

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 14, 2006**

At the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Floyd County, Virginia, held on Tuesday, February 14, 2006 at 8:30 a.m. in the Board Room of the County Administration Building, thereof;

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

ABSENT: David W. Ingram, Chairman; George W. Nester, County Administrator.

The Vice Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with the reading of the handicapping statement.

The Opening Prayer was led by Supervisor Belcher.

Supervisor Boothe led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Deronda Thomas, Treasurer, appeared before the Board. She presented the invested cash as of February 14, 2006 and indicated that interest rates are looking much better. The Bank of Floyd's rates were comparable with LGIP this time.

Mrs. Morris presented the balance sheet and revenue/expenditure summary as of January 31, 2006. She reported that, at 58% through the fiscal year, General Fund revenue collections are at 59% and expenditures at 69%. Gas/oil costs are over budget in four departments, but otherwise, expenses are well within line.

The minutes of January 10, 2006 were presented to the Board for review and consideration.

Supervisor Whitlock - page 10, in reference to a road situation, the name of the road is Tanner Bark, instead of Tanning Bark.

On a motion of Supervisor Whitlock, seconded by Supervisor Belcher, and carried, it was resolved to approve the minutes of January 10, 2006 as amended.

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

Supervisor Ingram - absent

The monthly disbursements were presented to the Board for consideration and approval. A list of additional expenses was also presented. Mrs. Morris indicated two items of interest on the list - 1) page 11, delete the bill to the Treasurer of Carroll County for a tourism sign because an agreement has not been executed; and 2) page 13, bill to Clark Brothers for Station #4 addition, the County will be reimbursed for this expense when the long-term loan is closed.

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Whitlock, and carried, it was resolved to approve the monthly disbursements, plus additions, with the deletion of the bill to the Treasurer of Carroll County in the amount of \$2831.00.

Supervisor Boothe - aye

Supervisor Belcher - aye

Supervisor Whitlock - aye

Supervisor Gerald - aye

Supervisor Ingram - absent

Sheriff Shannon Zeman next appeared before the Board. He reported on the following items:

- Monthly activity sheet, calls are down to 869, which is very good for us, maybe the cold weather has deterred crime a little bit;
- Fuel - last three months we've been trying to keep it down, running about \$24,000 instead of \$30,000;
- We do have the two new patrol cars, they are complete and up and running;
- One employee is on light duty. We are working with George and Kenny as to addressing this accident from happening again in the Courthouse;
- Grants - I think I told you last time about the \$32,000 Federal grant, they have approved that, I bring this up because there are probably things that we need more than what we are getting with the grant but I don't have any choice, they give you the money first and tell us what we can spend it on. We're working on that.
- We did receive a \$1500 patrol grant with no match, there's no match on the Federal grant either.
- We just applied for a Community Policing Grant, with a 25% match. We're only asking for \$1500 so we can deal with the match within our budget. That helps us with supplies that we use for churches and schools, fingerprinting the children, the domestic violence stuff, basically handouts and that type of thing.
- We did receive \$13,000 for the bullet proof vest grant. We get it every few years and it carries forward. We don't need it right now for vests, as far as replacements, but we have the funds in place and when its time to cycle the vests again, there's grant money there for that.
- We do have a DMV grant that we applied for that we haven't heard back from yet, for \$1500. We use it to replace alca-sensors or radar units. We apply for it every year. We may use it for radar units this time. We try to keep three units up and working and we only have two right now. One was a hand-me-down from Montgomery County and its no

longer functioning, and costs too much to fix it.

Supervisor Gerald questioned when the vests are used by the officers, what conditions?

Sheriff Zeman - most of the officers wear them every day. They've gotten very comfortable with them. The last time we purchased vests, there was a group that helped us purchase the new, lightweight ones, half of what the package used to be. Most of the officers wear them all the time.

Clerk of Court Wendell Peters next appeared before the Board. He reported on the following:

- Training - I talked to you about this last month, we had over 8 hours of training and collected \$300 for the program last year. We have collected \$700 this year already. Even better than collecting the money, we got an address for a guy from Beaumont, Texas that showed up over here in Stuart, so we are now after him. The other guy, I don't remember where he was from, but we do have a current address on him too, so we had two accounts that we got over \$700 for. They still owe several thousand. Unfortunately, most of it is State funds, the County gets a small part.
- Controlled Access - we are on a waiting list with the Supreme Court, and have been for a while. We're still waiting, but we do have the grant funds in place.
- I can't get in touch with the Comp Board. I don't know if there's snowed out, snowed in, snowed under, or just trying to snow us. I do have a bill that is open, that will be paid from the Comp Board for \$5000. The Comp Board gets these wise ideas of spending the Clerk's money that they've absconded, called the Technology Trust Fund. They had a good system, that they called SNIP, and we could get in and access the funds we have. Now they've switched over to a thing called COIN, I think all the departments have had problems with the system, we can't even get into it to see what funds we have. So we won't pay the bill until we can access the funds.

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

Mrs. Evelyn Janney - presented two handouts for the Board's review. First of all, I want to thank the Board for being so gracious in hosting our Roanoke River Water Basin meeting in January. Mr. Nester came and gave opening remarks and then Supervisor Ingram also came and welcomed the group. Everyone was very appreciative of that. I also want to thank Susan and others who were responsible for getting our lunch together, it was done in a very timely manner. I got several good comments. We all know what Floyd County food is like, and they appreciated it. Our meeting, I think, was one of the better ones we've had. We had a gentleman come, from the Virginia Forestry Department, he was the Regional Manager. I apologize for not remembering his name. He talked about the different ways that they try to protect our forests, our agricultural land, that goes along with the other ways that are in place for the farm protection. In the process, I don't know whether we stop to remember that since the farmers are in charge of that land, that stewardship that they have accepted, that they do try, the majority, try

to protect it in whatever way is available to them. And the forestry goes right along with that, because more land is not going to be developed, as far as the actual putting it on this earth. The way we use it is something else. In our meeting, Mr. Howard Dickerson came and spoke as well as Mr. Terry Slusher about ways the Land Trust has been helpful. I think we'll still have to see how this will affect our tax bases, but that land is preserved for future generations depending on what criteria was put in, it can't be developed except for the way they have outlined it. We also had a lady show up that was a Supervisor from Charlotte County, and I apologize for not having her name either. That wasn't the important thing that she brought with her. Every year, in the legislature, we hear about the Chesapeake Bay. We have to do this and that to protect the Bay. That's important to all of us but these other rivers and tributaries are also important to our State. Her big concern was the fact that these other rivers are pretty much put by the wayside. The Staunton River was important to her because that's in her area, but I was very proud of her in the fact that she didn't single out just that one. She included the New River as well as all the others. You have in front of you, resolutions that came about because of the one that she brought to our meeting, that we adopted with some revision. You also have one that our New River PDC adopted and Mr. Gerald was at that meeting. I also brought it back to our local Planning Commission meeting last Wednesday and we also adopted a similar one. (Mrs. Janney read the proposed resolution). This was voted on and signed by our Chairman, Mr. Bryant. I would ask that you consider a similar resolution and adopt it. It is to go to our legislators, the ones that are on the committee. Even if we meet in January, its next to impossible for those Senators and Delegates to get time out to even poke their head in the door, much less attend a day meeting. Senator Charles Hawkins is Chair of that Committee. I thank you for your time and thank you for the opportunity to try to serve on this board on behalf of the New River PDC and Floyd County. I'm proud of my County and I want everyone else to be as well.

Supervisor Whitlock - this is something significant that has been worked on for a number of years. When they first started talking about the Chesapeake Bay problems, back when the ketone turned up to be a problem, and its gotten stepped back to where sediment and pollution of all kinds, and phosphates, seem to be what they're concentrating on because that has a tendency to stunt plant growth and destroys the oxygen which gets the animals in the water. So this is something that they should have been looking at a long time ago instead of naming it the Chesapeake Bay, they should have named it the watersheds of Virginia. But, as it would be, Chesapeake Bay was on the forefront with the ketone problem and that's when it got named that and its continued to be. The biggest thing is that the rules and regulations written for the Chesapeake Bay, the money goes to the Chesapeake Bay Basin, and the trouble of it is, we're back here, and its hard to get that kind of money here.

Mrs. Janney - at least she did something about it when she came on the Board, and I apologize again for not knowing her name.

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

Mrs. Myra Grim, EMS Administrative Clerk, next appeared before the Board. She

commented that she appreciated the Board seeing her early, she does have to attend a meeting for Lydeana today. The monthly report, we're doing very well with our deposits still. The calls were up this month. You'll notice that I did change my year-to-date report to reflect from the beginning of the fiscal year instead of the calendar year. I did this in order to help you in preparing your budget for the upcoming year. One other thing to report, and I'm real excited about this, I finally heard from Diversified Billing on a percentage of collections. This is based on the first six months, we're at 63% collections. I was excited about this. I understand this, and I'm sure that you do also, this is really a shot in the dark right now. They felt confident that this is about where it will be in the future. I think this is due to efforts of a lot of people.

Mrs. Deanna Cox, Robinson, Farmer, Cox & Associates, next appeared before the Board. She presented the June 30, 2005 audit for the Board's review. I'll give you an overview today, and after you review it, if you have questions, please have Terri or George give me a call. Just a brief overview of the process. The process for your audit is almost a year-round one now. We always come in early Spring or Summer to do preliminary audit work, which is when we do our assessment of internal controls, some of our testing, and we're here for about three days. We come back in the Fall to do our final field work when everything is closed out. This year, we completed our final field work in October 2005. By November 30, we had submitted our Comparative Cost Report forms to the APA by their deadline. By late January, you had your final draft of the report. The preliminary draft came out sometime early in January, and then Terri creates the management discussion and analysis, which is the letter that now appears in the front of your report as a result of GASB 34. She does a good job with that, and I think its very well presented. That's the overview of your overall financial position, in layman's terms, than probably the rest of the report. So it's a good place to refer to to see how you got to where you are at the end of the year. As far as reporting changes go, we don't have any significant reporting changes this year. As you know, a couple of years ago, everything changed because of GASB 34. GASB has still been busy, so you do have some added disclosures regarding your investments and credit risks. Note 2, which is your cash note, if you are familiar with the way it looked last year, you'll notice some changes this year. We're required to show ratings on investments and investment risk information in addition to that. So that's a little bit different, but other than that, reporting looks substantially the same as it did last year. We will be adding some future disclosures in the next two years, for more GASB's that they've come out with. Part of the reason this process gets longer every year, is that GASB didn't come into effect until 1989, GASB is the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, which is the rule making body that tells us what we have to do as governmental auditors, and how we have to present it in our report. Since 1989, which was the first GASB, we are now up to GASB 45. So you can see, in a very short period of time, this regulatory agency has been heaping on the things that we need to disclose. Some of them, I think, are beneficial to you, some not so much. But in the next two years, we're going to have to consider disclosing post-employment benefits of retirees in the financial statements and possibly impairment of capital assets if that applies to your locality. So two changes that might be upcoming. The one thing that looks really good this year is that you had a rebound in fund balance, which is always nice. I'm hoping that this will continue through the next couple of years. You are now at the end of your major capital improvements that you had embarked on about three years ago, and I think that's part of the rebound. You've paid off

some temporary notes down to a lower level. From an audit standpoint, this year looks much better than the prior two years did, and I commend you and the Administration for turning that around. I still will harp on fund balance a little bit, because you're still about \$1.6 m below what I like to see as the minimum threshold for a fund balance. And again, we like to see 10% of your recurring expenditures and that includes all expenditures for the County and School Board. So, you're about \$27 m for total expenditures, and you take out the School Board transfer, so I'd like to see a fund balance of about \$2.7 m in the General Fund. That's something to work toward. We did have some management comments this year. No major deficiencies, but I will mention them. One of them is related to the new GASB that I talked about, which required the additional disclosures for investments. Part of GASB 40 requires that, if the locality has an investment policy, then you need to incorporate into that policy, policies regarding credit risk and interest rate risk. That's something that I can give to the Treasurer if she's going to write the policy. Until this year, she didn't know that was coming. The Treasurer's Association has been talking about it, so they may have some information also. But that's something that you need to have in place by the end of this fiscal year. Another thing is that we're seeing that the IRS is performing a lot of compliance audits around the State, and they're mainly looking at payroll infractions. Corbin Stone in our office, had written a newsletter last year regarding some of the issues or areas that they're concentrating on. I think you have already addressed some of these related to that, maybe Board payments, being treated as payroll instead of contractual agreements. That came as a result of that. All of that communication came directly from an IRS auditor that was over the Staunton office, Compliance Audit Division. We took that information, with his blessing, and spread it around so everyone could get a heads up. The penalties are pretty heavy if they find infractions.

Supervisor Whitlock - do they go forward or go back with penalties.

Mrs. Cox - they go back too. They've been to Carroll and Bland Counties. What they've done in those cases, they've gone back and found significant problems, but they haven't penalized people at this point since this is the first time that they've started it. But going forward, we would be subject to penalties. Another suggestion that I had, this is something that I assist the County in getting started and going on a more current basis. A reference was made to maintaining the capital asset listing. We've been helping the County and School Board along with this, but it's a management function and really the way it should work, is that we show up for the audit and you have a list of fixed assets for us to test from. Really the way its working is that we show up and remind everybody we need it. And then they go back through the purchases for the year. The way I would like to see it work, is that the capital asset process be incorporated into the purchasing process so that any purchase over \$5000 gets flagged and immediately gets added to your listing and kept on a current basis rather than just updating it in the Fall of each year. One thing that I'm going to do to help is we currently have a spreadsheet of what we've compiled of all the County assets and I'm going to make sure that Susan has a list of up through June 30, and have them update it to this point so that by the end of June, it should be current. The only other things I had, and they were your management suggestions from the prior year, and I just reminded you of the ones that hadn't been addressed yet. You really had addressed all but three of the minor ones, you did a really good job of addressing them. They were really

things to improve. Keep up the good work. I would really like to thank the staff when we come to do the audit, makes our job easier, and I think the Board should appreciate it also, because that's what gets you a good report at the end of the year.

Supervisor Whitlock - this time frame, are you looking at the same to get things done.

Mrs. Cox - its getting better every year. GASB 34 really bumped us back, first of all, because we had to completely re-vamp the financial statements, then the other hitch is that the APA has to be prepared. So once we get a draft done, and Terri can't work on her part until we get a draft done, everything, including the other GASB's has stretched it out. But every year, we getting back closer to our November 30 deadline which is where I anticipate we'll be in future years, and that's my hope for next year, is that you'll have a draft by November 30, we do get our filings into APA on a timely basis, but its important to me that you all get it more currently. Its almost May and we're ready to start on another audit year. It would be more helpful to you to have it on a timely basis.

Supervisor Whitlock - at the same point, we're about ready to get into another budget year ourselves. Anytime that we know more where we've come from, as to what we can project for the future, it makes it somewhat easier. Not totally easy.

Mrs. Cox - it is helpful to have last year's information in front of you when you're going through the budget process. My goal is to get it here in November every year, we've missed the mark the last two years, but we've gotten closer this year, next year we hope to hit the mark.

Supervisor Whitlock - do you see them changing the rules again?

Mrs. Cox - I absolutely have no idea. GASB is changing the rules every year. Hopefully they won't change them as drastically as they did. The GASB was the first significant change in governmental accounting reporting in 50 years. So hopefully, we have 37 more years before they make a change and we'll all be retired.

Mr. Carl Ayers, Social Services Director, next appeared before the Board. He reported on the following:

- Wanted to bring your attention to three specific legislative actions that we've been asked to look at through our office and also as Chairman of the Management Team for CSA. Wanted to make you aware of these specific bills and also the action that we've requested on behalf of the locality, and one specific to my office. Just for you to consider speaking to the legislators on our behalf.
- House Bill 426, House Bill 427 - these two bills are specific to the Comprehensive Services Act and they were sponsored by Delegate Nutter. What House Bill 426 does is, that requires all facilities in the State that are considered residential facilities, to become Medicaid providers. What that does is, that means they can bill Medicaid for the services that they provide to kids that are in a residential setting. Overall, whenever we discussed

this at the Management Team meeting, we really didn't have a concern about that as long as its all psychiatric in-patient facilities. The Bill is written so widely that it encompasses what are considered group homes. We've got different types of residential settings, and group homes being the least restrictive to what are considered lock-down psychiatric settings. Most of your group homes average cost-wise about \$210/\$220 per day. For a lock-down psychiatric residential setting, its about \$450-\$500 per day. If this bill were to go through, and it includes group homes too, you are looking at cutting out that whole middle piece to where group homes would no longer be \$210/day. If they're going to have to provide the same thing as a Medicaid provider, then you're looking at all your group homes raising their rates to be in line with all your other lock-down residential facilities. So I think this would actually have opposite intent for what the bill was written for. You're actually going to drive up costs in the CSA program instead of driving down costs. That's the way it was written, I'm not saying that it couldn't be amended to be more specific to the type of facilities that they're looking at, but as its written, we as the Management Team for the locality, felt it was appropriate to send a letter to Delegate Dudley and ask that he oppose that from the County perspective. And we wanted to pass that along to you also. As everybody struggles with CSA costs and increases each year, I think this would have the opposite effect with what was written.

Supervisor Whitlock - are there accompanying bills on the Senate side?

Mr. Ayers - I don't know, the only things I have are House Bill 426 and 427.

Supervisor Boothe - do you know the status?

Mr. Ayers - it was reported out of committee the first week of February. Please be aware of this when you're reviewing the bills. Its an unintended risk of whoever wrote the bill, wrote it too broadly, they need to slim it down to address specific facilities and not to encompass all residential facilities. If it were more specific, I believe our County would have been in agreement with making all those providers be Medicaid providers. You're trying to fit a segment of our population that we serve into something that is not going to happen. Whenever you're looking at the Medicaid rate, right now its \$366/day plus an educational rate that comes along with all of them. You make sure, depending on the facility, anywhere from \$475 to \$500/day if you're in these residential settings. If you're in a group home, most group home kids can attend regular schools. So you have a placement rate that is an average \$210 - \$230/day. If they have to comply with Medicaid, and all the requirements that come along with that, you're not going to see those \$220/day rates, you're going to see something more in line with the Medicaid rate that's charged by all the residential facilities.

Supervisor Belcher - do you feel that the reason that they're doing this, is because there were minimal providers to the Medicaid patients due to the lower payments for Medicaid?

Mr. Ayers - no, personally I think it was to control costs. What they want to do is to make all residential providers be Medicaid approved so they can at least bill Medicaid for their

services. There are a lot that are what are considered residential facilities, maybe a lot, maybe not, that do not bill Medicaid.

Supervisor Belcher - but isn't the reason a lot of times, the reason they don't go Medicaid, is because the Medicaid reimbursement is so much lower than the typical insurance.

Mr. Ayers - not with residential settings, no. With residential settings, it is a straight up rate that Medicaid pays per day. Its \$366/day at this moment. So, if a kid goes into a residential setting, that's what they're going to be reimbursed for that. At the same time, if the kid were to be placed in that setting and not have Medicaid, its going to cost the locality out of CSA, \$366/day. What we've seen over the last five years, since we went to residential facilities billing Medicaid, we've seen the actual cost of residential facilities go from about \$310/day to \$366/day, which is a pretty significant increase when you look at the percentages. So what they're trying to do here is cost shifting, it costs more for CSA match instead of Medicaid match, so they're trying to do is shift funding so it costs less than CSA and shift more to Medicaid.

Supervisor Belcher - so it will be more on the government, and less on the locality.

Mr. Ayers - exactly. The inadvertent aspect of how its written, will grow the CSA costs because kids that are in group homes are not eligible for Medicaid funded services because they don't have the significant behavior problems or psychiatric problems that are required in order to be on Medicaid.

Supervisor Boothe - that's what sends local costs through the roof.

Mr. Ayers - exactly. So you're looking at an unintentional cost is the way that we see it. That's what the Management Team felt when we discussed it at our last meeting. So, just to make you aware, I have sent letters expressing our concerns as to why we feel it would have a reverse effect. It wouldn't drive costs down, it would actually drive them up to the locality.

Supervisor Whitlock - which committee does this come out of?

Mr. Ayers - Health, Welfare and Institutions. The second bill was House Bill 427, which is a companion by Delegate Nutter. Both of these were submitted at the same time. This one requests that the Office of Comprehensive Services start contracting with specific agencies to help hold down costs. Right now, the Office of Comprehensive Services does no contracting. They are the group that runs CSA as we know it. This is the group out of Richmond that runs the CSA process. What this would do is require them to start negotiating with facilities and start contracting with facilities in an attempt to start contractual rates so they would actually negotiate a rate that would be open to every agency, which we are certainly in support of that. We've got no concerns about that at all. We feel they should take some type of role in doing that and not leave it on a locality of our size to try to negotiate rates whenever we don't have the ability to do that. So we would certainly be in support of that bill. Also, House Bill 426, we were in support of that as far as the Management Team goes, for Floyd County.

The last one is specific to the Department of Social Services, so I'll change a little bit on my position. There is House Bill 1146, and which Delegate Dudley sits on the committee that looks at this also. This is the Health, Welfare and Institutions Committee. What House Bill 1146 does is, that all people who work as a Social Worker be licensed. What that is intended to do was it was asked for by NASW, that's the National Association of Social Workers. It was put out there to make social workers a licensed profession as you have for nurses, teachers, etc. What the concern is that they are also looking at, and considering I have all my service workers in my office considered as social workers, if you get into licensing of social workers and they talk about Bachelors of Social Work degrees, if you don't have specific degrees, then you're not able to work as a social worker. Due to the size of our locality and the people that we're able to recruit for positions, that would certainly be detrimental to our office if we had to comply with this. There is some debate out there as to whether its actually going to be a requirement for a local social service agency or not, but definitively I haven't heard one way or the other. I wanted to make you aware of the fact that we are opposed to having our office to hire people with certain degrees whenever we have significant difficulty recruiting individuals in our office anyway. If they were to have to have a specific degree, we probably wouldn't be able to fill our positions. There's only one person in my office that has a degree in that, and that's me. I'm the only person in my office that has a social work degree. So you're talking about..

Supervisor Boothe - you're also talking about salary increases too if they're going to have to match up with degrees required.

Mr. Ayers - absolutely. If you're looking at having licensed individuals, you're looking to have to create another class of individuals that would require different pay. There are numerous different problems that I can see with this specific bill as its being put. Our League of Social Services has put out opposition to this bill and made our concerns noted. It has already been reported out of committee with a 22-0 vote.

Supervisor Belcher - the licensed social worker, is that the LCSW?

Mr. Ayers - no, this is a new, completely different. This is creating a new, licensed social worker. Now, we have different ones. We have LCSW, we have ACSW's, which are basically related to the Master's level. They do clinicals, counseling, clinical settings. This will create a new class, called the professional social worker. And it will be specific to individuals with degrees in social work. You will be required to be licensed in order to practice as a social worker. Everybody that works in my office that does direct services, is considered a social worker. If you talk about that, and talk about having to get licensed, people that I have in my office that are not degreed in specific social work, then we're going to have to deal with licensing, grandfathering, all that sort of things. There is a specific grandfathering that was in the first bill, and then it was amended and reported out and that grandfathering piece was taken out. Its of even more concern as to how it was reported out than it was when it initially went into the committee.

Supervisor Boothe - with our current employees, we would have to set up some type of educational plan to get them where they need to be.

Mr. Ayers - that certainly could be arranged but we don't know how its going to play out right now.

Supervisor Boothe - that could be a possibility on top of the increased salary requirements and classifications.

Mr. Ayers - as of right now, they haven't decided whether it applies to local social service agencies or not. There is a debate going on about since we are a public agency, whether we're exempt from following the standards of private social workers. But that's being debated at the State level.

Supervisor Belcher - when in reality, a lot of the services that you provide are considerably un-related to the private social worker. Because you do many different outsourcing of folks, right? More so, than the actual counseling in-house and that sort of thing.

Mr. Ayers - absolutely. We do more social work than actual social workers that they're trying to get licensed. We go out into the homes, we do the direct services to the clients, we do what is considered in the olden times, actual social work. And with them trying to put a license on these individuals, its certainly a concern as to how our office would adapt and certainly you're looking at higher costs, not only from the upward pay scale, but you'd have to look at the cost of licensing. How much is it going to cost for the education piece? Those sort of things that you have to take into account whenever you're looking at this type of thing. Its already been reported out and there was nobody in opposition to it with the 22-0 vote.

Supervisor Boothe - they were probably only thinking about the private sector.

Mr. Ayers - I don't have any objection in licensing social workers but whenever you get into requiring people that work in the social work profession to be licensed, then you have a lot of people of associated degrees, and that's where our primary pool comes from, people that have psychology degrees, human service degrees, that are not specific to social work. Its certainly a major concern. So I would ask from my end of it, to please get in touch with Delegate Dudley, who sits on that committee, and let him know that we are opposed to it. I've already done so from my office and we ask and encourage that you do the same thing from the County standpoint.

Supervisor Whitlock - when something is working well, they have to muck it up. Are they trying to force it into private industry?

Mr. Ayers - actually what I think it is, is a way to bring up social workers into an appropriate pay rate. Social workers have degrees but are not paid consistent with other professions. I think the actual focus behind this, from the national sector, is to bring all social

workers to where they are a licensed profession.

Supervisor Whitlock - do other States have this?

Mr. Ayers - I don't know. It probably did come from another state, but I'm not aware of it. The salaries are not commensurate whenever you look at starting pay for teachers who have bachelor's degrees, and those sort of things. And that's where a lot of this comes from. They've looked at what teachers start out at, basically equal with basic similar degrees, as far as the base pay. Whenever they start looking at this type of thing, that's what they're looking at. For social workers, its significantly less than it is for other professions. Personally, I think that's where its coming from. That's where all the discussion has been over the years, to try to bring the pay up to more appropriate levels. From my specific point of view, of course we won't fight the higher salaries, but whenever you get to doing things that will hurt the services that we provide, I've got an objection to that. There's other ways of going about doing things, and this is not the appropriate way.

On a motion of Supervisor Belcher, seconded by Supervisor Boothe, and carried, it was resolved to authorize staff to write a letter to the County's legislators in opposition to House Bill 426, in support of House Bill 427, both concerning the Comprehensive Services Act Program; and in opposition to House Bill 1146, which would place severe limits on Counties in regards to licensing of social workers (Document File Number \_\_\_\_\_).

Supervisor Boothe - aye

Supervisor Belcher - aye

Supervisor Whitlock - aye

Supervisor Gerald - aye

Supervisor Ingram - absent

The Board also requested that staff send copies of the letter to surrounding County governments and indicated legislators, and a copy to the Board itself.

Agenda Item 8a - Subdivision plats as approved by Agent for January 2006. Mrs. Morris reported that nine lots were created, all family divisions. A separate report of fees collected for the 2005 calendar year and for January 2006 was also presented. We are ahead of last year at this time.

Agenda Item 8b - Report on VOLSA Program for emergency volunteers. Mrs. Morris reported that VRS had been contacted three times to come to Floyd for an informational session for the volunteers, but calls have not been returned.

Mr. Jeremy Hendricks, VDoT, next appeared before the Board. He reported that the Carroll County Board of Supervisors had moved their regular meetings from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month. Would like to request that their time be moved to the afternoon if possible, so he and Mr. Beasley can attend both Board meetings. Staff will work with VDoT for a convenient time.

Mr. Hendricks reported that a follow-up on the Route 681 bridge indicated that it is still in the permit process. They did a survey to see if there were any bog turtles, and that revealed no turtles but it still has to go through some regulatory agencies. I'm pushing on our end as hard as I can, but they're saying it could still be mid to late summer. I'm hoping to get it cleared before then. We can't start until April 1 because of the stream restrictions, but I was hoping to start in April or May at the latest to get it done in this fiscal year, before the end of June. We're going to push harder to get that done. With VDoT, I have some influence, but once it gets to the regulatory agencies, we can't do anything but wait because there are no established time lines.

Supervisor Whitlock - how many agencies does this have to go through for something like this? I heard it was six.

Mr. Hendricks - there are several, the Corps of Engineers, Department of Conservation and Recreation, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and others aside from that. We have people in Salem that take care of it, so I don't have a lot of dealings with it, they send us back the approved packet.

Supervisor Whitlock - it's a bridge that people, once they get around the curve and see the bridge, they kind of usher themselves through it, because if someone is coming from the other side. Most of the trucks have a tendency to leap a little bit, and when they leap, they don't leap all the way across, they just leap and land. I just don't want one of them to leap and you all say, well, they were the ones that tore the bridge up. If we can keep them from leaping with the way the approaches are on that bridge, if the speed limit is lowered to 25 mph, which basically won't get you through the bridge safely before someone comes around the approach. People tend to have a tendency, that being a hardtop road, have a tendency to push the speed limit to what is minimal. If they can run that fast, they're going to do it. That's been on the agenda ever since I've been on the Board, and before I was on the Board,

Mr. Hendricks - he told me this morning that the permit process was started in November 2004. So here we are in 2006.

Supervisor Whitlock - up until 2004, it was on the 6-year plan and then they decided to move it off the 6-year plan into bridge replacement, or something of that sort.

Mr. Hendricks - we have one last thing VDoT has to do, and I hope to get that done by mid-week. That way our permits person in Salem has to go to a meeting in Richmond where all the regulatory agencies are sitting there and they discuss the project impact with them. Its up to them, they make comments, and if everything goes well, we can probably go ahead and get permits. But if they still have questions or other things that need to be done, then its going to push us back until sometime in the summer.

Supervisor Whitlock - also, there is some rock along the edge of the road and if a little more of the rock could be taken off, it would help. Its on the east side of the bridge.

Supervisor Boothe - Route 710 from Route 8 to the Landfill, I noticed that asphalt along the edges is breaking up. If you could give it some attention when you can, the truck traffic really hurts it.

Mr. Hendricks - we also noticed Route 751 has some breakups also, we hope to get back to patching by the end of the week. We have several sections where we just cut the asphalt out and patch it temporarily until the summer when we can do more than a temporary fix.

Supervisor Boothe - appreciate all the other work you've been doing, especially the road side cutting.

Supervisor Belcher - I was really impressed with how fast you guys got the snow off the road. I guess after that ice, you were happy. I do appreciate that. My secondary dirt roads need some pothole grading. (Indicating the 6-year road plan map) I'd like to see a whole lot more color on this map.

Mr. Hendricks - if our General Assembly would help us out, we could do a lot more.

Supervisor Belcher - I can remember a map that had a lot of colors on it.

Mr. Hendricks - yes, if Governor Kaine's plan works out as proposed, Floyd County will pick up, it won't double the plan, it would probably be a 60-70% substantial increase on construction funds for secondary roads. That would take effect this coming July, and we'd have to re-do the 6-year plan, but we'd be glad to do that. It will depend on how the House and Senate deal with the transportation plan.

Supervisor Whitlock - I understand you have cut back on the contractor work. Will that come back this fiscal year or next?

Mr. Hendricks - looks like right now it will be next fiscal year, so the beginning of July we hope to bring all those contract crews back. That's what we're shooting for right now.

Supervisor Whitlock - I notice that the contractor has kind of got Wilson Cemetery Road well under way. Looks like all he has to do is put in pipe under the stream. Is the road going to be closed 24 hours while they are doing the work, or 12 hours while they're working and open when they're not?

Mr. Hendricks - they are looking at replacing that next week. They have it scheduled for Wednesday through Friday. I haven't looked at it myself, but I would anticipate that they give themselves three days. We're sending out notices tomorrow, they will close the road on Wednesday and working during all daylight hours for however long it takes to replace the pipe. The road will be closed the entire time. At the latest it will be re-opened Friday afternoon, but we hope it will be earlier.

Supervisor Whitlock - the work looks real well and the weather has cooperated. The bridges on Route 221, you said last month that bids were going out?

Mr. Hendricks - bids were received at the end of last month. Elk Knob, Inc. was the contractor who received the bid for around \$1.2 m for both bridges together. Probably looking at starting in March on the shoulder work and widening, etc., but can't get in the stream until April. If they take the full 60 days, its going to put it right at the end of March, sometimes they can get them out in 45 days, which would put us more toward March 15. It just depends on how fast they can turn them around. So the middle of March to the first of April, you see contractors start moving in. Its just such a short time frame on those projects that they'll have to get in as soon as possible to get them both done before the November 15 deadline.

Supervisor Whitlock - appreciate the scraping that you did get done on some roads before the weather set in and stopped you. Also appreciate the work that was done on Route 221. I hadn't seen the work done quite that way before but it seemed sufficient to do the job. It showed that you were utilizing equipment to the fullest extent that you could use it to get the job done as quick as possible. I believe its really helped the edges of the road, especially spots where the water has cut the ditches down 2-3" below the pavement. If you drop off, its hard to get back up on it without problems.

Mr. Hendricks - it was some much needed work and as soon as this snow gets gone, we will be back machining the shoulders again.

Supervisor Whitlock - I just wish you could do the same to some of the secondary roads. I think you'll find that it would help significantly to keep the pavement from breaking up so bad if you can get the water off the roads.

Mr. Hendricks - that's our goal, of course, but we'll start with the primaries and work our way through. Maybe by the end of this week, we can get back to the machining.

Supervisor Gerald - Route 751 - last meeting I brought this up, just wondered if you've had a chance to look at it?

Mr. Hendricks - I have not myself, I asked Bob about it this morning to see if he had talked with the Superintendents, I'm not sure of the status. They do have a list of items that need to be done, and they work on them between the bad weather. I will check on it.

Supervisor Gerald - Route 757 - I had a call last night that potholes on this road were really bad. Some of the pavement in my district in Indian Valley was breaking up, but during the warm weather you got in and patched the holes and we really appreciate that.

Supervisor Whitlock - is there only one asphalt crew in the County?

Mr. Hendricks - yes, one patching crew in the County. Once warmer weather comes and

the asphalt plants open back up, each crew will utilize asphalt to do some patching. For right now, its just one crew. The plants usually open back up mid-March to April. It really depends on how much work the contractors have as to when they re-open.

Supervisor Boothe - I did notice that legislation has been introduced, remember Mr. Smith came down and told us about the rural additions and that we would no longer qualify - there is legislation going through the General Assembly now that would stop VDoT from barring localities from putting new additions in.

Agenda Item 8c - Establishment of a schedule for FY07 budget preparation. Defer for discussion later in the day.

Agenda Item 8d - Solid Waste Agreement - New River Resource Authority - Effective July 1, 2006. Mrs. Morris reported that the executed agreement had been received by the County Attorney.

Agenda Item 8e - Report - Solid Waste Transportation Proposals - in relation to the above item, Mrs. Morris reported that bid proposals are out for transportation, and are due back to the office on Thursday, February 16, 2006 at 4:00 p.m.

Agenda Item 8f - Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development - Mrs. Morris presented copies of the letter from the Department indicating the official close of the Regional Commerce Center project and indication that all funds were used properly. Mr. Nester had written a letter to the Bank of Floyd to release the letter of credit that they were holding.

Proposed resolution for the Roanoke River Basin as presented by Mrs. Janney earlier in the day - after discussion, the Board deferred the matter until the full Board was present.

Mr. Gene Dalton, EMS Operations Manager, next appeared before the Board. His comments included: For report #1219 for the career staff. Total number of calls for the last month was 39 that the career staff handled. Our report is the same as other months, time of calls, date of calls, attendant in charge, whether an EMT or advanced life support person, level of care, 61% of calls handled were done by ALS, BLS were 31%, the rest were not applicable. Type of calls show that we had 35 medical emergencies, one accident and then one injury not listed, that could have been anything. At the very bottom of the page, disposition of incident, 85% were transported by EMS to some hospital, usually the majority is to Carilion New River Valley Medical Center. We did fly one out last month due to the type of injury the patient had. No real incidents to mention. We are in the process of helping the volunteers work on the building, have been doing a lot of painting, etc. during the day when we don't have calls.

Supervisor Whitlock - what is average turn-around time?

Mr. Dalton - the average turn-around time on a call, depending on where we are, its still a two hour turn-around time. There have been times, when we've been at the hospital in Radford,

and had other calls and headed back this way to assist. We can't control that.

Supervisor Whitlock - are you being held up at the hospital?

Mr. Dalton - well, Myra has done a wonderful job in working with the hospitals on reports. We're not supposed to wait for more than 5-10 minutes for patient information sheets. Sometimes they get so busy we just can't wait. She has developed a system with the different hospitals, if we don't have the sheet, we come back and fill out the billing form and patient care report and turn it into Myra. She will call the respective hospital, some will fax the information as long as she is standing at the fax machine, or mail the sheets to her. She has had very few problems getting the information. We are able to get away very quickly usually. Sometimes we have to fill out the reports when we get the patient unloaded, which takes 5-10 minutes, instead of on the way there. Sometimes if they are busy and don't have enough people, we help them out for a few minutes. We don't make a habit of it, but sometimes they need us. We usually don't have a problem with turn-around, just do our reports, stock the truck and head back. Its just when you have 2 or 3 calls within a hour and a half that cause problems.

Mr. Steve Love, Captain of the Floyd Rescue Squad - agency #216 volunteers - maybe I can clear up the turn-around time some. On an average, from the time we get dispatched until the time we get back in the County, is usually one hour forty-one minutes. That's an average right now, throughout the County. That's back into the County, not at the station. The volunteers answered 64 calls in January. Most of our calls were Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesdays. We transported 55% of the calls responded to. We did have nine automobile accidents last month which was more than usual. We have applied for a grant through U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Company for a Polaris ATV, 6 wheeler. This is a multi-agency application for Rescue, Fire and the Sheriff's Office. It would be housed at Station #1 Rescue. It would be transported on a trailer which we already have and each department has a vehicle that can tow the trailer. It would be purchased through Duncan's in Blacksburg. It will be a nice asset to all the departments if we receive it.

Mr. Ford Wirt, Emergency Services Coordinator, next appeared before the Board. He reported on the following: Indian Valley fire station expansion is on-going, the weather has held it up a little bit, but they are looking at mid-March to late March for completion. I met with the Construction Foreman and Architect this morning and everything is according to the specifications. That will be a nice addition to that area.

- EMS side - this is not completely accurate, but as close as we can get it, we are looking at somewhere between 50-60% return on our billings vs. collections. We are moving forward. When we did our original projection, we looked at 50-55% with 65-70% as our goal. Pulaski County is at the highest level I've found, at 67% collections. The flow of funds is beginning to come along about the same each month. It takes 8-12 months for the flow to be dependable each month.

- At some point today you'll be looking at a recommendation to adjust the billing fees to bring them in line with costs that have increased. If you have questions later in the day, I'll be glad to meet with you again.

- Regional Jail - we have an on-going study being done for expansion of the jail. Right now we're running about 490 inmates per day, the jail is certified for 371. We're well over the projection. Had they followed the projection that was originally done, we probably wouldn't be in the situation that we're now in, but again you have to go by the Department of Corrections regulations as to what they will and will not do. What they're looking at is a 300 bed addition, which could be double bunked. The jail is growing at a rate of 15%, which is tremendous. To give you an example, when we went into the program, Floyd County had an average of seven inmates per day. This past month we had 24. We're the second lowest participant of the eight jurisdictions in the regional jail. Bland County is the lowest participant. We were in hopes of using the community based correction plan that was done when we did the original jail, but DOC would not allow that. You have to do a total new plan, which is expensive. You don't like it, but if you're going to get money from DOC, you have to play their game. The architect and engineer has met with DOC, they are on-line, and have approved moving forward with the community based corrections plan and have given their blessing to move forward. That doesn't mean that its been approved, that has to go to the General Assembly. We wanted to do what they call a fast track type, which would move it through the General Assembly now, that's not the way it will happen. They were afraid that the General Assembly would turn it down. It won't come up until 2007, hopefully construction will start in 2008, and be completed in 2009.

Supervisor Whitlock - and its still going in an off year. Actually, if were doing it the way we should be, it would go to the General Assembly this year. But we're still pushing it a year ahead. We're kind of hesitant to do it that way, but they haven't said no.

Mr. Wirt - the projection that has been done, and this is following the Department of Corrections' formulas that they use, the year 2020, the population based on the current rate, if it doesn't increase, would be 1095 inmates. Its amazing when you sit down and look at the numbers, not only what Floyd County has increased in inmates per day, but what the entire region has increased. Pulaski and Wythe Counties have exploded.

Supervisor Whitlock - the overall percentage is about the same across the board in what I looked at. Ours has increased from 7 to 24, most all have done the same thing.

Mr. Wirt - we're in the planning stage now, as far as the end result down the road, their plan is, and what we're working on, is to incorporate whatever the 50%, and the State, if approved would provide 50% of the funding, for the expansion. What we hope to do is use our present loan or bonds that we have, incorporate the new cost into that, and have one payment rather than having two bond payments. What we hope that is going to do, they're still working on the numbers, is not increase your annual payment a considerable amount. It would just lengthen out when those bonds would be paid off. If its like most things that go with these type of things, by the time we get that one down, we'll have to do another one, it's an ongoing process.

Supervisor Whitlock - from what we looked at Friday, it's a logical way for us to proceed in this process. If we have to pay both loans, we're looking at per diems in the lower \$50 range.

By doing the consolidation loan, our overall indebtedness will not be any greater than what we started with in 1999. Our per diem, basically the only thing that would make it go up would be an increase in operating costs for doing the jail itself, not from the investment side itself, just the day-to-day operations. We can commend the group for building some facilities in the original jail to accommodate for this expansion - the mess hall, laundry, office, personnel, those general areas that work for both of them, will not have to be included in this new expansion, which makes us more economical. There is also two ways of looking at how to build these jails, they're looking at making it an all steel type of building. They've had some people look at them.

Mr. Wirt - and they have been impressed with them. The last thing on the regional jail, we've worked many hours on the upcoming budget. As of last week, we have a balanced budget with no per diem increase. Its been extensive. Supervisor Whitlock has attended the finance committee meeting and an open meeting for the entire Board, and we sat down and hashed through it, and I've been back three times since then to help them work on it a little bit more. We do have a balanced budget with no per diem increase. That doesn't mean that your monthly costs won't fluctuate because of the differences in prisoner days.

Supervisor Belcher - how many beds will you be expanding?

Mr. Wirt - 300, we're certified now for 371, we would expand 300, and you double bunk so that brings you over 600. One of the things there too, you'll notice Federal inmates and other localities. One of the stipulations from the Department of Corrections is that they be eliminated.

Supervisor Belcher - and the Federal ones are the ones that bring in the most money aren't they?

Mr. Wirt - yes, they bring in initially the most money. But the State right now is getting about 51% of that fund, they're re-doing the formula, so what we are looking at, and its being investigated, is to hold State prisoners. Right now we end up with the per diem that we get, about \$21 is the net. To hold State prisoners, its about \$28 net. So, we're constantly looking at cost-effective things to do and its always going to be expensive.

Supervisor Belcher - and its not going to go down. That leads to the next question, the State funding of the previous construction, how did that work out? Did that ever fall out the way it was supposed to?

Mr. Wirt - it was about \$900,000 that some sides said yes, we owe you the money. The people that actually appropriate and give you the money said no, you don't get it. So we did not get it. We spent several thousand dollars with an attorney trying to find legal ways to get that money, and we finally just got to a point where we couldn't pursue it any more.

Supervisor Belcher - so given that fact, what would be, and we know how that worked out, is there a different way to handle it, with the new construction, that would protect us better?

Mr. Wirt - you just do the best you can. You never know what the Department of Corrections and State funding mechanisms will do, and say you didn't follow this exactly the way we wanted you to. Yes, we followed it how you told us to follow it, but my interpretation as the State is different. They say this is what we meant, but that's not what they said, but its really not what they meant. Everything that can be done will be done to ensure that this doesn't happen again, but there's no guarantee. We were the first regional jail that used the new concept and they really didn't have the procedure firmly in place. They had it the way they thought it was going to work, but that wasn't the way they intended for it to work.

Supervisor Boothe - do you know the breakdown between men and women?

Supervisor Whitlock - all I can tell you, is the figures they used to justify what they did on the first round, they didn't take that into account, and there are considerable more women in the system now because of the way judges think they need to mete out punishment to make certain things happen. The way they used to do women prisoners when they convicted someone, they had other ways to deal with it, now they're thinking that a little incarceration time is a little more of a deterrent.

Mr. Wirt - one of the other things, as you watch the news, there are more females involved in crimes than what there used to be. Women bank robbers, for example.

Dr. Terry Arbogast, School Superintendent and Mr. Doug Phillips, Chairman of the Floyd County School Board, next appeared before the Board. Dr. Arbogast reported on the following:

- From January 2006 School Board meeting highlights - want to highlight the Parent/Teacher Resource. This is the first year of the program and is based on grant funds. Of course, as all grants do, they start you out and then leave us, so we have to pick it up. This is very important to us. Presented a brochure on the program.
- SOL test scores for the first semester - presented document outlining formal scores. Very proud of the scores for the core areas.
- February 2006 School Board meeting highlights presented;
- Enrollment report for January 2006 - 2074 students;
- Presented proposed school calendar for the 2006-2007 school year;
- One of the programs that was outlined to the School Board last night was the Data Specialist position, an unfunded mandate. One person does this work, all the reporting that we have to do for the State and Federal government is phenomenal. One person does all this work with the staff development, data for all programs, test scores, student management system, data analysis, attendance, report cards, etc. This is an overview of what this one person does for the entire school system.
- Presented copy of the proposed FY07 school budget.

The Board recessed for lunch.

On a motion of Supervisor Belcher, seconded by Supervisor Boothe, and carried, it was

resolved to go into closed session under Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph A.1, discussion, consideration or interviews of prospective candidates for appointment.

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

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

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

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

#### **CERTIFICATION RESOLUTION CLOSED MEETING**

WHEREAS, this Board convened in a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote on the motion to close the meeting to discuss personnel in accordance with Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph A.1 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 - absent

This Certification Resolution was adopted.

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Belcher, and carried, it was resolved to appoint Mr. Sam Stephens as a business representative to the Workforce Investment Board, to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Jack Wall, term ending March 31, 2007.

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

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Belcher, and carried, it was resolved to adjourn to Monday, February 27, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. for a budget work session.

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