information like the name, telephone number and address of the citizen calling 911. It is simple, but expensive. To fix this, West, the company who is installing this, offered an affordable solution and said they were looking into it. They took our data and sent it to Canada to be reformatted. The whole time I was told that this is an affordable solution, but was not given any prices. I finally got one and it is \$25,516.50, which is a lot of money. After talking to the company and negotiating they dropped the amount to \$17,100.00. They also gave us \$6,000.00 worth of servers out of another facility in Charlotte, NC. West/Intrado has been exceptional to work with outside of this unforeseen thing. They had engineers come in and do site visits and it is just something they did not catch.



Supervisor Kuchenbuch – I don't understand the problem.

Mr. Sowers – Floyd County is the only county in the State of Virginia who has its own ALI database housed and maintained by Floyd County. We are going away from that and will be more like other localities because it has caused us issues before and it is causing us to drag our feet on this. Not to mention on this project the State had to spend an additional \$20,000.00 for unforeseen issues, basically switches. Because of this I will be \$22,000.00 over budget on this project. I propose taking it from capital outlay – UPS battery backup replacement. We have \$30,000.00 budgeted for that. I propose using \$22,000.00 of that and getting this call handling equipment done because we are working out of contract. If I call Centurylink, they could very well give us a bill for \$20,000.00. I would like to get this done and over with. Is this acceptable to you?

Chairman Yoder – So you would be pushing off the battery backup and will address that again in an upcoming budget?

Mr. Sowers – Yes. I apologize for not seeing this coming. I told West about it in our pre-planning and somehow it slipped through the cracks.

Chairman Yoder – It is a complicated system with a lot of moving parts. But honestly it went over budget just a little bit and we will work it out.

Supervisor Boothe – At the time having our own data system made sense.

Mr. Sowers – Yes. It saved the County probably \$350,000.00 over the other way I figured up one time, but now it is complicating issues. ALI is going away when eazzynet takes off. But it keeps getting pushed back. There are probably 5 other counties in addition to Floyd who have signed the AT&T eazzynet solution. Norfolk City just signed on and I expect everyone else will jump on board.

Supervisor Boothe – The problem is technology has changed so much that in 5 years it may have changed again and we will be back in the same situation with similar problems.

Mr. Sowers – Hopefully by getting on board on the front end we will be good for a while.

Ms. Morris – We made the best decision at the time with the information we had.

Mr. Sowers – Do I have your blessing to proceed?

Ms. Morris – Kevin and I have talked about it a lot. We have the UPS backup in the budget just in case it goes down.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – Well you need to finish up.

Mr. Sowers – I don't foresee anything else but with computers and electronics anything can happen.

Chairman Yoder – This is already in his budget.

Ms. Morris – We just wanted to make you aware of what is going on.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – I appreciate your staying focused on this project. It will be very good for this County as a whole.

Mr. Sowers – It is a nightmare I would like to wake up from. Next item...we have a lot of stuff going on. As you know we formed a Communications Committee. We identified some items and wanted an outside firm to come in and look at our current radio system and give us some advice. We sent out a request for proposals to 5 companies and received responses from 2 of them. Company A was \$171,900.00. Company B was \$160,318.00. It is a 3-phase project and they have prices sorted out into phases. I sent these proposals to the Communications Committee and they chose Company A over the other because they have more experience with local government work and have done more projects in this general area; whereas Company B works more with the private sector. The company selected would cost \$62,815.00 for phase 1. I know we did not budget enough. I would like your permission to invite Company A in and see if there is a way to whittle this cost down.

Ms. Morris – We can negotiate. We are allowed to do that. We can actually have both companies in. In this case with it being a request for proposal we don't have to go with the lowest bid.

Mr. Sowers – I would like to talk to them about taking some items out that the Committee deems less important in order to lower the cost.

Supervisor Boothe – As they look at our radios and radio system, is any part of that addressing our dead spots too?

Mr. Sowers – Yes. It is a needs assessment. They will look at our equipment and do some mapping for coverage. This is not approving us going forward. Once we get this whittled down I will come back to you.

Chairman Yoder – This is just to identify the problem, but it doesn't fix anything. It will be expensive to fix. This is a drop in the bucket compared to fixing it. I think Montgomery County spent tens of millions to fix their system.

Ms. Morris – But we need this information for when we start working on the budget process.

Chairman Yoder – We do. I fully expect it to cost millions and millions and some of the areas might still not have a good fix.

Supervisor Boothe – We have been lucky so far by being able to piggyback on somebody else's tower but it may come to us having to build our own tower and that is not going to be cheap and then we will have to contract to have it maintained. Have we ever looked at getting vests that have communications off of satellite feeds like Montgomery County?

Supervisor Coleman – That program had major complications and they are still working through it.

Supervisor Boothe – We need our first responders, especially our deputies, protected as much as we can.

Chairman Yoder – Emergency Medical Services is facing a lot of issues too. They get out and are not trained in the same way a deputy is. They go out and find a person is on drugs and it can be a pretty dangerous situation. If it is a known violent situation they don't go in until it is cleared. But sometimes you get a call that someone is having chest pains and you get there and find out the chest pains are because someone threw a piece of furniture on them.

Supervisor Boothe – I picked up a local game book and according to it, Floyd County is now an "Earn A Buck" County. I don't know when that happened. I think this is the first year. Maybe we could have one of our conservation officers come in and explain this program. I would like to know more about the program. This did not come before us and in years past it had to come before us.

Vice Chairman Turman – I think now it is based on damage reports from deer.

Ms. Morris – Does anyone else want to go to the meeting on Thursday night with Carilion and Virginia Tech?

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – Lydeana [Martin] and I plan to attend.

Chairman Yoder – The census is happening next year. Do we do redistricting after that?

Ms. Morris – We kind of do it in conjunction with it. We try to get as close to the same amount of people in each district as we can.

Chairman Yoder – Is there a reason we have to have 1 polling place per district?

Mr. Bob Smith [Electoral Board member] – I will inquire about that.

Chairman Yoder – Is there a spot on Rt. 8 that people from 3 different districts could go and vote?

Ms. Morris – It would have to be approved by the Department of Justice.

Discussion was held as to added citizen convenience for voting versus the cost and complexity of multiple combinations at polling places or having more than one polling place in some districts.

Supervisor Coleman – Thank you for the email from Citizens regarding their offer for the camera for video recording. Maybe as we have some time we can consider that and see if there is any interest. Thank you for following up on that.

Ms. Morris – They are going to send us a written proposal.

Agenda Item 10. – Adjournment.

On a motion of Supervisor Turman, seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and carried, it was resolved to adjourn to Tuesday, September 24, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.



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Terri W. Morris, County Administrator



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Lauren D. Yoder, Chairman, Board of Supervisors