

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
ADJOURNED MEETING
APRIL 4, 2006**

At an adjourned meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Floyd County, Virginia, held on Tuesday, April 4, 2006 at 7:30 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 7:55 p.m.); Diane B. Belcher (entered the meeting at 7:36 p.m.), Kerry W. Whitlock, Board Members; George W. Nester, County Administrator; Terri W. Morris, Assistant County Administrator.

ABSENT: Jerry W. Boothe, Board Member.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. with the reading of the handicapping statement.

Chairman Ingram called for the Public Hearing on the proposed FY07 budget and tax rates.

The County Administrator read the call for the public hearing and gave the following synopsis of the proposed budget:
The Board has before it, a balanced budget of \$29,626,812. Overall, this is an increase of \$2.1 million from the past fiscal year. The budget includes no increases in taxes or fees. The budget provides increases to Constitutional Office employees as directed by the Commonwealth of Virginia. Those increases vary depending on the office. In addition, County employees will receive a 3% cost of living adjustment. The school budget includes the first year of the school debt for the \$12 million public school expansion project. The first year's principal and interest debt is just over \$1 million and the annual payments will decrease over the period of the loan. The school budget reflects an increase of \$1,417,773. Again, bear in mind that includes the assumption of the \$1 million debt payment. The County has established an agreement to transfer solid waste from Floyd County to the New River Resource Authority landfill beginning July 1. The projected savings from this action will save the County \$745,000 over the term of the transportation contract, which is five years. The budget sees the expansion of the Indian Valley fire station. The County did re-finance the Series 2000 and Series 2001 bonds to take advantage of lower interest rates at a savings to the County of \$25,000/year. The budget also reflects the financing of \$1.05 million library expansion with the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development program. The Friends of the Library will be raising \$300,000 as a match for this project. That match is required in cash before the loan will be released by USDA. In reviewing the primary sources of funding, those being local, State and Federal, the following

changes are recorded. The local revenue sources have increased \$850,000, State has a decrease in the General Fund appropriation of \$213,098, the Federal government is providing an increase of \$29,036. For the schools, the State and Federal has appropriated an increase of \$1,417,773.

The Chairman declared the Public Hearing open for comments from the audience.

Helen Butler, Executive Director of Brain Injury Services of Southwest Virginia - Our organization has been in existence for about six years. We were started by Fran and Greg Rooker, who lost their son to a brain injury about eight years ago. They sold their chain of newspapers in Southwest Virginia and went into volunteering for brain injury services full-time. Basically because when they brought their son home from the hospital, they didn't find the resources they needed in the community. And they live around Claytor Lake. We were founded by them. The purpose is to provide services for people with brain injuries, that is traumatic brain injury by an acquired injury. Brain injury from accidents, farm accidents, highway accidents, strokes, things of that nature. What we do is provide three services. We have case management services where a case manager will help an individual who has cognitive impairment from their brain injury to navigate the systems of the medical, legal, rehabilitation, social services to get services and resources that they need to live as independently as possible, and to position them to give back to the community to the best of their abilities. Whether that might be return to work, go to school or vocational training, or volunteer in the community. It costs approximately \$2600/year/client to provide the case management services and the other two services which are life skills training and volunteer placement. The life skills training is a specialized trainer in the home of the brain injured person and helps them re-learn how to do basic activities of daily living such as bathing, grooming, that sort of thing. Instrumental daily living activities such as financial management, making appointments, arranging transportation and those sorts of things are also included in this. Volunteer placement is a new program for us this year. What we do is connect people in the community with people who have a brain injury and wish to volunteer and give back to the community. We serve seven people in Floyd which is quite an increase from the previous year. If you do the math, that's roughly over \$17,000 worth of services that we've provided to the community for these individuals. I want to talk about three individuals, I can't share their names because of the HIPPA regulations but at the New River Valley consolidated manager's budget meeting, we had a client that lives nearby who explained how we had changed his life. We have made him a more productive person in the community, he's launched his own business in art, and he's getting an income, which is very rewarding for him, rewarding for his family. He's generating some income and that is very rewarding to him. Another client wanted to return to school and there was transportation issues. We solved those issues by providing transportation and funds for transportation. Now he's attending school and has a vocational goal and will be returning to the community. Our third person which I know your community is very familiar with, he's been here a long time. Recently, he has started volunteering in the community and has been a real asset in your community. He was injured when he was three years old and he is now living independently with some help from us, but clearly with his sister's help. He is also volunteering now and getting a lot out of life from that. These are the gifts that I think our organization has provided to your community. What we're asking for is some sign of support from you to continue services here. We are at a critical time as many communities are,

throughout Virginia, waiting to hear from the General Assembly on our budget amendment that we had put in. The Governor did put us in his budget but of course, that's a tenuous situation. One grant cycle came to an end, which had provided \$150,000/year, so this year we are really asking for anything that you can give us. We were requesting \$3000 which covers just our cost for one individual. Like I said at the beginning, we provided services for seven this past year and anticipate providing services for ten if we keep going at the rate that we are now.

Tony Weddle, President Floyd County Volunteer Fire Department - What I'd like to bring up and discuss is consideration of replacing all four of the 1986 F-350 fire units that we have. We have some reasons that we would like to go ahead and do it this way. In 1986, all four were purchased at the same time, so therefore, they are all the same age. The skid units that go in the truck itself are all the same age, and are in bad disrepair because they are 20 years old. One of the units has had the steel tank replaced down to a 125 gallon plastic tank, which is a 100 gallon less than it should be. I'm not going to bad-mouth these units because they've served us well for 20 years but their service is about done for. We continue to have problems with brakes on these units simply because the brakes are smaller than what you get now and the skid units are heavier. On the new units, we will be getting bigger, better brakes because the disc brakes all the way around, and actually the skid units that go on the back will be lighter. So that's a good combination. Right now the units we have is just the opposite, so that's a bad combination. We're also having some engine problems with the trucks and with the engines on the skid units because of age. We're having trouble keeping them running good enough to keep them on the road. We work with them continuously. Carburetor problems on the truck itself too. As I mentioned on the skid units, and the weight of them, the gross vehicle weight on the 86's is 9000 pounds, so probably we are at or overweight because of that. On the new 2006 F-350's, the gross vehicle weight is 11,200 pounds. So that's one reason, we will be getting a bigger truck with less weight. So that will be the good part about it. The 1986 models have been really good trucks, they were the first real brush units we had in this County. Brush units, in my opinion, are second only to our class A pumpers going out on a structure fire. They're really, really important to us. We had a 27 acre fire up our way last week, we had five brush units and five support units, we wish we'd had five more brush units on this fire. I can't stress enough the importance of brush units in the County.

Lindsey Watkins - I'm here on behalf of New River Community Action. I would just like to express the great job they do there and it helped me a lot as a client. It helped me with my fuel assistance, food, fuel for my car, transportation. Its reassuring to know that you've got a place to go to get help.

Roberta Shoemaker - representing the Floyd Local Advisory Board of New River Community Action. I've been on this Board for approximately three years. I would like to say that the emergency assistance fund at Community Action has been depleted this year due to the high cost of the client assistance. The increased fuel, oil and electricity, the amount of money that the people have been having to pay, due to the fuel consumption problems, has just totally wiped out the emergency assistance fund. Last year, the emergency assistance clients were at 875, this year we served 930. Our food bank clients are up to 752 from 705 last year. We have

had nine clients in the CARS program.

Roger Hollandsworth, Treasurer of the Floyd County Rescue Squad - I'm here basically to speak about one line item and one line item only as to something that is very dear to us and that's called daily operating funds. We as a Squad this in the FY06 budget, are operating under operating expenses of \$155,600. For the budget year FY07, we requested from the County, a budget of \$188,265, of which I think the approval that you've given us for daily operating of \$129,193. Of the requested budget of \$188,265 down to \$129,193 is a decrease of about 31% of what we requested. Currently, through the first nine months of the year that we're working in now, the FY06 budget, we have already expensed out \$113,000. If you work on averages, that would get us up to, if we continue on the current rate that we're going, it would be a total operating expense this year of approximately \$152,000, of which we had budgeted \$155,600, so we're pretty close to the numbers that we had. If you look at the \$129,193 that has been approved by the Board, like I said, in the first nine months, we've already spent \$113,000 in this current year and I don't think expenses are going to be going down next year. My biggest concern is our daily operating expenses. One thing is that we don't want to be back up here next year at this time saying we're out of money for our daily operations. We hope that you will look at something to rectify this situation now opposed to waiting 12 months down the road, and saying hey, we're out of money for our day-to-day operations. One thing that I'm confused about, and I know you can't make comments at this time. But the Floyd Press on March 16 talks about emergency service fees going up. I assume the reason that they're going up is to offset costs. That's one reason that we're having a substantial increase in our budget to offset costs in our day-to-day operations. If you look at the Basic EMT fees that you increased by 23%. The fuel charges went from \$8.50 to \$10.00, an increase of \$1.50 per mile, which was an increase of 18%. So, we know that you see that there will be increases in it, because you have basically increased the fees that the paid service will be charging. For you to increase the fees by 23% for the daily basic fee and 18% on fuel mileage, but then our requested budget for total operating expenses, you cut it 31%. So, that's my biggest concern. I don't want us to be here next year saying hey, look, we need more money to handle our daily operating expenses and so forth. I'd like to thank Mr. Nester, I hate to see him leave, he's worked with us very hard this year in the transition in the partnership with the EMS system, with the volunteers and paid system, and you and your staff. We wish you good luck in the future. I would just like to close with one statement. Please allow us the funding to continue to serve the citizens of Floyd County, which we hope we've done a pretty good job in the last 32 years.

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

Because of State Code requirements for a seven day waiting period for action on the proposed budget and tax levies, the Board will discuss the matter at their regular meeting on Tuesday, April 11, 2006.

On a motion of Supervisor Whitlock, seconded by Supervisor Gerald, and carried, it was resolved to adjourn to Tuesday, April 11, 2006 at 8:30 a.m.

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