

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
ADJOURNED MEETING
JUNE 10, 2004**

At an adjourned meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Floyd County, Virginia, held on Thursday, June 10, 2004 at 7:00 p.m., in the Board Room of the County Administration Building, thereof;

PRESENT: David W. Ingram, Chairman; J. Fred Gerald, Vice Chairman (entered the meeting at 7:40 p.m.); 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 at 7:00 p.m. with the reading of the handicapping statement.

At 7:00 p.m, the Chairman called for the Public Hearing on the proposed FY05 budget.

The County Administrator read the call for the public hearing and gave the following synopsis:

Mr. Nester - the budget process has been a tough one for us this year. We begin our process the early part of the year, in January. One of the things that hindered not only Floyd County, but other local governments this year, was the fact that the General Assembly could not agree on a budget and as time crept on, the deadlines that were essential to be met passed and I think everybody began to have feelings of frustration and helplessness that the General Assembly should do their job so we could do ours. Finally, they did approve a budget, and for the first time in several years, it showed an increase in revenue for local governments. Most of that increase was for law enforcement and education. In our particular case, education represents over 67% of our budget so that was a welcome relief for us. The proposed budget is \$26,934,184.00. Part of the revenue that is generated for that is based on a real estate tax increase that was adopted in March of this year and also a personal property rate increase that the Board also adopted in March of this year. Of our budget, \$18,102,000 is designated for public education. One of the major items included in that budget, of course, is a \$12 million capital improvement plan. We are involved right now in interim financing of that, at a very competitive rate, 2.43%. We are scheduled to receive State Literary Funds, which is permanent financing, for this construction project, in the Fall of 2006. I think that the Board has made a good attempt to try to identify how those revenues for the debt payment, will be handled. We still have some

work to do, but by and large, the School Board and the Board of Supervisors have worked to try to develop a plan on how to meet that obligation when it comes due. The big change in the budget this year is the proposal for the County to take over providing the professional medical emergency services for the County. Over the past two years, we have contracted with a private ambulance service to provide emergency medical services for the County. That service has been well received and is a big help to our volunteers, who just do not have the time or the staff to continue to provide 100% volunteer service. Augmenting their volunteer hours with paid staff has somewhat stabilized the crises that we've experienced a few years ago about being unable to have availability to respond to calls. We still have some problems and we find that if we have more than one call at one time, we can experience a delay. But, the provisions that the Board is looking into will assist. Primarily, just to highlight this effort compared to the contracted effort, under our contract we had for ambulance service, we had four emergency medical technicians on board, and they were primarily available from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m. We have found out with the proposed increase in the contract amount, that we could hire the increased number of advanced life support technicians. With this plan, we are going to see six paid full-time paramedics that will be available for the County plus two part-time. We are not only the number of personnel that will be able to respond to calls but we will have at least one ALS technician on board 24 hours a day. That is one big improvement that this provision will have over the previous arrangements. Sometime in the near future, we will assess a fee for responding to a call, either on a volunteer or paid basis. We will be looking at assessing a fee against health insurance carriers of persons that require emergency services. Persons that do not have medical insurance can still call us, it is our intent to provide health service and not worry about how its going to be paid for. We will work out arrangements to be flexible in the case where people do not have health insurance, we will work out terms where there will be no charge or a limited charge, but again that would be based only if there was a bonafide medical emergency. To protect ourselves, we will have to assess if it is a non-emergency but there are a number of things that will be coming up in the future. It is true that it is because of the escalating cost of ems services. In addition to the items that I've spoken to, we have several changes in fees proposed in this budget. We have a table of those at the back of the packet. We have certain changes, and I think some of the most public that will be noticed will be a change in animal license taxes, this is the fee for dog licenses. The proposal right now is that the fee is \$4 for an un-neutered animal, under this proposal, that increase will change to \$12 for un-neutered animal and \$6 for neutered animals. I'm just trying to highlight a few of the major increases. Most of these are housekeeping matters that were updated. Its been a long time since some of these fees have been adjusted. Other fees related to commercial/industrial solid waste tipping fees, and this doesn't apply to residential users, but it does apply to business and industry that use our service. At the present time, our solid waste disposal fee is \$3/ton, it is proposed that it increase to \$55/ton. That's just the actual cost that we pay for transporting solid waste for disposal. We'll also increase the charge for disposal of automotive and truck tires, that's one of the big issues that we're constantly facing. The Board has worked in the past to establish a period where we will accept tires without fees, and I think we will have the opportunity to do that again. But if we have someone bringing tires to the transfer station to dispose of, we have to pay to get rid of those tires, and so we will be passing part of that charge receiving that service instead of supporting it with general tax dollars. The fee for those are for regular passenger tires that are

16" or less would be \$3 per tire. For tires that are greater than 16", it would be a \$4 fee. For regular ply tires greater than 16" but less than 20" that fee would be \$8 per tire. For tractor trailer, off-road or agricultural implement tires, greater than 20", the disposal cost would be \$18 a tire. We've also prepared the increase in transfer of license decals from \$1 to \$2. For replacement of a damaged or lost sticker, the increase would be from \$1 to \$4. We've also, for the first time in approximately eight years, increased the charges for development, building construction, erosion control, and for flood plain management and for subdivision fees. You have a list of those proposed increases, just to highlight for subdivisions. For any subdivision that involves more than five lots, the basic fee would increase from \$50 to \$150, plus each lot would increase from \$5 to \$10 so you would have a base fee of \$150 and if you have, for example, eight lots in a subdivision, in addition there would be \$80 to cover the cost of the review. We have those other items spelled out in the attachment. I think that one of the strategies employed this year is looking at trying to use more user fees to have people that actually use the services pay for those services and lessen the dependence on general tax dollars used for those services. I think its best said that if you use the service, you should pay for the service.

The Chairman next called for comments from the audience concerning the proposed FY05 budget.

Ms. Helen Butler, Executive Director Brain Injury Services of Southwest Virginia - some months ago, my predecessor sent a proposal for you to consider funding brain injury services for the number of consumers that we serve in Floyd County. At that time, we served five, and now we currently serve four. We were asking for \$1000 per consumer in order to help defray the costs of the service to the consumers in Floyd County. It costs us about \$2600 per consumer to deliver case management services and life skills training services. Basically, case management services, otherwise known as service coordination, is assistance for people who have brain injuries, to navigate through all of the complex systems that they need assistance from. Such as, the school system for children to develop their individual education plan in special education. The health care system, to get the kind of medical advice and neurological services that they need. Acquire equipment, particularly assistive technology equipment, equipment for the physical disabilities. As you are probably aware, brain injuries include people who have had strokes, who have had motor vehicle accidents and bumped their heads, people who have had aneurysms which then create a stroke, people who have been abused by others. These are the types of people that we serve. Typically, brain injuries will affect an individual in many ways. One of course, is the physical disability that you see, there could be paralysis. That is fairly evident. What is not as evident is the cognitive and behavioral consequences of their brain injury and many times people have a very difficult time controlling their emotions and displaying appropriate behavior in a social setting. We help them figure that out and get re-trained and re-integrated back into the community. There are a lot of training programs. So, what we are asking for is you to consider in your budget, at least \$4000. We do have other municipalities who have funded us based on our recent request, and we serve the 4th and 5th planning districts, and a number of areas have given to us. Some of the municipalities have not been able to give what we requested, but we appreciate that, and any little bit that you can do

helps us very much when we go to talk to our legislators that the localities support the program. I do have a handout, a copy that you may have already received. It explains service coordination, which again, is another term for case management. It explains the programs and objectives that we have and life skill training that we do for people. Thank you for your time.

Agenda Item 3 - Request from New River Valley Planning District Commission for additional funds for grant match for military base study. Mr. Nester reported that he had not received the participation response from the Planning Commission from other localities. The deadline for the grant application is June 30.

On a motion of Supervisor Gerald, seconded by Supervisor Boothe, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to authorize a contribution, up to \$1500 or 5% of match, whichever is greater, to the New River Valley Planning District Commission's grant application for study of military bases, contingent upon other localities' participation.

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

Agenda Item 4 - Request from the New River Valley Agency on Aging for continuation of third day of congregate meal program in Floyd County. Supervisor Boothe commented that when he was originally approached about the program, that he was looking for a stop-gap measure to help the organization while they were looking for other funding sources. I do know our action was appreciated greatly by the people. The request was for \$6283.50, for three months at the current rate, and a \$0.50 increase per meal for the remaining nine months. They are expecting a 3% increase in the meal costs.

On a motion of Supervisor Belcher, seconded by Supervisor Boothe, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to continue six months contribution for the congregate meal program for the Floyd County site of New River Valley Agency on Aging at a rate of \$3010 for the period of July 1, 2004 - December 31, 2004; notify the Agency of the severe budget restrictions and encourage them to find community resources to supplement the program.

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

Agenda Item 5 - Setting of public hearing date on proposed fee for emergency medical services ordinance. Mr. Nester reported that the public hearing would basically be conveying authority to the corporation board of directors, not on the fee itself. The fees would be decided by the Board of Directors of the corporation. We are also investigating the rates other localities charge.

On a motion of Supervisor Whitlock, seconded by Supervisor Gerald, and carried, it was resolved to set the public hearing on the proposed emergency medical services fee ordinance for July 21, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the County Administration Building.

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

There was also discussion concerning prior press releases, presentations to civic organizations, and explanations on the County's web page.

Mrs. Morris presented an invitation to the Board from the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library Board to attend their meeting on June 16, 2004 at 7:00 p.m at the Floyd Library. During the meeting, there will be a special presentation to Mr. Lowell Boothe for his eight years of service on the Library Board.

Mr. Nester presented a price quote on a used 2002 Ford Explorer, 4-wheel drive, 33,000 miles, \$15,200, to be used as a rapid response vehicle for the professional medical services program. There are funds available in the Fire/Rescue Fund for this purchase at this time. The vehicle would not be used until such time as the corporation is up and running.

On a motion of Supervisor Whitlock, seconded by Supervisor Boothe, and carried, it was resolved to authorize the purchase of an emergency response vehicle in the amount of \$15,200, to be paid from the Fire/Rescue Fund, as per previous information.

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

Mr. Nester reported that he was finishing the final report for close-out of the Commerce Park project. Some of the highlights were: 23 more jobs were created than required; benefits to LMI persons were 49 served, 32 were required; investment requirement has been met; now that the grant is closed, we can apply for other grants.

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Gerald, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn to June 29, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.

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