

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 24, 2021**

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Joe Turman, Board Room, County Administration Building.
2. Opening Prayer – led by Supervisor Coleman.
3. Pledge of Allegiance – led by Vice Chairman Boothe.
4. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum – Dr. Millsaps called the roll.
 - Supervisor Coleman – present
 - Supervisor Kuchenbuch – present
 - Supervisor Yoder – present
 - Supervisor Boothe – present
 - Supervisor Turman – present

It was determined that a quorum was present.

5. Approval of the agenda – Chairman Turman asked if anybody had changes to make to the agenda.

Dr. Millsaps asked that the Board consider amending the agenda to act under 9.b. to authorize advertising for a Public Hearing regarding the American Rescue Plan Act funding and to add a closed session after 8.c. as there is a new economic development situation.

Vice Chairman Boothe asked the Board to also consider adding a possible action item under 10.c. Request for Proposals on new radio system.

On a motion of Supervisor Yoder, seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to amend the agenda to add an action item under 9.b., to add a closed session after 8.c., and to take a possible action item under 10.c. Request for Proposals on new radio system.

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

6. Approval of minutes

On a motion of Supervisor Coleman, seconded by Supervisor Boothe, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the minutes of August 10, 2021, as presented.

- Supervisor Coleman – yes

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

7. Approval of disbursements.

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

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

8.a. Public Comment Period.

Chairman Turman read the handicapped statement. He asked that speakers state their name and district and limit the comments to four minutes. Chairman Turman opened the Public Comment Period.

Mr. Michael Gale, Indian Valley District – We received a notice on Friday from the County that if people wished to submit a letter for the Selective Service Board consideration, with a deadline of 7 days. While I have personally socialized this with the means that I have available, I would like to know why there is such a short notice on this and if there is any possibility of extending that deadline. Just simply if anybody put a letter in a mailbox in Willis or Indian Valley on Monday, thanks to its trip to Greensboro first, it may not get to you by Friday. Also, if it could be clarified if letters could be dropped off instead of mailed.

Mr. Bob Smith, Indian Valley District – I would like to echo what Michael had to say. It was a pretty short deadline on that particular item. I don't think it is critical enough that it couldn't wait another week. I was in a meeting yesterday, talking to a gentleman that we all know, who had some disturbing information. He was showing a headline, which I had seen in The Floyd Press, about how the County is having a devil of a time getting deputies. Now the purpose of government...we spend money on shell buildings, tourism, schools, and God knows the Electoral Board. I know because I serve on the Electoral Board. The basic duty of government is the protection of the liberties and the safety of the people. Doggone it. We are going to have to do something to get our deputies paid to where we don't train them up and send them off to other jurisdictions. We need to find savings somehow in how we run our patrol schedules, like having substations in Check or Willis so you don't have people driving all over the County. The engines have to be running, but the wheels may not have to be rolling all the time. We might have to do a system where we will match what people are making in more hazardous areas of the State to come here. That would be a good incentive because nobody wants to take a \$15,000 to \$20,000 pay cut. It is a risky enterprise to be a law

enforcement officer wherever you are. However, if we could pay them what they are making somewhere else, the quality of life itself will draw people here. I just wanted to point those few things out. Thank you for everything you do because you are in a vise right now. Things are going to be getting bad. There are unvetted, unvaccinated, and unidentified people I'm told being moved into the County in small numbers throughout the County. My wife was a refugee. She had something in common with George Washington that nobody else here does. She was born in the British Empire, and she is now an American citizen. She came here vetted. She came here legally, and she went through the process as her whole family did. I don't like to see people jumping the gate and coming in here. We don't know who they are or what they are going to do. We have to protect ourselves. That said, thank you for all of your work and just be aware. Thank you.

Mr. David Whittaker, Courthouse District – I would say “Amen” to what our former speaker here said. As an elected official I took an oath in the Court to support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the Commonwealth. In the preamble it has the phrase to ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, and promote the general welfare, etc. None of these objectives can be realized without law enforcement, meaning our local Sheriff's Department. We found in the last few days that we can't count on the national government to keep us safe or to keep illegals from flooding the country, unvetted, and untested. Afghanis are being transported into the United States. I'm not sure they are all vetted correctly. I'm not sure there aren't some terrorists mixed in with these groups. We don't think this is going to come to Floyd County, but it is going to get here eventually. Drugs that are coming across the southern border are setting records. Our last defense is our Sheriff's Department. Just like Bob said, you have raised taxes and expended millions of dollars on projects and yet we have a crisis in our Sheriff's Department. We are tired of having trained law enforcement...we train them, hire them and then they go somewhere else. Can't we step up and take care of our law enforcement? Can't we pay them as much as they could make by going somewhere else if it is somewhere close? Can't we keep them in Floyd County? I just think it is a disgrace not to support them. We are allowing other jurisdictions to siphon off officers that we have trained but refuse to adequately compensate. It is just a disgrace, and it has to be remedied. Take action now. People are watching and many people are willing to take your places if you fail our law enforcement. Thank you very much.

Ms. Kelleen Gale, Indian Valley District – We fund a lot of things. I have heard a lot of good things funded. We have radio towers, ambulances, fire trucks, garbage trucks, and green boxes. We are taking care of the bears or getting rid of the bears. But we aren't paying our people enough. That might even include those sitting here because we want good people. I can go to Applebee's or Hardee's or Panda and make \$57,000 as a manager; \$40,000 as an assistant manager, for flipping fried rice and hamburgers. We needed the things that we got. You made that very evident to us, but I think that there are a lot of things that we fund or a lot of uses maybe in the COVID money. I have heard that other communities have used some of that money for their police enforcement during this time. But I do know this, a friend of mine who is a pastor in Carroll County watched a busload of immigrants get off in Carroll County and be taken into a small trailer park

community. They are illegal aliens. They don't have any resources here. I'm not sure what happens to them and neither does he. There is a pastor in that area that he has contact with. So, these people are in our area. I don't know if they are in Floyd, but they will be in Floyd if they are in Carroll County. This is a prime place to get lost in, to live comfortably in the woods in, to pick people off..their farm animals, their equipment. We need to do something, I think, to improve and expand our Sheriff's Department to help us combat what is coming at us. But we definitely need to pay our law enforcement officers more. And if that means we have a festival or two less, well we have a festival or two less. Thank you.

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

8.b. Ms. Kathleen Legg, Tourism Director

Dr. Millsaps – Only a couple of us have been able to meet Ms. Legg. She had the opportunity to meet myself and Ms. Kuchenbuch during the hiring process. We asked her if she could come tonight and introduce herself and tell you her plans. She has been here a whole week and a day.

Ms. Kathleen Legg, Tourism Director – I took over the position from Ms. Pat Sharkey. She is still helping with the transition just so I can cover all the bases and make sure everything is getting taken care of. I live by myself. I grew up in Roanoke. My parents and I would come up to Floyd for day trips, especially to get our Christmas tree. I moved recently to Christiansburg. I went to Roanoke College. I went with Maria [Supervisor Kuchenbuch's daughter]. I studied Business Development and Marketing. After graduation I went into the non-profit world. That is because I love to help people. I found my passion working with animals and people. Recently before coming to this position, I worked at Angels of Assisi which is an animal shelter and community pet hospital. Now I am transitioning to tourism. I don't have a tourism background, but I have marketing and I love to help people. I look forward to helping the community, working with the businesses, and working with all of you to help grow and support the community.

Vice Chairman Boothe – I would like to say welcome aboard. You have a wealth of people who will be available to you. I am tickled that you've stayed a week and a day and didn't leave. I am grateful to you for taking the position.

Supervisor Yoder – You have big shoes to fill. Pat [Sharkey] has been excellent.

Ms. Legg – Everybody has been telling me that.

Supervisor Yoder – I am sure that you will do a great job.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – I didn't realize you went to school with Maria. That is really cool! Did you realize who I was, or did that come later?

Ms. Legg – That came later.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – That’s great! Good Luck! We will be talking, I am sure, soon.

Supervisor Coleman – Welcome to Floyd.

Chairman Turman – That is the only thing I can say. Welcome to Floyd. Everything has been said that can be said.

Dr. Millsaps – I would like to add a little bit. One other thing that Ms. Legg did not highlight about her background was one of the things that moved her to the top of the list. She is also a very accomplished grant writer and fundraiser. While we had some other applicants who had some tourism connections that was one of the most unique pieces about her skill set. As you know that is one of the big pieces of that work. The other thing I want to let you know related to the memorandum of understanding, we have scheduled weekly meetings with Ms. Cox, Ms. Legg, and myself on Mondays. That will allow us to keep moving everybody together and so the County and Town will feel like they are getting good service for your tourism dollars. Thank you.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – I want to say what a great process it was in hiring Ms. Legg. We interviewed others. The process went really well. It was good to see our new setup work in the way it was intended to work. I think it bodes well for a successful transition to our new system for tourism.

10.c. County Administrator’s Report

- Request for Proposals (RFP) on new radio system – We put a substantial RFP on the street. We had some assistance in developing that from professionals in the field. Sands Anderson was engaged. So far, we have received interest from 6 different organizations. We don’t know if they are going to submit a proposal. One of the organizations has asked about the possibility of extending the deadline. The current deadline is October 11. They asked for 1 more month. The communications committee consisting of Supervisor Coleman, Vice Chairman Boothe, Mr. Kevin Sowers, and I have discussed this. What are your thoughts about extending the deadline, maybe to something less than 4 weeks? We talked about the possibility of 2 weeks being more flexible but still meeting your schedule. Legal advice was that we could do this as a staff decision, but we don’t want to do that because this is one of the most important and sizeable investments you have chosen to make.

The Board discussed the pros and cons of allowing a 2- or 4-week extension to submit proposals on the radio system.

On a motion of Supervisor Yoder, seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to authorize the County Administrator to discuss with the company who made the request, an extension of up to 2 weeks and no more than 4 weeks, on the due date of the responses to the request for proposals on the

radio system, and to communicate the final decision on the due date to all appropriate parties.

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

8.c. Ms. Lydeana Martin, Community & Economic Development Director

Dr. Millsaps – We have had several closed sessions in previous meetings related to economic development. We are to the point on some of those things where we can be more public about them. We want to take that opportunity right now. I do have one item which we will need to discuss in closed session. But as soon as we can we want to make things public.

Ms. Martin updated the Floyd County Board of Supervisors and public on some projects that her department and the Economic Development Authority (EDA) have been working on:

- 1) At the Floyd Innovation Center there was 750 sq. ft. the County was using for storage space, but 3 businesses are growing, and that space had to be emptied and made available;
- 2) Henry's Healthy Pets has expanded their product line and has expanded space 3 times since their originally tenancy in the Floyd Innovation Center;
- 3) Henry's Healthy Pets now has 7 full-time employees and 4 part-time employees;
- 4) Anne Vaughan Designs had to drop back to 2 full-time equivalent positions in the early days of the pandemic because much of their business depended on traveling to trade shows, but through their pivot to more online sales, they now have 13 employees and have expanded back to their original space in the Floyd Innovation Center plus some;
- 5) Tendergrass Farms now has 10 full-time well-compensated employees and are currently investing \$100,000 to upgrade their office space;
- 6) When the Floyd Innovation Center was built it was anticipated that it could accommodate 35 people and that is exactly the number of people there now;
- 7) The new Floyd Growth Center Building 1 is under contract for construction and the company plans to mobilize the first week in September and begin work the second week;
- 8) We would like to hold a groundbreaking ceremony in conjunction with your September 14 Board meeting;
- 9) The smaller space in the Growth Center will be 5,500 sq. ft. and the larger space will be 10,500 sq. ft.;
- 10) This building will be able to accommodate louder manufacturing work than is currently housed in the Floyd Innovation Center;
- 11) In conjunction with this building, we will have 3 smaller shovel-ready sites of about 2 acres each ready to sell;
- 12) Floyd C4, our business development series, will start September 13;
- 13) We have over \$100,000 currently available in the Floyd 5 & 10 Loan Program;

- 14) Last night the EDA gave conditional approval a loan to one of last year's C4 participants to start a meat processing facility;
- 15) Very early in the pandemic the EDA recognized that 5 & 10 Loan borrowers in the travel or tourism industry might have problems with repayments, so the EDA offered businesses the opportunity to extend their loan and forego payments for a time;
- 16) The EDA revisited the situation on a month-to-month basis and left that option in place for 1 year;
- 17) About half the borrowers continued to make their regular payments, but the ones who were struggling were able to extend their loans over a longer period of time;
- 18) The State is putting some of their American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds into telecommunications to extend broadband around the Commonwealth;
- 19) By the end of next year Citizens will have fiber extended to about 97% of Floyd County, but there are a few areas they don't cover;
- 20) We are working on a grant to get the last 3% of Floyd County covered to reach 108 households and 9 businesses;
- 21) Only local governments can apply for the Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI);
- 22) A second part of the VATI application would allow us to include households with low to moderate income with long driveways or shared private driveways to put fiber up their driveway;
- 23) Right now, we have identified a possible 154 households which includes 33 businesses, but we are still trying to identify eligible households;
- 24) Citizens plans to provide \$757,855 in match for the grant, the grant application will be at least \$1,060,000, and the request from the County ARPA funds will be \$100,000;
- 25) The application guidelines strongly recommend that localities contribute from their ARPA funds;
- 26) Tonight, I am requesting authorization from you to apply for this funding as the grant application is due September 14 and you will be holding your Public Hearing on ARPA funds on that day.

Board members asked Ms. Martin for clarification on some aspects of the VATI grant application eligibility.

Supervisors requested that the following statement be made for the record: Today's discussion involves approving a grant application for the Virginia Telecommunications Initiative which includes extending fiber to certain sections of the County and to residents whose driveways are longer than 1000'. Some Board members may benefit from approval of this application if we meet eligibility criteria. The proposed funding would affect every citizen in the County who meets eligibility criteria and not just the Board members individually. Together we constitute a group of three or more individuals who are similarly affected by the discussion. Therefore, the exception of State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act section § 2.2-3112 A (i) applies to this situation, and we are able to participate in this discussion fairly and in the public interest. Thank you.

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to authorize County staff to apply for the Virginia Telecommunications Act grant and to authorize appropriate signatures (Document File Number 1198).

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

On a motion made by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and seconded by Supervisor Boothe, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to go into closed session under § 2.2-3711 A.3. for acquisition or disposition of publicly held real property; under § 2.2-3711 A.5. for discussion of a potential business location or expansion not yet announced; and under § 2.2-3711 A.29. for discussion of contract negotiations for County owned property for manufacturing operations.

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

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

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

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

**CERTIFICATION RESOLUTION
CLOSED MEETING**

WHEREAS, this Board convened in a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote on the motion to close the meeting to discuss under § 2.2-3711 A.3. the acquisition or disposition of publicly held real property; and § 2.2-3711 A.5. for discussion of a potential business location or expansion not yet announced, and under § 2.2-3711 A.29. for discussion of contract negotiations for County owned property for manufacturing operations.

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

This certification resolution was adopted.

8.d. Constitutional Officers' Report

No Constitutional Officers were present at the time.

9.a. Virginia General Assembly amends Virginia Overtime Wage Act to include definitions

Dr. Millsaps – We told you at a previous meeting about how legislative changes made it so local governments could no longer offer compensatory time in lieu of overtime. The General Assembly has amended the Virginia Overtime Wage Act to state that compensatory time as recognized under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act meets the Virginia Overtime Wage Act's definition of "wages" and "pay." By doing this the General Assembly has clarified that Virginia's public sector employers are still permitted to utilize "compensatory time" to satisfy their overtime obligations for nonexempt workers. I would note, however, that this needs to be part of our continuing conversation to find some different options for staffing, particularly as it relates to Emergency Medical Services. This will be part of the schedule options we bring back to you at a later date.

Vice Chairman Boothe – In certain employee situations, would it be prudent to keep the pre-approval process in place?

Dr. Millsaps – One of my ongoing projects that I think I have mentioned to you is revising the Personnel Policy. Those are things I would bring back to you.

Chairman Turman left the meeting and turned the Chair over to Vice Chairman Boothe.

Vice Chairman Boothe – You set up a pre-approval process for certain situations, would it be prudent to continue that?

Dr. Millsaps – Yes. It is important for budget control, for personnel, and so department supervisors and employees understand the financial impact of these decisions. I plan to get the Personnel Policy finished by the end of the calendar year.

9.b. Floyd County ARPA grant discussion

Dr. Millsaps – We discussed a little bit of this related to the VATI conversation. To date I have received the one grant application that Ms. Martin mentioned. Several people have contacted me with questions on whether certain things would be eligible. I think we will receive several requests. We said we would not be reviewing the requests until mid-September. We recognize that we need to go ahead and hold a Public Hearing, so we are asking for your authorization to schedule a Public Hearing for September 14 related to the ARPA funds.

Chairman Turman returned to the meeting and resumed as Chair of the meeting.

Vice Chairman Boothe – Do we know the exact total amount we will be receiving? Is the amount set in stone and not going to change?

Dr. Millsaps – We received half of it, and it is in the bank.

Ms. Ryan – We have heard that we will receive \$3,059,059, but there is no guarantee that is the final amount.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – Is it prudent to just hold the Public Hearing on the money that is in the bank?

Vice Chairman Boothe – I'd feel more comfortable doing a Public Hearing on an amount that we know we have. We can do another Public Hearing when we receive the additional funds. When are they slated to send the other half? Is it supposed to be within this fiscal year?

Dr. Millsaps – One year after receipt of the first half.

Ms. Ryan – That would have it coming in this fiscal year. I would suggest going ahead and holding the Public Hearing on the full amount expected. If the amount received is not what we expect but still within 1% of the entire budget, then another Public Hearing would not be necessary. This is up to you.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – I understand where you are coming from Mr. Boothe, but 1% would be a lot of money to be off one way or another.

Supervisor Yoder – Is there any downside to holding another Public Hearing? By that point in time there may be other changes on which the public would like to have input. We are still in the middle of a pandemic and things might change.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – On what date did we receive the first amount?

Ms. Ryan – June 8.

Vice Chairman Boothe – That was in the previous fiscal year.

Ms. Ryan – Correct, but it was so late in the previous year that we did not recognize it in that fiscal year or put it in the FY22 budget. We wanted to wait until there was clarification on the final guidelines and had the grant application process set up.

Vice Chairman Boothe – I personally feel more comfortable with holding the Public Hearing on the exact amount.

Supervisor Yoder – The important thing to remember here is that we must hold a second Public Hearing when we receive the additional money. I don't see a downside with holding another Public Hearing.

On a motion of Supervisor Kuchenbuch, seconded by Supervisor Coleman, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to authorize the County Administrator to advertise a Public Hearing to be held Tuesday, September 14, 2021, at 9:30 a.m. or soon thereafter to discuss the first half of funding, \$1,529,529.50, allotted to Floyd County through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Supervisor Coleman - yes

Supervisor Yoder - yes

Supervisor Kuchenbuch - yes

Supervisor Boothe - yes

Supervisor Turman – yes

10.a. Representative and Alternate to New River Valley Agency on Aging

Dr. Millsaps – The appointment runs out at the end of September. Ms. Ryan will you please discuss this one.

Ms. Ryan – In the past you always appointed the County Administrator as your representative to the New River Valley Agency on Aging and the Assistant County Administrator as the alternate. Even though she is no longer the County Administrator, Ms. Terri Morris agreed to continue in that appointment to give Dr. Millsaps the opportunity to deal with other parts of her new job. Now is the time for you to consider if you want to continue making the appointment as you have done in the past or if you want to change how you make an appointment to that position.

Supervisor Yoder – Can we appoint anyone, or does it have to be a Board member or a County staff member?

Ms. Ryan – I believe you can appoint anybody. From the meetings I attended, I think the other localities appoint from staff members, but I do not believe any other County Administrators are on that Board.

Supervisor Yoder – The reason I ask is because I wondered if Ms. Morris was interested in continuing to serve. She has done it for a long time, but I don't know if she is eligible.

Ms. Ryan – I can find out.

Vice Chairman Boothe – Are you interested in taking that on right now?

Dr. Millsaps – Sure.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – Could we appoint Ms. Morris as the alternate?

Vice Chairman Boothe – We need to check with her first.

Chairman Turman – We could go ahead and appoint Dr. Millsaps and wait to find out if Ms. Morris is interested.

Supervisor Yoder – Ms. Ryan are you interested in continuing with the position after you retire?

Ms. Ryan – No. I am not going to any more meetings.

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to appoint Dr. Linda Millsaps as Floyd County's representative to the Board of Directors of the New River Valley Agency on Aging from October 1, 2021, to September 30, 2022.

Supervisor Coleman - yes

Supervisor Yoder - yes

Supervisor Kuchenbuch - yes

Supervisor Boothe - yes

Supervisor Turman – yes

Vice Chairman Boothe – Please follow up on the alternate position.

Dr. Millsaps – We will do that.

10.b. Amend County Administrator contract

On a motion of Supervisor Yoder, seconded by Supervisor Coleman, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to amend the County Administrator's contract to allow for 1 extra year to live in the County because there has been progress made in that direction and we want to allow time for a home to be built.

Supervisor Coleman - yes

Supervisor Yoder - yes

Supervisor Kuchenbuch - yes

Supervisor Boothe - yes

Supervisor Turman – yes

10.c. County Administrator's Report continued

- Report on BAI software training – We currently use the BAI software system for accounting, and it is also used by the Treasurer's Office and the Commissioner of

Revenue. It is not the newest software. I went to Tennessee for a day of training on the software. There are several reports they created that will allow us to export things more easily to Excel. One of the challenges has been that because it is in a DOS computer language, it is not designed to allow us to easily transfer to Excel. There have been a series of special reports created which should help with that. We will try to utilize those a little bit more. It is still pretty clunky, but the folks who need to use it the most are familiar with it. There are more reports available on the budget side than the finance side. They said that if there were particular financial reports we wanted, they would create them if there was interest. Replacing the BAI system would be expensive and would disrupt operations.

Vice Chairman Boothe – If there is any way to get a total tally at the end of the report, it sure would help me. I look at the expenditure report a lot and it is great for each section, but the total overall budget does not show.

Dr. Millsaps – It is on a different server and a different person comes in to do work on it. We will see what we can do. I haven't had a chance since I have been back to really dig into it. The second thing they've added is a new front. It is still DOS, but it makes it easier for us who were raised in the Excel generation to get to some of these reports. I have to get Techsquared to put it in. Hopefully that will happen soon. They have another option that would allow us to use this as a cloud-based system. It would be the same, but the advantage would be that employees could work from home if necessary. That alone would cost another \$20,000. My recommendation would not be to spend another \$20,000 to keep shoring up an old program. Hopefully over time we will get more useful reports for you.

- Report on meeting with Blue Ridge Parkway Superintendent – On that same trip I met with the new Superintendent of the Blue Ridge Parkway and her Public Outreach Liaison. The new Superintendent has only been on the job for a couple of months, but she has already driven the entire 469 miles and plans to do that every quarter. I asked her to make Floyd one of the places she stops by. She is very interested in doing that, so I will reach out to Kathleen Legg and possibly others. We talked a lot about tourism and possible symbiotic tourism between the Parkway and some of the great things we have in Floyd that people would want to come off the Parkway and see. And the people who come to Floyd for the music and arts might want to drive a section of the Parkway. She would like to work together on that. She also recognizes that there have been a lot of property rights issues over time with the Parkway. She has indicated to me that she would like to have more of a dialogue than the Parkway has had in the past about some of those things. We discussed some of the challenges we face from being a close neighbor to the Parkway, such as law enforcement. She is interested in hearing about those kinds of things and maybe working with us on outreach. One method to inform people about processes could be through the community channel on Citizens cable channel. The Parkway is part of the National Park Service, which is under the Department of the Interior and is one of the smaller cabinet agencies. Therefore, some things take longer for paperwork or have higher fees than people who live near the Parkway probably realize. She also suggested particular grants that are available through the National Park Service, particularly for

local governments, related to trails and other types of improvements. We will continue that discussion. The Public Outreach Liaison will contact Kathleen Legg, Kayla Cox, and myself, and we will try to do more things together.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – Is she aware that Floyd County has more contiguous miles of the Parkway than any other?

Dr. Millsaps – Yes. She also reported that there are 4,000 different parcels that adjoin the Parkway. We also talked about some of the overlook and maintenance issues. There are several reasons the overlooks are in the state they are. They are going through and trying to determine how much they can affect that. The road is very old so there has been a lot of opportunity for forest growth. They are going to try to address that, but they have financial issues. They indicated they have moved away from the volunteer structure they used to have through a particular organization. Instead, the volunteers work with a Director of Volunteers, so they work directly for the Parkway. It appears they have about the same number of volunteers that they did using the other system. They would like to have more. One of the overlooks we discussed in particular was one where the property blocking the view is not Parkway property.

Vice Chairman Boothe – Did they do their summer hiring program like they usually do?

Dr. Millsaps – That did not come up. She did say they have taken cuts to their staff that would normally be available to do a lot of maintenance work.

Vice Chairman Boothe – That is probably the program. Every year in the past they've had a program where they would hire youth to do cleaning and mowing.

Dr. Millsaps – She indicated they have faced pretty significant budget cuts. She showed me a notebook where she has numerous notes by mile markers in Floyd County about things that need to be addressed at some point. I thought it was a positive first step.

Supervisor Yoder – The main thing I have heard from people whose property borders the Parkway are issues with right-of-way, especially for people who bought the property in the last 20 years and weren't part of the original agreements. There are spots where the rights-of-way go across the Parkway. For generations people have driven to the Parkway and turned on to the Parkway. Now the Parkway is telling people they have to use their right-of-way. You can drive across the Parkway, but you can't turn right or left. But in the meantime, the right-of-way can no longer be used because it was not maintained over the years when the Parkway wasn't enforcing it previously.

Board members discussed various right-of-way issues that have arisen over the years between landowners and the Parkway.

Vice Chairman Boothe – I like what I am hearing about the new Superintendent. It sounds like she will do her best to work with everybody.

Dr. Millsaps – Yes. That is the sense I got. We discussed some of these situations.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – Four of the 5 of us have districts that reach to the Parkway. I am happy to hear that she is willing to discuss this in an open dialogue manner, but I think this is something we need to jump on. Also, there are roads that run along the Parkway where we have a state-maintained road for the very reason that we didn't want to give them up. A lot of this needs to be revisited.

Vice Chairman Boothe – Floyd County did that so that a lot of people would not be stranded.

Dr. Millsaps – She asked if we know of current things that we share that with her. It may or may not work out but at least we have an avenue to ask.

- Report on meeting with Patrick County Administrator – I told you I was going to meet with my counterparts who aren't part of our region, but with whom we have a lot of interaction. Patrick County is clearly one of those. We have many very similar challenges, such as Emergency Medical Services and Solid Waste being high on both of our lists. We plan to get together once a quarter and work through some of those things jointly. We are both looking at some staff reorganizations. We talked about some of their challenges with the Parkway and possible joint ventures in tourism. I thought that was positive.
- Outdoor space and insurance update – We had a public comment last month about needing to do something about maintaining the trails. This led to a longer conversation about use of public space and associated insurance. We did a conference call with our insurance company, VACORP, this week and walked through what our liability challenges are. We talked about the Dodds Creek Trail and the Pioneer Trail. They have sent back to me a series of different waivers and volunteer use forms. They feel like if we do this paperwork and put up appropriate signage then we can get to a full public use that everybody wants to see, but at the same time protect the County.
- Construction at the high school – I went to the Collaboration and Career Development Center meeting this morning and it appears the project is going extremely well. Because they ordered many of the components and supplies at the beginning of the project, they pretty much have everything on site that they need. Our architect is holding their feet to the fire. She was told certain things were there and she said show it to me so I can take a picture and attach it to my report to the County when we ask for funds. That position has been very helpful.

Vice Chairman Boothe – I hope they handle the renovation part of the project the same way.

Dr. Millsaps – There continues to be challenges with the boiler and air conditioning project. There is another meeting about that tomorrow. I am holding the paperwork on that one until I hear more. The challenges are related to the heating coils at two of the schools. We will continue to keep an eye on that one.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – I would like to know what the average daily membership is and for last year and the year before.

Vice Chairman Boothe – It was projected to be 1763. That could impact their budget a lot.

Dr. Millsaps – We will follow up on that.

- Personnel and staffing – Earlier I announced about Mr. Kevin Sowers expanded role. Now Mr. Mark Bolt has agreed to step into the role of Director of Facilities and Building Inspections. He has asked us to not expect miracles in a short period of time. We have plans on things to work on jointly. I felt that I needed someone with expertise in particular fields. I feel very confident with our senior management team. I have started working on a posting for the Assistant County Administrator position. I would like to have a fairly decent overlap if we can find the right person.

Dr. Millsaps – At 6:00 p.m. tonight we submitted a letter of intent related to a VATI grant for broadband. It does not commit us to even apply for the funding. It leaves the door open for us to discuss additional broadband funding.

- Meeting at the high school regarding chronic wasting disease in deer – The Virginia Department of Wildlife is doing a series of public information meetings scheduled for Montgomery County, Floyd County and Pulaski County. A deer was found in Montgomery County that had chronic wasting disease. They have to draw a 10-mile circle around that location and that ends up including parts of Floyd and Pulaski counties. The public information meeting for Floyd is tomorrow night at the high school from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Board members discussed their plans to attend the meeting and the importance of getting the information about the new hunting rules to hunters in the affected area.

- Extend date of letters of interest for U.S. Selective Service Board – In light of the earlier Public Comment would you like to extend the deadline for the letters of interest for the U. S. Selective Service Board.

By consensus the Board agreed to extend the deadline for letters of interest to September 10, 2021.

11. Board Member Time

Vice Chairman Boothe – Where are we with the new Recreation Building?

Dr. Millsaps – Mr. Bolt has given to me the initial paperwork to send out for bid. He has also given to me a pile of drawings to take to our unnamed designer so that those who plan to build have a better understanding of what we want. Hopefully that invitation to bid will be released before your next meeting. We hoped to hold off until prices came down, and while it has not been a lot, prices have started to come down some. But I also realize that the Social Services staff are very packed in.

Supervisor Yoder – I don't expect to be able to make the September 14 meeting. Ms. Martin mentioned a time for the groundbreaking ceremony. The meeting in Blacksburg I am going to ends at 4:00 p.m. so I don't see myself getting back in time to attend. Go ahead and schedule it for whenever you want. Next thing, it was brought up in Public Comment about funding for deputies and Emergency Medical Services staff. I want to make sure the press knew that CARES money was used for pay. Recently we gave extra money to staff in other emergency services positions. I wish Mr. Whittaker were still here because I want to point out that the Town pays for one deputy position. I hope he is taking his suggestions to increase funding for that position to the Town Council as well. There are a couple of things I want to bring up that people in my district have asked about. A gentleman in my district is interested in helping the County explore solar at the library. I don't know if he has contacted you or not?

Dr. Millsaps – Yes. I think the challenge there is that those funds are supposed to be used for a non-profit. We own the building. If he can find a way around that with it being his organization's rules...our electricity bills are fairly steep.

Supervisor Yoder – It interested me because it would be solar panels at no cost to us. If there was a way, I assumed the Board would be interested, but I wanted to ask you first before I told him we might be. Another gentleman is interested in exploring some ideas he has to changes on the existing green boxes to make them more bear proof. Before I connected you, I wanted to see if that was something we wanted to explore or just look at new boxes as we go forward. He has contacted me multiple times about it. Should I just put him in contact with you?

Dr. Millsaps – That would be great.

Vice Chairman Boothe – Even with these new boxes if they work, we have a limited amount that we can purchase at a time anyway, so if there is something we can do in the interim...

Supervisor Yoder – I told him my personal suggestion would be if he had a good idea to get with the welding program at the high school to make changes if that would be appropriate. I don't know and I don't want to be the one to say if it is or not, but I wanted to point him in the right direction.

Dr. Millsaps – That would be great. Thank you. To Mr. Boothe's point, the new ones are \$8,000 each, so \$80,000 only buys you 10 boxes.

Vice Chairman Boothe – Have we heard when they will be delivered?

Dr. Millsaps – They were supposed to already have been delivered twice.

Supervisor Coleman – I thought they were already delivered. Last week I saw a flatbed load of green boxes on Rt. 221 S. coming toward Town.

Dr. Millsaps – I'll double check.

Supervisor Yoder – I went to 2 VACo [Virginia Association of Counties] meetings in Richmond this week. There were a couple of things I thought this Board would find interesting. There is now a steering committee for energy. A gentleman from the State Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy chaired the meeting. He said all coal plants are closing by 2025. He said this means there will be a tremendous need for storage for solar, wind or whatever. Dominion is already committed to over 500 sq. miles of solar in Virginia. This will result in a lot more transmission lines. One of the things proposed in VACo's legislative agenda is to get a bill in that requires they notify localities of any planning they are doing in relation to transmission lines or battery sources. If a county like Floyd were to get something, they would have to show the county well in advance what is proposed instead of just showing up one day with State Corporation Commission shoving it through. This will evidently be a huge issue over the whole state because of the solar and the transmission lines off of it over the next few years. Some of the issues that could result are water runoff. It sounds like they are jumping into it in a way that is way faster than it needs to happen.

Vice Chairman – Was there any discussion about what happens at the end of life?

Supervisor Yoder – There was a lengthy discussion on that. The committee I chair is Environmental and Agriculture Committee and there has been a huge discussion in that group. A gentleman from Orange County brought up that if anything were to come here, a lot of places are requiring bonding if it has a 30- or 40-year life span. Orange County is requiring bonding for 5 years that is reassessed every 5 years. They reassess what it would take to tear them down and then require additional bonding as needed. In our Environmental and Agricultural meeting we had the head of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality there. A lot of the things discussed were pipeline related. We also had the manager of Agriculture and Forestry Development. They deal with a lot of grants, like processing plants for meat. Their goal is to reach a point where lettuce isn't cut in California and put on ice and brought to Virginia. He mentioned Ms. Lydeana Martin by name as someone he enjoys working with. They have new grant opportunities that are coming online. On the agricultural side we discussed regulations for runoff from agriculture. In our legislative agenda we are going to push for more oversight on subdivision lawn care companies. They probably produce as much if not more runoff than a farmer since they get paid to spread fertilizer.

Supervisor Coleman – I wanted to follow up with you and see if you had looked at the terms of the lease regarding maintenance on the new green box site. I was told some thistles have taken root that we need to treat.

Dr. Millsaps – I apologize. I had forgotten about that. I'll look into it tomorrow. I am pretty sure we are responsible for maintenance.

Supervisor Coleman – We will have to be careful when we do maintenance that we don't create erosion. It probably needs to be done with a weedeater. It would be a good job for the trustees. Secondly, someone mentioned something to me that I had not considered when we made the decision to change the hours at the Transfer Station. It never occurred to me how that would work when the time changes. Is our lighting adequate?

Supervisor Yoder – You are asking if we have the lights up there to make it safe.

Supervisor Coleman – Exactly. I had not thought about it when we changed the hours, but if we have a problem, we need to think about it. If our counts are low now, will people come when it is dark?

Vice Chairman Boothe – If we have lights up there so they can see, they might.

Dr. Millsaps – The counts are still fairly low. They hired a new employee who was going to make it easier for people to do those hours, but he didn't last very long. We are moving to hire somebody else now.

Chairman Turman – A lot of people don't know about the change in hours. They have mentioned it to me.

Supervisor Coleman – At this point I am not sure what we should do. I am not trying to delve into your realm.

Vice Chairman Boothe – We'll have to put some lights up.

Dr. Millsaps – We'll look into this. I have no idea what type of lights are up there.

Vice Chairman Boothe – Do you think the DEQ would be open to winter hours and summer hours?

Dr. Millsaps – Sure.

Vice Chairman Boothe – What happened with the gun range proposal?

Dr. Millsaps – Generally the parking lot is more acceptable to them than the gun range. There are concerns that even though the landfill is closed, it is technically active. You will be hearing from Draper Aden sometime next month about other issues with the landfill. We will have to put money into dealing with those issues. There has been back and forth discussions between DEQ and Draper Aden about what some of the requirements might be. Draper Aden has been very clear. The challenges we have are similar to those by everyone else with an older, closed landfill. They were not lined.

Vice Chairman Boothe – They do not want us to stop monitoring. They keep coming up with new regulations that extend the deadline. When it was closed it was projected that it would be a 20-year monitoring. Do we still have the permit to re-open the landfill?

Dr. Millsaps – I have no idea.


12. Adjournment

On a motion of Supervisor Yoder, seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn the meeting to September 14, 2021, at 8:30 a.m.

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



Linda S. Millsaps, County Administrator



Joe D. Turman, Chairman, Board of Supervisors