

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 8, 2003**

At the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Floyd County, Virginia, held on Tuesday, April 8, 2003 at 8:30 a.m. in the Board Room of the County Administration Building, thereof;

PRESENT: David W. Ingram, Chairman; J. Fred Gerald, Vice Chairman; Diane B. Belcher, Jerry W. Boothe, Kerry W. Whitlock, Board Members; George W. Nester, County Administrator; Terri W. Morris, Assistant County Administrator.

The Chairman called the meeting to order with the reading of the handicapping statement.

Chairman Ingram led in the Opening Prayer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Ingram.

Mrs. Deronda Thomas, Treasurer, appeared before the Board and presented the Invested Cash as of April 8, 2003. She reported that the certificate of deposit which includes the Trigon money, will come due this Thursday. The school board has already requested that part of their share be transferred to them. I will probably put all the funds on statement savings since the rate is better than certificates of deposit.

Supervisor Boothe questioned if County sticker sales were up any from last year?

Mrs. Thomas stated that she had not checked yet, just selling them.

Mrs. Morris presented the balance sheet and revenue/expenditure report as of March 31, 2003 for the Board's information. She reported that finance charges, late payment fees, and discounts lost will be tracked for the next few months. This will be done to compare these fees against the amount of interest the County is earning by holding accounts payable checks.

The minutes of March 5, 2003 and March 11, 2003 were presented to the Board for consideration and approval.

On a motion of Supervisor Whitlock, seconded by Supervisor Boothe, and carried, it was resolved to approve the minutes of March 5, 2003 as presented.

Supervisor Boothe - aye  
Supervisor Belcher - abstain  
Supervisor Whitlock - aye  
Supervisor Gerald - aye  
Supervisor Ingram - aye

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Belcher, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the minutes of March 11, 2003 as presented.

Supervisor Boothe - aye  
Supervisor Belcher - aye  
Supervisor Whitlock - aye  
Supervisor Gerald - aye  
Supervisor Ingram - aye

The monthly disbursements, plus an additional list of bills, were presented to the Board for consideration and approval. Questions and discussion followed.

At 9:00 a.m., the Chairman called for the Public Comment Period.

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

Mr. Garland Nester, Animal Control Officer, next appeared before the Board. He presented a dog claim from Mrs. Virgie Quesenberry for a two day old calf killed on February 18, 2003. The calf was killed by three dogs, which were not able to be caught. Traps were set but we were not successful in catching them. The market rate at that time was \$20-56, so the repayment amount was set in the middle at \$40.

Mr. Nester reported that he and Mr. Vest are averaging between 300-350 calls per month. Calls have basically doubled in the last two years. He reported that he had answered 25 calls himself yesterday. Around 60% of the animals are being placed in homes, thanks to the Humane Society.

He also reported that he did kill two dogs last month on Sowers Mill Dam Road. The Judge did order the owner of the dogs to pay for the cow that was killed.

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, it was resolved to approve the dog claim in the amount of \$40 to Mrs. Virgie Quesenberry.

After it was determined that the claim was already listed in the bill list, Supervisor Boothe withdrew his motion.

Mrs. Evelyn Janney next appeared before the Board. She reported that she is serving as

the New River Valley Planning District Commission's representative to the Roanoke River Basin study committee (Virginia side). Some of the items that they are investigating are: 1) clean water for everyone; 2) food - agriculture must have water to grow food; 3) water control strategies; 4) water protection. She reported also that she is a member of the Agriculture/Forestry sub-committee. She invited the Board to any of their meetings, the next one will be April 23, 2003.

Further discussion and questions followed on the monthly disbursements.

Ms. Fran Weddle, Sheriff's Office, next appeared before the Board. She presented a transfer request for an insurance reimbursement received for vehicle damage.

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Whitlock, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the transfer of \$1274.37 from 3-001-018030-0005 to 4-001-031020-3310 in the Sheriff's Office FY03 budget.

Supervisor Boothe - aye  
Supervisor Belcher - aye  
Supervisor Whitlock - aye  
Supervisor Gerald - aye  
Supervisor Ingram - aye

Ms. Weddle also reported that the grant application for the crime reporting investigation computer system was approved in the amount of \$75,000, local match of 25%. The next step will be to interview vendors to evaluate the type of system needed and the long-term options available. Then the bid proposal package will be written and advertised, and bid awarded.

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Whitlock, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the monthly disbursements, plus additions, deleting the two bills to New River Valley Economic Development Alliance, as presented.

Supervisor Boothe - aye  
Supervisor Belcher - aye  
Supervisor Whitlock - aye  
Supervisor Gerald - aye  
Supervisor Ingram - aye

Agenda Item 8a - Subdivision plats as approved by Agent for March 2003 - Mr. Nester reported that 16 lots were approved by the Agent.

Agenda Item 8b, 8c, 8d - Transfers for Clerk of Court.

On a motion of Supervisor Belcher, seconded by Supervisor Whitlock, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the transfer of \$835.92 from 3-001-018030-0003 to 4-001-021060-3320; \$276.50 from 3-001-018030-0003 to 4-001-021060-6001; and \$1140 from 3-001-024040-0015 to 4-001-021060-8115 in the Clerk of Court's FY03 budget.

Supervisor Boothe - aye  
Supervisor Belcher - aye  
Supervisor Whitlock - aye  
Supervisor Gerald - aye  
Supervisor Ingram - aye

Mr. Junior Goad, Resident Highway VDOT Engineer, next appeared before the Board.

Supervisor Boothe - appreciate the work on Route 8 across from The Jacksonville Center and also the work on the shoulders before the weather came.

Supervisor Gerald - Route 787 before you get to Route 655, flooding has washed out the area and the pavement is in very bad shape. It has been this way for a long time, when will it be fixed?

Mr. Goad - we are waiting for a permit approval to clean up the creek then we can work on the road. The road is so low and close to the creek that it is a continual problem. Hope to have it done within the next month.

Supervisor Gerald - At the road hearing in Salem, Mr. Brad Stipes, Chairman of the New River Valley Planning District Commission, presented information about the 114 bridge in Radford. He was the only one that they asked questions of - does this help that he was there?

Mr. Goad - it comes down to how much it will cost to repair vs. replace. We do not have the money for replacement.

Supervisor Gerald - do you think his presentation opened any eyes?

Mr. Goad - I think so.

Supervisor Belcher - they seemed to act like it was already a high concern.

Supervisor Gerald - do you think if they keep bringing it up that it helps?

Mr. Goad - yes.

Supervisor Gerald - appreciate the work you did on Sutphin Road, it was fixed within one day of my call.

Supervisor Whitlock - appreciate the work you are doing. The weather has really hurt your timing. Especially appreciate the work on Beaver Dam bridge.

Supervisor Belcher - several areas I need you to look at in my area -  
- Reedsville Road (743);

- Conner Grove Road (799) - about one mile from Route 221 end - there is a really big hole in the middle of road;
- Route 783 - culvert clean out and gravel is needed.

Mr. Goad - we are still waiting on the permit for the culvert work on Route 783.

Supervisor Ingram - echo the appreciation for all the work that you are doing.

Supervisor Gerald commented that he appreciated Supervisor Belcher representing the Board at the VDOT meeting in Salem, understand that she did a great job. Also appreciate Supervisors Boothe and Whitlock going to Richmond yesterday representing the Board against the pipeline.

Mr. Don Clemmons, Emergency Ham Radio System, next appeared before the Board. He reported that all ham radio operators must be licensed by the FCC. The American Relay Radio League sponsors different activities all over the States. One is the ARES - Amateur Radio Emergency Services to assist in local communication in emergency situations. The Floyd group meets every Tuesday night at 9:00 p.m. on the radio.

Mr. Dave Larsen, also a member of the Ham Radio System group, appeared before the Board. He reported that the local ARES group is a 501(c) organization and has been funded by Federal grants. With this funding, the group has set up an emergency communications center in the Town of Floyd in the Shortt building. The group has a number of radios with local and long-range communication capabilities, with backup power. The group will provide training for the local citizens. Will also provide support for large catastrophic incidents, such as logistical communications.

Mr. Nester recommended that this group be included as part of the County's Emergency Plan. After 9/11 we don't know what might happen. We don't seem to be at great risk here, but our help might be needed somewhere else.

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Whitlock, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to bring the tabled matter of moving the Courthouse polling place back up for discussion.

- Supervisor Boothe - aye
- Supervisor Belcher - aye
- Supervisor Whitlock - aye
- Supervisor Gerald - aye
- Supervisor Ingram - aye

Members of the Electoral Board appeared before the Board for discussion on two items.

Mr. Cody Hale, Chairman of the Electoral Board, appeared concerning the moving of the Courthouse polling place from the Courthouse to Floyd Elementary School. Some of the concerns were ADA access, lack of proper space for table placement in relation to voting

machines, lack of correct space for voting machines. He commented that there is usually a 90-day turn around for Justice Department approval of moves. With the possibility of a June 2 primary, this really cuts the time short.

Mr. Mike Maslaney, Vice Chairman of the Electoral Board, next appeared before the Board. He presented a summary handout of the regulations of the Help America Vote Act 2002 (HAVA). There are nine Title requirements in the Act, three of which apply to Floyd County. Title 1 addresses the Antiquated Machine Buy-Out. This Title section requires replacement of all lever machines with electronic machines and payment to improve election administration and assistance with disability access issues. Title 2 addresses Election Assistance Commission. This section provides a commission to oversee grant programs, test voting system and study election issues. It also provides funds for changing of machines, training poll workers, voter education and election administration. Title 3 addresses the Requirements of each State. Some of the requirements are providing voters an opportunity to check for and correct ballot errors in a private manner; having a voting system with manual audit capacity (traceability); providing at least one voting machine per precinct that is disabled accessible; providing alternative language accessibility; having a voting system whose error rate does not exceed the existing error rate; providing provisional (conditional) ballots. Also on the handout was a compliance time line, in which Virginia is proceeding very well. Also presented was a funding outline for machines, training, etc. Title 1 was fully funded for FY03, which provides \$4000 per precinct for replacing lever machines. Mr. Maslaney invited the Board to a presentation on April 19 at NRCC, where vendors will be displaying the different types of machines.

Agenda Item 8e - Resolution to participate in VRS pre-taxing of buy-back service. Mr. Nester presented the draft resolution for the Board's consideration. This resolution will enable eligible employees to purchase VRS service back in a pre-tax manner.

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Whitlock, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt the resolution as presented entitled "Authorization to Pick Up the Employees Contribution to VRS for Past Service Credit Under Section 414(h) of the Internal Revenue Code" (Document File Number ).

Supervisor Boothe - aye  
Supervisor Belcher - aye  
Supervisor Whitlock - aye  
Supervisor Gerald - aye  
Supervisor Ingram - aye

Agenda Item 8f - Schedule for budget work sessions. Mr. Nester requested that the Board be checking their schedules to determine when budget work sessions may be held. The Board can adjourn from today's meeting to a work session.

Agenda Item 8g - Resolution - Adoption of Banks to Buy IDA Bond for School Projects - hold for discussion later in the day.

Agenda Item 8h - Polling Place for Courthouse District- hold for discussion later in the

day.

Agenda Item 8i - Approval of \$75,000 grant for upgrade of criminal record system for Sheriff's Office. Mr. Nester commented that the local share of the grant will need to be authorized as part of the FY04 budget.

Agenda Item 8j - Notice that State will not participate in paying accumulated leave for constitutional officers upon separation of employee. Mr. Nester reported that this information had been received the previous week. In the past, the County would pay the departing employee for any unused annual or compensatory leave. The State would then reimburse the County for the accumulated leave. With current accumulated leave, Floyd County's share is between \$60 - 70,000 at present costs. Will be discussed further as part of budget process.

Agenda Item 8k - Report on Request to Modify Transfer Station DEQ Permit. Mr. Nester reported that when the transfer station was originally permitted, we were set up at 25 tons/day. Our average is still 25 tons/day, but we do sometimes go over that amount. DEQ recommended a permit modification, which has been completed and approved at 47 tons/day. The permit modification fee was only \$100.

Agenda Item 8l - Department of Game and Inland Fisheries regarding hunting season. Mr. Nester presented a copy of a letter received from the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries that they would consider the Board's request for an extended season and for killing of either sex. No promises, only that they would consider.

Supervisor Boothe questioned if they had mentioned opening the bear season again in Floyd County?

Mr. Nester - no they did not.

Agenda Item 8m - Draft resolution for paying of certain bills in advance of the Board's regular meetings. Mr. Nester commented that this resolution would allow the early payment of certain bills such as telephone, utilities, contracts, etc. to eliminate late payment fees and to take advantage of early payment discounts. A separate list of approved bills paid would be presented to the Board at each regular meeting.

On a motion of Supervisor Belcher, seconded by Supervisor Boothe, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt the resolution as presented entitled "A Resolution of the Floyd County Board of Supervisors Authorizing the County Administrator To Make the Monthly Payments of Certain Bills and Obligations Prior to the Monthly Board Meeting" (Document File Number ).

Supervisor Boothe - aye  
Supervisor Belcher - aye  
Supervisor Whitlock - aye  
Supervisor Gerald - aye

Supervisor Ingram - aye

Mr. Nester reported that the public hearing scheduled for tonight would need to be re-scheduled. The proper advertisement in the local newspaper was not made. All affected property owners have been contacted.

The Board recessed for lunch.

Mr. John Rife, Sands, Anderson, Marks & Miller, next appeared before the Board. He reported on several items:

Agenda Item 7hi) - Manufactured Home Park Ordinance (proposed) - Mr. Rife reported that the Planning Commission has reviewed the Ordinance and have some suggested changes. They wish to review further before discussion with the Board.

Agenda Item 7hii) - Codification of County ordinances. All ordinances have been sent to Municipal Code Corporation and a completion time frame has been requested, but have not heard back from them.

Agenda Item 7hiiii) - Petition to FERC requesting leaving environmental record open for Greenbrier Pipeline. Mr. Rife reported that the matter had been taken off the docket last week but placed back on for next week's meeting. They state that only one contract has been lost so we don't know what is going to happen. Senator Allen is going to be doing his own investigation and we will provide any information he requests.

Agenda Item 7iv) - Report on Route 714 - the Board has received some correspondence from the landowners. One property owner does have access to his lot through the creek, but if there is a flood that won't work. The property owners are trying to work out an agreement on the matter.

Agenda Item 7v) - Petition for Special Election of Commonwealth's Attorney. Petition has to be filed by tomorrow, which Mr. Cornwell will handle.

Delinquent taxes - property sales - we are awaiting title work on Group 2 of the properties and a sale date can be determined after this work is completed.

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Whitlock, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to authorize the County Attorney to file a petition on behalf of the County for a special election for the office of Commonwealth's Attorney.

Supervisor Boothe - aye  
Supervisor Belcher - aye  
Supervisor Whitlock - aye  
Supervisor Gerald - aye  
Supervisor Ingram - aye

On a motion of Supervisor Belcher, seconded by Supervisor Whitlock, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to authorize the County Administrator to advertise for a public hearing on May 13, 2003 at 3:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the County Administration Building on the proposed abandonment of a section of State Secondary Route 661, which is now discontinued.

Supervisor Boothe - aye  
Supervisor Belcher - aye  
Supervisor Whitlock - aye  
Supervisor Gerald - aye  
Supervisor Ingram - aye

Mr. Rife next presented a proposed ordinance for the Board's review, prohibiting pre-1976 mobile homes in the County. Discussion and questions followed on the proposed ordinance.

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Whitlock, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to authorize the County Administrator to advertise for a public hearing on May 13, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the County Administration Building, on the proposed ordinance prohibiting pre-1976 mobile homes in the County.

Supervisor Boothe - aye  
Supervisor Belcher - aye  
Supervisor Whitlock - aye  
Supervisor Gerald - aye  
Supervisor Ingram - aye

Mr. Ted Cole, Davenport and Company, next appeared before the Board. He reported on the results from the proposals for interim financing for school renovation projects. RFP's were sent to 13 banking institutions for their response. Three were returned. We requested bids for \$12 million (not bank qualified) and \$10 million (bank qualified). The bids were reviewed by Sands, Anderson, Marks & Miller. Our estimated interest rate was 3% so the rates received were very good. Our firm recommends the \$12 million loan at a 2.43% rate for 30 months, from Sun Trust Bank. This fixed rate will eliminate the risk of where interest rates may go in the next few years and also you wouldn't have to do the bids again in December for the additional \$2 million. We should be able to close the loan in early May so construction can begin. The draft resolution presented for your consideration will begin the process.

On a motion of Supervisor Whitlock, seconded by Supervisor Belcher, and carried, it was resolved to adopt the resolution entitled "A Resolution of the Floyd County Board of Supervisors Accepting Terms of a \$12,000,000 Interim Financing Agreement With SunTrust Bank, This 8<sup>th</sup> Day of April, 2003 (Document File Number            ).

Supervisor Boothe - aye  
Supervisor Belcher - aye  
Supervisor Whitlock - aye  
Supervisor Gerald - nay

Supervisor Ingram - aye

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Belcher, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to go into closed session under Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph A.1, discussion of personnel; Paragraph A.3, acquisition of real property for public purposes or the disposition of government owned property where public discussion would jeopardize the County's bargaining or negotiating position; Paragraph A.7, consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters that require legal advice.

Supervisor Boothe - aye  
Supervisor Belcher - aye  
Supervisor Whitlock - aye  
Supervisor Gerald - aye  
Supervisor Ingram - aye

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

Supervisor Boothe - aye  
Supervisor Belcher - aye  
Supervisor Whitlock - aye  
Supervisor Gerald - aye  
Supervisor Ingram - aye

On a motion of Supervisor Whitlock, seconded by Supervisor Boothe, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt the following 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 personnel, property and legal matters in accordance with Section 2.2-3711, Paragraphs A.1, A.3 and A.7 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act;

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act were heard, discussed or considered in the closed meeting to which this certification applies; and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting to which this certification applies.

Before a vote is taken on this resolution, is there any member who believes that there was a departure from the requirements of number (1) or number (2)? If so, identify yourself and state the substance of the matter and why in your judgement it was a departure.

Hearing no statement, I call the question.

Supervisor Boothe - aye  
Supervisor Belcher - aye  
Supervisor Whitlock - aye  
Supervisor Gerald - aye  
Supervisor Ingram - aye

This Certification Resolution was adopted.

Mrs. Maggie Sutphin, Commissioner of the Revenue, next appeared before the Board. I am coming with a double whammy today. Because first I wanted to ask your assistance in our part-time funding to finish out this budget year. As you are aware, we had the big cut, which we thought was big at that point in time, and to meet the qualifications that I needed to cut so much, I cut out \$4600 in part-time help. Now, we are in a crunch, and I had \$154 left in the part-time budget that will go until the first of July. We really need some part-time help to get our work done in there. We actually have buildings permits that we always have to read, re-file them, and it takes someone to go in our files, pull out the old card, and transfer any of the notes, and then file the new cards. We are trying to keep as good as records as we can because if we just took the card out and threw it away, then we would be throwing away valuable information that we are always digging back to when we are doing transfers. So we need to get somebody to come in and do that and we usually have a part-time person do that for us. We also have a reassessment coming up so it will take a lot of our time answering questions, helping the person elected to do the assessing for us this time, it takes a lot of time for us to pull out the information, they are always coming to us with questions, and we need to take that into consideration. We are also, since we have the personal property tax relief tax act at this time, each individual vehicle has to be looked at. When we are assessing, we have to look at each vehicle to determine the gross weight if they are eligible for the personal property tax relief. And that really takes a lot of time now because this being the fourth year of the program, this really put a lot more work on the personal property side. Since we mailed out the personal property forms, we have all those coming back and someone has to file those, and we have been using part-time to do that, and I've actually been taking some home. Any of the transfers that we do has to be checked, there are two individuals in the office that do the transfers, one does them, and the other checks to make sure that we can get them as accurate as we can. And then we have to transfer the information to the cards. Any subdivision or anything that we have, and we do have several subdivisions and splits at this time, require drawing the plat, platting them on our maps, and we are only into May of last year, that's where we are at now. So we really would like to ask you if you could look at this situation and maybe if we could just get a little more of our part-time back so we can finish out this fiscal year. Also, the Department of Taxation always sent someone from their department to do our sales study each year. Now, that's put off on us too and we're having to do that again this year. We had to do it last year also. So, a lot of this takes so much time for us and we are really blessed with two individuals in there now that are really working hard. They haven't had a raise for three years but they still have not let this affect their work. They go over and above what they need to do to keep the information correct on our records for the assessing. So I would like to ask if you could maybe look at this for us and see if we could

get \$2500 for temporary help to finish out this budget year. I did cut \$4600 but I would at least like to have that much so we can call somebody in and get these items taken care of. We really need to get those transfers done before we start our reassessment so they can be on the records, for whoever is decided to do the reassessment, to pull the most current records that we have. I appreciate it if you would look at that for me.

New business - as you are all aware, again we've had State budget cuts. And I know that it is a stress on you, it puts a stress on the County, it puts stress on our office and I would like to kindly ask for your assistance to help us out there. Our office is the one that does the assessing and that's the major part of the money that comes into the County is the real estate and personal property taxes. We will need some assistance there from the County to take up the slack of what the State won't pay. I have given you papers that looks like our total budget reduction amount this time, which we were expecting smaller and its bigger, is \$17,595. The State gave us a budget reduction plan. They were wanting to take all the office expenses that they were approving, all of the temporary staff salaries, and they have taken away from one of the deputies, \$5390, and other Deputy, \$4515. I would like to ask that you might assist us in that part too, to take up that difference and keep the employees that we have. Because we are already strained now, and we just wouldn't be able to cut those employees down that much. Because I know that they probably wouldn't stay for that much of a reduction. I also put a sheet in telling part of the job descriptions of the positions that we have in the office. This is just a summary, it doesn't give all the details that we have. I wanted you to look at that and this is just part of the things that we have to do in the office. I also put a work load measure, that when we put our budget into the State, it is averaged out, and we need like 4.21 employees in our office to complete the work load that we have. I talked to Wendell Peters, and actually he said that there is 13.5% more transfers of land records that has gone on in the year 2002, which we are working on now, but he has also got a larger amount coming in this year than last year.

Supervisor Whitlock - so the percentages for the three months of this year are running ahead of last year?

Mrs. Sutphin - right. As far as the land use program it takes a lot of our time. The actual worst part is October, but the bulk is October-December, but we have land use that we do all during the year for rollbacks, transfers that people have signed and haven't recorded, and we have to revise them. So, actually in my budget coming up next year, which I don't know if I'm supposed to discuss right now, but I've actually asked for a land use clerk in my budget to help out. I'm not real sure, actually too, if we lose an employee, I think what we were discussing is that we would have to pay half their salary for unemployment, I don't know how long that would be. And we would have to get somebody else in the office to carry on the work. We need if we possibly can, to keep the individuals that we have in our office that are trained, they are accurate, and trained to do as much as they can to get everything right, because we are the assessing officials, and we have to do what we can. And I know I have worked with them, and I know how even though they have not had a raise, they still have a good attitude as far as treating the public right. And that's another thing that I think is important when we have our taxpayers come in or on the phone, or in person, that we treat them with respect, because they are the ones that

are keeping us in business. And I know all of you are aware of the last Census that we had, that we had a considerable increase in our population in Floyd County, which has definitely made our work load larger in that category. The 2003 personal property, we will have 23,224 items that we will have to look at individually. But starting in May, everyone is listing now hopefully, and we still start that procedure in May and we will work on that until mid-September when we run our personal property books to be turned over to the Treasurer. The duties of our office have to go on even though we've got budget cuts, we still have to keep going just like we are and we need to ask for your assistance. I appreciate all that you might do for us.

Supervisor Whitlock - how many parcels are you dealing with now?

Mrs. Sutphin - 13,550.

Supervisor Boothe - on the front of this, you've got highlighted \$357, is that what's left or what's actually been spent?

Mrs. Sutphin - that's what I asked for more from the State budget, but that's what they were going to approve. That's the proposed reduction plan they wanted to reduce the office benefits and the temporary staff salaries, which actually they approved in March. But then after this cut, they want to take those back.

Mr. Nester - did you have any idea that the budget cuts were going to come this late again?

Mrs. Sutphin - no sir.

Mr. Nester - it was a total surprise to everybody, wasn't it?

Mrs. Sutphin - yes sir. Our office expenses, we will need your assistance, we have to have paper and printers, well our printers will hopefully last, but we need cartridges for them, and all the personal property paper, real estate paper, just like everything that we've always had to ask you for.

Chairman Ingram - we thank you for your comments and we will take all this into consideration as we get into the budget. We actually haven't started that process yet, but we are going to right away and we will take all this information into consideration when we get into it.

Mrs. Sutphin - ok. The thing that we have to do is fill in the paper to the State by the 10<sup>th</sup>. We have to give them our budget reduction plan by the 10<sup>th</sup> of this month, which they gave us very little time to do. It was the 9<sup>th</sup> and they weren't able to get our information for the Commissioners and Treasurers loaded in, so they gave us until the 10<sup>th</sup> to do this.

Mr. Nester - it seems like you probably don't have a lot of choice but to make the same request. They pretty much told you what you have to work with. You just about have to send

your budget back that way and if there will be any extra, the Board would have to consider those items. And that would be effective July 1, right?

Mrs. Sutphin - correct, that is the budget that will begin then. But the part-time that I talked about a while ago, I need now.

Supervisor Whitlock - it sounds like they are trying to tell us to make up our budget now and go for it.

Mrs. Sutphin - the thing too is that they will not pay, there has been a ruling passed that's come through, that the State will not pay for any accumulated leave if someone leaves the offices, the State will not pay the accumulated leave now.

Supervisor Whitlock - do you have a figure of what that would be for your office?

Mrs. Sutphin - no I don't, I'm sorry. That would be only vacation, I would assume.

Chairman Ingram - this is making it rather difficult for everyone. But seriously, we have listened and we've heard what you've said, and we've got this information, and I don't know, but George's suggestion is probably all that can be done if they've got to have numbers back by Thursday is probably just go with what they've said you have to do, and then if we make changes here at the local level, that can be adjusted in the budget as we work on it here.

Mrs. Sutphin - when would it be, I know you are working on it now, about how soon will that be decided, is that in June?

Supervisor Belcher - as soon as we can, but it will be a while. We have a long road ahead.

Supervisor Boothe - we have to set up our first work session.

Supervisor Belcher - actually George has done a lot of work on it, and Terri, and now its time for us to jump in and cry.

Mrs. Sutphin - I know it's a lot of stress on you.

Supervisor Belcher - I don't think the stress has actually begun yet.

Chairman Ingram - it has to be done by the end of June. I would like to tell you that it would be done way before that, but sincerely, it may be on up in the middle of June before we get the budget adopted. I really don't know how long it will take us, how many times we will have to meet and go over these numbers and figure out what is the best thing to do. It will take a little while, and I know that's not a good answer, but I want to be honest and sincere.

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Gerald, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the transfer of \$2500 from Contingency to 4-001-012090-1300 in the Commissioner of Revenue's FY03 budget.

Supervisor Boothe - aye  
Supervisor Belcher - aye  
Supervisor Whitlock - aye  
Supervisor Gerald - aye  
Supervisor Ingram - aye

Mrs. Deronda Thomas, Treasurer, next appeared before the Board.

You have a copy of the budget reduction plan in your hands. I think the \$17,325 reduction is the final figure. It is very hard to understand. When I talked with Sharon, I think this is what we've come up with. I am here to ask you to supplement what the Comp Board defaulted on. Cutting our salaries will not be the best thing to happen, and I can't see cutting salaries on someone that hasn't an increase since December of 2000. I spoke to you all earlier making the statement that actually we do a very small percentage for the State. We do the State income tax and estimates, and that time is probably no more than a half hour to an hour a day from March through May 1. So our work load is not State work load, it is County work load. Again, we have been fortunate to have received from the Comp Board down through the years, and it seems to be getting a little harder and the budget is getting tighter for them, and so they are defaulting on it, and they are passing it on down to us and to our local Boards. Our work load measure for the office is 4.68. We have three full-time employees and one part-time employee. So we are shy of 4.68. If the funds are gone, and a position has to go, there are several things that will happen. Our office is running Saturday hours from the middle of October to the last week in May. Usually we do have Saturday hours, we are available 44 hours. If that happens, we will have to close on Saturdays, there will be no extra time given to them. We are giving them 40 hours as it is, but we are giving them the extra Saturday hours to help the County get their money in, and help the people get their money in. But if we lose an employee, that is going to have to go. We are going to be forced to find second jobs or whatever. And our delinquent collections will suffer because the employee that was hired lastly is the one that does the delinquent collections. We have collected over \$200,000 in delinquent collections that would not, and I say would not, have been collected if she had not worked on them. Processing payments will become slower, money will not be deposited as quickly because we will not be able to work it, interest will be lost when the interest rate goes back up, we hope, and we hold the purse, as I've said before, but your purse will not be as full. The employee that was hired lastly, she has a lot of computer knowledge. She's young, she knows that computer talk, and we have depended on her at different times, and I think other offices in the County has also depended on her at different times, for her help. Also, if this employee is asked to leave, my understanding is that the County will be responsible for paying her unemployment. That cost could be approximately \$5000. Her comp time is over here, Terri has that in her possession, it could cost the County almost \$8000 to lose her, if I had to cut her completely out. I do have some other ideas on how maybe to compensate what is happening. I just talked to John a moment ago. He is working with Bland County right now in getting an ordinance in place so that we can attach a \$20 processing fee on delinquent taxpayers. If we do a warrant/debt or a

lien/demand, a set-off, we could attach another \$20 to them to cover the expense of doing that. I did a little bit of figuring on those things, and it could bring in at least \$8-10,000 if that was adopted, and if we charged \$20 for taxpayers where we have to go that extra step to collect. And also, this comes to mind, the DMV has offered an agreement for the Counties to get into. One of the Constitutional Officers, or both like the Treasurer and Commissioner could share it, and it would have to be approved by the County. There would have to be an agreement between the County and the Constitutional Officer that would be doing it. The DMV would supply all the equipment, they would cover all the costs, cover the training, they would cover your postage and expenses incurred with doing this. Plus, the County would get back 3.5% on everything that we did. If somebody came to our office and did a title on a \$30,000 vehicle, that would be \$900, we would get 3.5% of the \$900. 80% of that would go to the Constitutional Officer that would be doing it of the 3.5%, 20% of it to the County for electricity, running of the building. It is somewhat overwhelming to think about, because we are already busy. But if this will help me keep my employee, it will help me to subsidize the increases in salaries that they are not getting, then I'm willing to give it a try. When I hear the horror stories in the DMV, 2-3 hours, I think local people would like it. We would be limited in what we do, we would do 20 tasks, there are 88 tasks that the DMV does, we would only do 20. You could renew your license with us, we would do titling, I don't know whether we would do all titling, but we would be able to do titling to a certain degree. We would do no driving permits. That would not be one of the things that we would do. But the people would have the option to come into our office and renew their decals for their license plates.

Supervisor Boothe - from what I hear that would be a tremendous help.

Mrs. Thomas - that's true too. Those are some of the things I'm offering out here to help subsidize what is happening to us and to keep from reducing salaries, just keep from losing people.

Mr. Nester - you didn't have any idea that this was going to happen, this was pretty much a surprise.

Mrs. Thomas - I was shocked when I got my e-mail last week. I did not realize it was going to be of this magnitude. Of course, the General Assembly has done this to us. Washington County started the DMV April 1 and he has DMV offices within 10-15 minutes of their office. He said it had proven to be an effective thing even for him having them that close. I guess because they are overwhelmed. It will really be hard for us around our deadlines, I'll admit, to tend to DMV. But if it will help us keep our part-time help and keep our two full-time employees, we'll try it. To me, what we would lose, \$17,000, the other Constitutional Officers and what they are losing, can add up. But you've got a lot to lose if you don't help. Really, you have a lot.

Supervisor Whitlock - its hard to put a monetary value on experience.

Mrs. Thomas - yes it is.

Chairman Ingram - we thank you. We will take all this under consideration. We as a Board, haven't started working on the budget yet. George and Terri have been working on it and we are going to set some dates here today before we leave to have some work sessions to work on it, and we will definitely take this into consideration.

Mrs. Thomas - of course the Comp Board is asking us to get this back by the 10<sup>th</sup>. They are not going to do any better, this is it.

Supervisor Belcher - what would happen when you send back your original budget to them and you say well, this is what I can do.

Mrs. Thomas - they are telling us what they are going to do for us. And basically, that's it.

Supervisor Belcher - so why send a budget back if they've already told you what they're going to do? They are waiting to see what you are going to do, is what they are doing. They want you to confirm it.

Mrs. Thomas - I don't accept any of this.

Supervisor Belcher - say this is the least that I can do.

Mrs. Thomas - I don't know, its an idea.

Supervisor Boothe - since the deadline is the 10<sup>th</sup>, I know we won't have an answer for anybody. I think what we suggested to the others is go ahead and send in the adjusted figures, then any changes in it will come when we do our side of the budget. Because they are not going to send any more money anyway.

Supervisor Belcher - so why send a budget back to them?

Supervisor Whitlock - so they can see what they can do to you next year.

Supervisor Boothe - so George, isn't that what they should do? Send back by Thursday, what they are going to do.

Mr. Nester - the State has already told us what they are going to give us. That's all it is. So she doesn't have any choice except send back their budget. The question is, is the Board willing to supplement it, and you'll have to address that as part of your budget process.

Supervisor Whitlock - if we were to send something back, to change something, that would give them the precedent next year to do something worse.

Mr. Nester - this has been such an unusual year

Supervisor Whitlock - if things stay the same after December

Mr. Nester - well they've already set the precedent. They are going to pay less and less and transfer more and more of it to us.

Supervisor Whitlock - so the gauntlet has been thrown down. And we can decide to pick it up or leave it on the ground.

Mr. Nester - I'd say that is a fair assessment.

Chairman Ingram - but as far as right now, the Constitutional Officers are going to have to put in some numbers and send it in. Its not fair, but that's all that I know to do. We are not in a position today at all, to be able to say that we can do this or that, or nothing, or anything. But we will give it consideration. Thank you particularly, for even considering the DMV. I think that would help a lot of people, and it would create some income, it will create some work too. I don't know how that will balance out, but I appreciate you even considering it.

Chief Deputy Shannon Zeman and Fran Weddle, Sheriff's Office, next appeared before the Board.

Chief Zeman - what we would like to talk to you about to start off with is the position of the School Resource Officer. If you will remember a year ago, we had a threat, that's a five year grant that we are working under. And we had a threat last year that we would lose the funding. I think we made some preparations last year in case that happened and it didn't. We have been notified that as of June 30 the funding for the School Resource Officer position will be no longer. And I guess I want to take just a few minutes of your time to tell you about that position and how positive it is in the community. It is a five year grant. The position deals with the monitoring of the traffic coming and going from the school, deals with developing policies along with the School Board as far as safety issues, just the daily order and safety of the school activities. Also, after school activities, that position deals with the health teacher, drugs, drivers education, just to name a few. I was going to have the particular officer involved come today, but that didn't work out. And I want to say that in the five years that we've had that position, I have not had one complaint, its been a very positive thing. Its developed a link between law enforcement and the youth of the community that has helped us in solving outside crimes. Its developed a link between the Sheriff's Office and the faculty and administration. Myself and the Sheriff were able to work with Dr. Arbogast on different issues that come up. So what we are here today to do is to ask for the funding of that position. He already has a car, he's trained, he's had continuing education. I don't know if the School Board has had discussions with you or not, but I've had discussions with Dr. Arbogast, and the issue has come up about if the Board will fund it, whether it will be the Floyd Sheriff's Office budget, or the School Board's budget. In our discussions, we decided it would be best that I come and ask that it be in our budget for several reasons. His powers of arrest, risk management issues, and that type of thing.

Mr. Nester - I think I could help out with that. Have you talked to Terry lately?

Chief Zeman - a week ago.

Mr. Nester - ok. I talked to him before that and his indication was that the School Board was interested in paying that. But the way that it would need to be done is as a purchase of service so that he would be your employee and it would be just like anybody else buying service from the County. We would show the School Board disbursing a payment to the County of purchase of that Deputy's position. But as far as the direction and control, it would still remain with the Sheriff's Office.

Chief Zeman - there are some other benefits of that position. The grant called for 70% of his time to be used within the school. It keeps the other officers, he handles all the crimes that occur, or 99% of them, at the school, and anything related to the school, vandalism, school buses, the elementary schools, any crimes that occur within elementaries, that keeps the other officers doing other things. And also during the summer, when school is out, he usually works about two weeks after school is out and starts back about two weeks before school, but that other window, he helps me with prime time for vacations for other officers. I can't cover them all, but lots of times, instead of having a man using annual leave and a man earning comp time to fill that void, I use him there a lot. That is beneficial. So if we do it this way, would the School Board actually put the money in our budget for that. Is that what you are saying?

Mr. Nester - they would just make a payment to the County to the General Fund and you all would have that in your budget, wouldn't distinguish it from any other way in your budget. The difference is the money for that position would come to the County as a General Fund purchase of service from the School Board.

Supervisor Whitlock - it's a circle of money. It goes from this pot to this pot and back to this pot.

Fran Weddle - I'm not sure that I can adequately jump in on this. Shannon is a hard act to follow. Basically, we wanted to talk to you a little about our budget. Basically, the Comp Board has requested a reduction in spending. Fortunately for our office, there was no request. Our budget pretty much remains the same as last year. Last year we lost about \$17,000 in office expenses that will funnel back into the County. But as far as the preliminary budget from the Comp Board we are the same as last year, which is very good. I think from my standpoint, I just want to tell you that as an employee of the Sheriff's Office, we try to really prudently spend the money. We try, I shop, I am stingy, and I spend the County's money just as stingily as I do my own. A couple of issues I did want to bring. Although there has been no request for spending, the things that I want to enlighten the Board on is the fact that we had an administrative person that went into another position. We lost 32 hours a week in the administrative part of the Sheriff's Office. We have shifted job responsibilities, we've upped the third person in Dispatch, overlapping her for administrative staff support. We work a college staff student more hours. And by doing this, we have maintained the office. The work gets piled up, but we are doing it,

and we are really trying to spend the money wisely. A couple of things that I would like to point out. We are not asking for any more money or anything, but in the last six years, we've pulled in \$950,000 worth of grants. And if we have to make more cuts from the Comp Board, and we have to cut administrative staff or something, we don't have time to apply for those free monies, and those grant funds have really enabled our office to do a lot of things. Another issue, we've got some annual leave. The Comp Board will no longer pay annual leave for our employees. That was the standard across the board as I understand it. Our annual leave is no more than it has been in the past. We have \$37,000 worth of annual leave on the books.

Chief Zeman - as far as the annual leave, all I know to do at this point, I know other Sheriffs are looking at how to handle this. I am open as to different ways to handle it. We've got \$37,000 worth of annual leave and I know some other departments, such as the jail, they are going to take a two year period and try to work this thing down. The officers have earned it and we'll have to pay them. Hopefully, I hope to pay as much back in time as I can. The only issue that we really need to think about, I don't know a solution at this point to tell you. I will say this, be prepared if someone quits and leaves the Sheriff's Office, in the past, we've been able to recoup a certain amount of holiday, annual and comp time from the Compensation Board. We won't be able to do that anymore. If someone leaves, we'll have to come to you and say they have this many hours to pay. Depending on how much notice they give me, I'll work as much of it off as I can. We may not lose anybody. Maybe I'll have plenty of time to work it down. If we work it down, we are going to have to look at some restructure of the benefits. Because what good will it do to work it down and they will be earning it just like always. We will be addressing it somehow.

Supervisor Whitlock - do you have a policy as a certain amount of what they can hold from year to year?

Chief Zeman - we do.

Supervisor Whitlock - I understand that is subject to change depending on the Sheriff.

Chief Zeman - when I came to work there, we were under the State Police plan. You earned 8 hours annual leave for each month for the first five years, then 5-10 years, you earned 10 hours, and then after 15 years, it went to 12 hours a month. When Sheriff Pratt took office, we had such an accumulation of time that we couldn't pay it back. So new hires at an effective date, they only got 80 hours a year annual leave, but we still have about six officers that are under the old plan. And basically they earn more benefits than we can pay them back. They is a cut-off.

Supervisor Whitlock - so you do have a cut-off at 80 hours.

Chief Zeman - the new employees. The old employees they can carry 288 hours.

Ms. Weddle - and some up to 344 hours.

Chief Zeman - depending on how much time they have. The reason we did that, the Comp Board said if you have this much service, this is what we will pay. So we would let them carry it. So if someone quit, the Comp Board always reimbursed the money. The actual benefit policy went along with what the State had developed and now that they are not going to pay it, its developing a problem and we'll have to look at developing a new one.

Supervisor Whitlock - they don't have a plan anymore.

Chief Zeman - but just like we said, we are not here to ask for any funding, just to be on guard that if someone quits, we'll have to come to the Board for the annual and holiday time.

Chairman Ingram - we thank you for coming down and sharing with us. We'll just have to see how this thing works out. Its unfair to departments and Constitutional Officers, its unfair to this Board for some of the things that have happened over the last several years, its creating problems that's not our problem, so we are having together to make up the difference, whether it be in some savings, and doing some things that you are talking about, and willing to do, and we appreciate that, or whether it be on our side, and ask the people to pay more taxes to make the difference. We appreciate the help and hope that we can keep that working on down the road in the future because that's the only way to work it out is try to be as conservative as possible, yet to offer the services that the people need and not tax them to death either. So we appreciate the help and communication.

Mr. Wendell Peters, Clerk of Court, next appeared before the Board.

Mr. Peters - I would like to come down here one time that I don't want something. I would like to bring something in return.

Chairman Ingram - you've done that.

Mr. Peters - as you are already aware that we are facing another State budget cut. On my handout, I wanted to show you the discrepancies that I am getting as far as knowing how much the money is. The internet shows that we are short \$20,634 in staff salaries. If you flip the sheet, you'll see my SNIP program, which is basically our gospel, it shows \$11,865 plus \$404 in fringes. I think that probably the difference in that and the internet is the fact that the Clerks have what we call a technology fund. And we got some legislation introduced to be able to use the technology fund this year for salary supplements. In the past we've been able to use it for other things. That's probably the difference there. And I think that brings my shortage down to \$8443. That may be off a few bucks, I didn't get into calculating fringes on \$400. I really think that figure may be off a little. For our purpose, that's probably the figure we need to look at. This in addition to the office expense reimbursement, which has already been removed. Last year at this time, they cut 75% of our reimbursed office expense from the State. This year they've cut the other 25%. So I've already been forced in the County budget to put some line items in just to keep maintenance on my equipment. This year we've had difficulty even paying that and if I used the money out of my local budget, I wouldn't even had money to buy a file

folder. Danah kept telling me we needed file folders, I told her she was out of luck. Haven't got any money. Throw it in the corner, that's all we can do with it. I have made arrangements to get my equipment maintained this year, I don't know about next year. I have done everything I know to do pretty much. I have written to the legislative members, I've written to the Governor, and I think on another occasion here, I gave you our work load. At that point it was 5.25, its now 5.35. When I came in office 11 years ago, we recorded like 2250 or so deeds, last year it was 3600 and something, we've already passed 1000 this year in three months. So last year, I was expecting a 20% jump and I only got 13.5%, and this year its already up 10 more in the first three months. It may slack off this summer. Floyd County is growing whether we know it or not. So from 11 years ago, I had a staff of 3, we recorded 2250 instruments, now we are up to 4000, but I do have one extra staff member. Our work load now indicates that we need 5.35, we have four, we are operating very well with four, we don't need any more. But if we lose one of the four of us, it would be very difficult to carry out the responsibilities of the office. If you will look back at the letter that I wrote to Allan Dudley and Roscoe Reynolds, and I think a copy got forwarded to the Governor, you'll see where I tried to make one issue, and I had a real round with Bruce Haynes of the Comp Board. He says I'm wrong, I still say I am right, but if we lose an employee, governments do not pay unemployment insurance, businesses do. Therefore, any unemployment they draw is charged back to our budget. If I have a \$20,000 employee, they sign up and draw approximately half, or \$10,000, I'm short \$10,000 more. What am I going to do, lay off another one? I can't understand our Governor down there, he's supposed to be a businessman, I thought he was the right man for the job, I am a Republican but I voted for him, but it won't happen again. He was a lucky rascal, he wasn't a businessman. Any businessman understands that you don't lay people off and give them welfare and in my eyes that it exactly what this is.

Supervisor Gerald - did you send this to the Governor?

Mr. Peters - I think Roscoe forwarded it to him. We are in the process of trying to get our records on the internet, but we've pretty much given up on that hope. Another gripe I've got is how are you going to sit back here and lay off these people and all government employees are going to get a 2.25% increase in pay? I want to know how you are going to get that 2.25% and lay them off on one side and give them a raise on the other. Things just don't add up. In our office, we are a little different from other offices in the way we handle things. We have no accumulated leave, no accumulated sick pay, and the ladies take up to two weeks vacation. We do this by compensating them in the weekly work schedule. During the week, each of them take certain times off, therefore, when it comes time for this other accumulated stuff, we try to take the Code, factor it back, and we are close on the way we do ours. When we had a problem with another employee from another office leave, maybe threaten to sue the County for the back pay or whatever, I did have my employees sign off on a letter that they did understand this agreement, this is the way that they wanted it, we had no problem. And I don't mean to stand here and praise Roscoe Reynolds, but he introduced legislation to reinstate my budget totally. Of course, it didn't get very far. He put me in contact with every member of the Senate Finance Committee. I've spend hours e-mailing them all. He's told me anybody else that he thought would help me, I've e-mailed those, and he's been a real supporter. I can't say enough good

about Roscoe. And he's also contacted the Governor. Allan Dudley, he informs me that he'll keep my comments in mind. And I've had to ask him to tell me yes or no whether he will support the bills. The House of Representatives is also now trying to eliminate deeds out of our work load schedule. If I eliminate deeds out of my work load schedule, it has the effect of needing only 1.03 persons. How can you not record deeds? So you can see how with the people we have in Richmond and I want to urge everyone of you to help me get them out of office if they don't support our causes. I don't care which party they are in, I'm not here as a party person, although it may sound like it from my comments. We did with Roscoe's help, get \$460,000 put back in the budget State-wide. And there again, I think we may get a small credit off of this \$8000 but again I can't count on it. In my own mind, it might be \$1700 or somewhere, I haven't seen a figure on it. That line-item veto for the Governor, and that was a large part due to Roscoe's help, Allan Dudley did not support me. We have the new guy in Montgomery try to run it over us. He is one of the ones, in the company of some down in Bedford, that tried to run it over us. But anyway we got that vetoed. I guess I'm here to ask you to assist us in any way that you can. I realize that you have other budget problems besides us, I understand that if you can't, it is no problem. But whatever you do, I urge you to do it quickly. If I have to lay a person off, I think I owe it to them to give them some time to find something else. We hope it don't come to that, but we don't know. In closing, I want to say that I thank you for all your past help. Without your help, we'd already be short a person. You allowed me to move some funds last year, and I've been able to keep her until June. I thought that the power of the Clerk's Association would get some legislation passed this year and we would be able to fund ourselves, but I want you to know that they voted every legislation that we introduced, down, every one of them. And then we have other things. You will find that deeds that you paid money for, we add a \$10 what they call a service fee. We get no money from that \$10. It goes back to the Governor's budget.

Supervisor Boothe - all of it?

Mr. Peters - every nickel of it. Maybe we need a local service fee, \$10 for instance. If the Governor can have it, why can't we?

Supervisor Boothe - that would be something that we would need the Attorney to check into.

Mr. Rife - there may be additional fees that are allowed by statute. If you dig through these things, you can find them sometimes. But you definitely want your money to stay locally.

Supervisor Boothe - definitely.

Chairman Ingram - yes, I've about had it with the State. I've sat here and watched it for fifteen years.

Mr. Peters - I guess you hear it in my voice and see it in my eyes today that I could shoot some daggers at certain people.

Chairman Ingram - its nuts though.

Mr. Peters - all you Republicans sitting up here, and whatever, you may see a Roscoe Reynolds sign sitting in my yard. He has tried hard to help me. I've never had anybody in a public office try to work any harder than he has for me. I think the reason for that is because at one time he was a constitutional officer and he understands.

Mr. Rife - I will take a look and see if we can find some additional fees for the Clerk.

Mr. Peters - if there is any, I'm not aware of them.

Supervisor Whitlock - one thing that bothers me is, I'm not against raising fees, but when we tried to raise fees at the Regional Jail, they decided that they needed a chunk of that too.

Mr. Peters - I would say that you are exactly right there. I do want to thank you for past help, I know you helped us last year with Blue Cross, we appreciate it. You help us in other ways, you let us transfer around some money within the State, and with that I'll stop.

Chairman Ingram - I want to thank you for what you do. I know that you've gotten a lot of grant money over the years to do a lot of things in that office that had been needed doing. And its been done with grant money, and if not it would have had to come from right here. And I appreciate that.

Mr. Peters - I have told the Comp Board that they could save \$100,000 a year if they would get rid of Bruce Haynes. Needless to say, I don't get much help from Bruce Haynes anymore. But I do plan to meet with the Comp Board Monday. It is probably a hopeless case, but I will meet them. I don't expect anything, so if I get anything it will be great. If I don't, I won't be disappointed.

Supervisor Whitlock - as long as you don't come back with any worse cuts.

Mr. Peters - I think if they cut me any more I have the right to sue them.

Mr. Rife - I think if they cut you any more, they have the right to sue you.

Mr. Peters - the person that I suggested that they put in his place did get a promotion, but she didn't get his job. I appreciate you taking time to listen to all of us, not just myself, but all the Constitutional Officers, we all have the same problems.

Mr. Rife - I will take a look and see if I can find any additional fees out there. We also discussed briefly the percentages for the general receipts, taking in money. When you talk about that, I would like to talk to the Judge and see if in fact we can get you some money out of that.

Mr. Peters - its State money.

Mr. Rife - you don't see a dime of that?

Mr. Peters - no, it goes directly to the State. Its not that much money.

Supervisor Boothe - we appreciate what you are doing.

Mr. Peters - I do have a \$1000 grant coming, that's not enough to mention. It will replace a computer.

Chairman Ingram - but it is. That's what I'm saying, you've done that all along. I've sat here and I've watched that, and I appreciate that. You might not have to have that computer or whatever, but you've been able to do that and upgrade, and keep things going. Somewhere along the line, you would've had to come here for those things, you can't keep working with the same things you had. I do, I appreciate that.

Supervisor Boothe - I know you started that way because I was there those four years, and I see now that you've done it all along.

Mr. Peters - but without your help, and I don't remember all of them, but I couldn't do it without your help. You helped me buy some computer equipment which has been a tremendous help. There is no way four of us could handle the work load without those computers.

Supervisor Boothe - not only the day to day stuff, but the imaging of the documents, you've done a lot, you still have a way to go, but you've come a long way in that area alone.

Mr. Peters - \$15,000 equipment and \$5000 maintenance a year would get our stuff on the internet. I cannot do it now. I've had it on the internet, \$25/month, I've had four people. That's \$100/month, \$1200 year won't pay the maintenance. What I was looking at was charging a service fee for each client. And you will get some clients once you get it out there. Wise County, I forget how many they claim they have. Jack's a hot dog anyway in my opinion. If he's doing it, I don't want to do it. But anyway, if I could get 20 people to sign up for that, it would be self-supporting. And I planned on using my technology money for that. I had enough money to get it on there. I do have a friend that told me the Governor was going to raid the account, and to get rid of it, and that's when I encumbered all my funds last July. And sure enough, he came and raided in, but he didn't raid my funds because I'd already ordered the equipment. Now I might have had to cancel some equipment, but I didn't.

Supervisor Boothe - so you closed the hen house before the fox got there.

Mr. Peters - you have to move fast. And one reason we've been able to move fast is because I have a great staff. Those ladies, I think, they work as well as any staff I've had. And that's saying a lot because I had a great staff at the factory.

Supervisor Whitlock - most of the time a good staff has to have a good manager and have a policy to live by.

Mr. Peters - in my office I have an open door policy. We take a vote, and if they vote me down, if its two against one and a no vote, its hard for me to back up. They are probably right. And I think you have to be man enough and see their side and admit that you are wrong. Just like I said a while ago, its all one ship, if one of us goes down, we all sink. Anyway, we appreciate you.

Mr. Gordon Hannett, Commonwealth's Attorney, next appeared before the Board.

Mr. Hannett - I'm sure you've heard lots of gloom and doom today from other offices and fortunately for us, in my office, because of the actions of Gino Williams, its really not that bad for the Commonwealth's Attorney office, not nearly as badly as I worried it might be. You have there in front of you what we received from the Comp Board with their suggestions. They have suggested a cut of \$11,696 and they proposed having that cut implemented in the way that you see there in the center of the form. And that is, they would cut completely office expenses, take that from \$3775 to \$0 and then cut temporary staff salaries from \$24,240 to \$16,319. I have altered that slightly and that is to put back into that \$1000 for office expenses and bring the temporary staff salary down to \$15,319. So we are fairly confident at the office, that we will be able to make up that difference in salaries through the collection of fines and costs, which is something that Gino started at the office. So unless someone has questions, that's all I have to tell you. Have you had the same thing from other offices, a tentative suggested way of cutting things from the Comp Board? That's really the only change I have suggested, and have already sent it to them actually. As you probably know, Myra in my office works part-time, three days a week, and she does that because she has children and likes to be able to have a flexible work situation. So, her salary really is fairly flexible, we'll be able to make that up with the fines and costs. Also, we have a part-time high school students who works with us for hourly pay. And I think we will even be able to keep her on.

Supervisor Boothe - good luck to you in your position.

Chairman Ingram - we appreciate you taking time to visit with us in this awkward situation. Because to be real honest with you, your budget situation is a little different than some of the others. I'm glad that it is, some of the others have some difficulties that will have to be dealt with and worked out, so it is more difficult than what your office was. So I'm glad that it is that way and its worked out.

Mr. Hannett - in being positive about this, I'm not inviting more cuts. There is the matter of my desk though. There is no desk there. All that is there is three book shelves. I've asked someone to call and ask if it is possible to purchase a desk and I was told it would be ok. Not even through our budget.

Mr. Nester - we'll take care of getting you a desk.

Supervisor Boothe - I think that is the least we can do.

Supervisor Whitlock - is it just your desk or the whole office?

Mr. Hannett - just one desk.

Supervisor Boothe - I guess Gino took that with him.

Mr. Hannett - he did, he moved all that furniture in with him, and he took it out with him. I was sitting on the floor working on this today.

Discussion followed on the pipeline issues as outlined by the County Attorney earlier in the day.

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Whitlock, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt a resolution concerning the Board's continued opposition to the Dominion pipeline (Document File Number ).

Supervisor Boothe - aye  
Supervisor Belcher - aye  
Supervisor Whitlock - aye  
Supervisor Gerald - aye  
Supervisor Ingram - aye

Supervisor Boothe suggested that the list of persons on the Senate and House Finance Committees that Mr. Peters mentioned be shared with the other Constitutional Officers in case they wish to write letters also.

On a motion of Supervisor Belcher, seconded by Supervisor Boothe, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt a resolution to the sent to the legislators concerning the Board's opposition to the recent State budget cuts (Document File Number ).

Supervisor Boothe - aye  
Supervisor Belcher - aye  
Supervisor Whitlock - aye  
Supervisor Gerald - aye  
Supervisor Ingram - aye

Supervisor Boothe - can we get together a list of the people affected by the pipeline, that would be eligible for the water study and send them a letter? All of them may not know they are eligible for this study.

Mr. Nester - we have already assembled the list and we can do a letter.

Agenda Item 8h - Polling Place for Courthouse District. Further discussion followed on

the matter.

On a motion of Supervisor Belcher, seconded by Supervisor Whitlock, and carried, it was resolved to approve the move of the Courthouse District polling place from the Courthouse to Floyd County High School, with the concurrence of the Floyd County School Board.

Supervisor Boothe - nay  
Supervisor Belcher - aye  
Supervisor Whitlock - aye  
Supervisor Gerald - nay  
Supervisor Ingram - aye

On a motion of Supervisor Whitlock, seconded by Supervisor Gerald, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn to Tuesday, April 15, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. for a budget work session, to end at 10:00 p.m.

Supervisor Boothe - aye  
Supervisor Belcher - aye  
Supervisor Whitlock - aye  
Supervisor Gerald - aye  
Supervisor Ingram - aye