

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 10, 2006**

At the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Floyd County, Virginia, held on Tuesday, January 10, 2006 at 8:30 a.m in the Board Room of the County Administration Building, thereof;

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

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

The Opening Prayer was led by Supervisor Belcher.

Chairman Ingram led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Deronda Thomas, Treasurer, appeared before the Board. She presented the invested cash as of January 10, 2006.

Supervisor Belcher questioned why we were not investing more funds at higher interest rates, such as with the LGIP?

Mrs. Thomas - because of the time limit, as to when we need funds. Also because of the \$25 wire transfer fee to and from the other banks.

Supervisor Belcher - that amount would be easily earned at the higher interest rate.

Mrs. Thomas - I would have to check on the amounts to see if it is worthwhile. At one time I was taking funds out 2-3 times a month.

Supervisor Belcher - its your call, but every little bit would help.

Mrs. Thomas - if the bank didn't charge for every in and out it would help also.

Mrs. Thomas presented a tax collection report for calendar year 2005. Real estate collections were at 96.4% for 2005 and 96.35% for 2004. Personal property collections were

90.2% for 2005 and 88.6% for 2004. She commented that a very stern warning letter will be sent out shortly to the delinquent taxpayers to warn them of the additional charges if they don't pay. Their payment will go back to the original full amount of the bill, without the deduction from the State paid part. The County would not have to pick up the difference, the taxpayer would be responsible for that difference on 2005 taxes, and back five years.

Mrs. Morris presented the revenue/expenditure report and balance sheet as of December 31, 2005. At 50% through the fiscal year, General Fund revenue collections are at 36% and General Fund expenses at 44%. Draft audit has been received and finances are looking better. The Auditor will attend the Board's February meeting to formally present the audit.

Mr. Bruce Turner, Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy, next appeared before the Board. He reported on the following:

- Department mileage - mileage is down from last month roughly 5000 miles. We are trying to get some of the officers to double up on night shift so as to help things out.
- Monthly activity - our calls are down slightly from last month but are higher from last year at the same time.
- Supervisor Boothe had asked the Sheriff to look into some information about the radio system in Montgomery County, the high band. The Sheriff did speak with Sheriff Whitt, and told them that he didn't have any problems at this point in time.
- Sheriff's Office did get Domestic Violence Grant renewed for another year in the amount of \$31,000, with no matching funds required.
- Sheriff's Office also received a Terrorist Protection Grant in the amount of \$31,000, with no local matching funds. This grant comes through the Department of Homeland Security and will be used to purchase a GPS system.
- Also will leave new calendars for the Board's use.
- Apologize for the Sheriff being unable to attend, and we do appreciate the Board's assistance.

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

- Seems the last six months have seen us inundated with training. They are constantly putting stuff on the computer. Also, Mrs. Shortt wanted me to pass along to you that she is unable to attend today because of attending training for COIN. This is the State reimbursement program that replaces SNIP. SNIP was bad enough and now COIN is twice as bad. In her case, two people are going for a day's training, had to leave early, two days training for something you spend 15 minutes a month on, or less. My department has also had to go through the COIN training, among other things.
- Report line training, which is very important to us. Our office went through this, as did the Treasurer. Report line is what we used to call escheated funds, from the State. We used to get a piece of paper with a list of people who were possible to escheat. We put a check mark on it, stuck it in the mail, and sent it back. Report line took us over 8 hours of on-line training for two people in the department, which is required. Last year we collected a sum of \$300 in my department, so this was not a worthwhile project.

- Hopefully one day we'll be able to collect more. But this gives you an example of some of the crap we have to put up with. A lot of this stuff is aggravating.
- Went to Montgomery County yesterday. Montgomery County has caught up with people in the big cities. When I got to the Courthouse door, I was met by the metal detector and a couple of deputies. I want you to know that I was really endangering the public when they took my fingernail clippers. You see it in airports, now its in courthouses. It's a matter of time before you'll see Floyd County the same way. You know what that means - more deputies you'll be needing, people to man the desk, etc. We're very fortunate that we live in Floyd County. In fact, we don't feel that we need security like that yet, but that day will come. I couldn't help but think about some of the things that I see Jeff and some of them put up with, its another burden for them. I've had the privilege of working with the Sheriff's Office. Of course, Bruce is one of the top guys that we work with. We think the world of each of them. If you haven't been in the courtroom lately, I urge you to come. We have one of the best bailiffs in the State. I'm from the old school, I like to see discipline. We've got signs all over the place, no shorts, no drinks, no cell phones. But people can't read. This young crowd, they can't read. One of the courtrooms over in Montgomery County, a couple of weeks ago, there was a new Judge on the bench. There were three young girls in there with their new camera phones. They were holding the camera phone up taking a picture of themselves in the courtroom. The Judge spied this. So the Judge sent the bailiff back to secure the phones and bring the three young ladies up front. I understand he read them the riot act. A few weeks ago, we had a similar situation. We had a lady waiting in the courtroom waiting to have her case heard. Her brother comes in and sits down on the front row. He no more sits down than his cell phone rings. Our bailiff was like a fly on sugar, he was right there, he takes him outside, he takes his cell phone, tells him he's going to charge him with contempt of court, automatically a \$175 fee. He came back into court, somehow his sister got word, we tried her case, then she began to plead with the Judge to get the cell phone back. If these young kids would learn how to read, they could save themselves a lot of trouble.
 - Since I've seen you, we've been through Hurricane Katrina. I was laying in bed one night, you know how the Lord works on you sometimes in the middle of the night. It hit me, I wondered how many people we'd issued passports to that I've sent to New Orleans. Well, people don't know where we send these passports, it could be anywhere, all over the country. Some go to New Orleans, some to California, some to Miami, some to Charleston, they could go anywhere. I came into the office and went through the file. I sent everybody in the file a notice telling them that their passport application went to New Orleans. If you haven't received it, here's what you do. In the meantime, we go on the internet and got some instructions. A couple of weeks later, we get instructions on what to do. But hopefully, all the people in Floyd County had already contacted, or knew to contact, the passport agency, and I think all but one got their passport without any problem. Sometimes, if you can take some initiative, and get the message out, you can save someone a headache. If someone had been leaving in two weeks, they would have had a problem. Now we don't know where the applications go, we submit them to a lockbox and they distribute them based on the work load.
 - October and November, we spent a great deal of time on training. The court side of our

office has basically three divisions - criminal, law, and equity. That's over and above probate and other stuff that we do. The Supreme Court has now decided that law and equity, or what we call chancery, should be combined. So we spent a couple of days in Virginia Beach, and then another day here, in training. All we're really doing is combining two sets of files. I've talked to you before about the family court and I feel this is another step in that direction.

- Another thing that we've done is the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries training. Beginning July 1, 2006, it will be mandatory that all hunting and fishing licenses will be issued by computer. There will no longer be a manual license. We kept fussing back and forth as to how we would make our payments to the Department. They wanted to draft our bank account, which was a no-no with our auditors. So they finally gave me assurance that it was clear with our auditors to draft our bank account. Once I got that assurance, I said we were ready to go on-line. We thought the ideal time to go on-line would be January 1, since we're leaving the hunting season and getting into the fishing season, as far as volume. This also gave us some other opportunities. We are now up and running, we only issue licenses on line. You can do this yourself on line, but you do pay a service charge. I thought you'd find it interesting that 45% of all fishing/hunting licenses in the State of Virginia are issued by Walmart. So now we're competing with the big boys. We are the only agent in Floyd County issuing licenses on line. The manual licenses are still not out. Being on-line, we can issue 2006 licenses in December of 2005, hunting licenses can be issued in June to get ready for July. This is not a money making situation, but it is a public service. We have received compliments on how much quicker we can issue them over Walmart.
- Appreciate the Board's approval of a grant receipt for book repairs. We did receive the money in December, the books were sent out a couple of weeks ago. It will probably be sometime in February before they are completed. I am very particular with the books in the office. I'm not above telling people to move books because they are breaking the backs. It may cost me some votes, but it kills me to see, knowing what the costs to repair the books are, how some people handle them. I sent out ten books, which is the maximum grant I can apply for. I've had books that cost as much as \$2500 when they were in bad shape, so if we can catch them before they get in too bad a shape, you see you can save over half your money. And if we can catch them even before then, and we try to, its even cheaper to only pay for a cover instead of the repairs.
- You will have a bill in next month's bills for maintenance of the records indexing/imaging system. This was in the budget and is paid by local funds. Also in that, it will probably be a transfer of funds. We will have \$5000 paid for software to put our records out on line, available for controlled access, for people who want to pay to see it. I anticipate putting several requirements on that access. What I would like to do, and we haven't got into the nitty-gritty yet, is charge a hook-up fee and then a monthly access charge, somewhere around \$25/month. I would like to have money in advance because I have trouble getting some people to pay. You wouldn't think that people that make a living like this would have trouble paying, but we do. When they don't pay after two months, cut them off, and charge them another \$100 to hook back up. That may get some complaints too. I hope you don't get any complaints on me, but if you do, maybe you'll

understand why I'm doing these things. I also have State funds sitting there for a server when we do go on-line. The server is ordered, but we've been on a waiting list for several months. I'd like to get ahead of other Counties doing this. I like to be the lead dog, but money doesn't always allow that. We've gotten behind somewhat. In 1996, the Board was very helpful to me and we were one of the first on-line with an imaging system. Had you not done that, we would probably need 50% of the space that I have for storage only. We have 212 deed books and we recorded 3593 deeds last year. In 2004 we recorded 3494, so that's at least four books per year. It takes a lot of storage space, and that's only deeds, that doesn't count all the other things, the marriages, wills, etc. that we keep up with. I think it was a good time when we went on there and we've saved a lot of room for storage, our records are better and more accessible, and we couldn't have done it without you.

Supervisor Whitlock questioned the family court - when do you see that thing coming in?

Mr. Peters - it rears its ugly head every 3-4 years. Hopefully we can get it killed again, we got it killed last time. We thought we'd gotten rid of one Chief Justice that was so behind it. His assistant finally retired, felt he was a snake in the grass. Now we have a new Chief Justice and he's behind it also. So here we go again.

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

Ms. Kathleen Ingoldsby - Floyd County Historic Preservation Trust. I wanted to bring you up to speed on the efforts that are underway to stabilize the three buildings that the Trust owns. Ridgemont, the 1913 Williams House, the Hospital; the Oxford Academy on Oxford Street; and the Phlegar House in the Commerce Park. We have bundled all three buildings into a General Assembly Department of Historic Resources Grant, to apply for funds to stabilize the buildings. We have underway, in concert with, a new fund-raising flyer. We are announcing right now, a pledge drive, to make a birthday gift, to Floyd County for Floyd County history during the 175th anniversary year. We will be making an announcement on Sunday at the official birthday celebration. This pledge drive will go toward saving and a renewed community use, which is the intent for all three buildings. The idea is that anyone can pledge their years of age on their own birthday in any amount, \$0.10, \$0.25, \$1.00, \$10.00, or in the case of families, they can pledge the amount of years that they've been in Floyd County. It's a big challenge but something that everyone can participate in. All donors will be given a candle to be lit at the big birthday cake at the homecoming in September. Participation will be honored. We already have several major donations from out-of-state and in-state, and in-County. It has immediately generated a lot of interest, as it should. We encourage your participation and support. I believe Lydeana Martin has already submitted a letter of support to the General Assembly to recognize the anniversary. These funds are through the Department of Historic Resources grant and they only came available for the buildings in town after the historic designation, when they became landmarks. The Phlegar House was already a historic site and eligible for these funds, so now only after the work that was done in Town created the opportunity for this grant.

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

The minutes of December 13, 2005 and January 4, 2006 were presented to the Board for review and approval.

On a motion of Supervisor Whitlock, seconded by Supervisor Boothe, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the minutes of December 13, 2005 and January 4, 2006 as presented.

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

The monthly disbursements were presented to the Board for review and approval. A list of additional disbursements was also presented. Questions and discussion followed.

On a motion of Supervisor Belcher, seconded by Supervisor Whitlock, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the monthly disbursements, and additions, as presented.

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

Agenda Item 8a - Subdivision plats as approved by Agent for December 2005. Mrs. Lydeana Martin, Subdivision Agent, appeared before the Board. She presented a calendar year summary of 2004 and 2005. The exact same number of subdivision plats were signed for both years, 145. In terms of lots created for the entire year, approximately 100 more were created in 2005 than 2004. December 2005 was busier than expected on the plat front. I need to thank Jim Whitten for helping out when I took some time off in December. The Planning Commission will be meeting tomorrow night. They have a four tract family subdivision that they will be reviewing. Each of the parcels are three acres, but the total property is about 400 acres and the remaining acreage will go into a conservation easement.

Supervisor Whitlock questioned what the trend is going toward conservation easements?

Mrs. Martin - I would say that this is something that we're starting to see more of. The Outdoor Foundation office in Blacksburg updates us periodically. Sometimes when an appraiser is coming in to do their assessment of that whole process, they need a letter from us to certify that if this land weren't going into easement, that it could have been subdivided, and I review that and say yes, it could have done that. That's really the only times that we see these. They don't have to have any type of approval from our office, per se, but that's how we do get some

information about some of them. But I would say the trend is that more people are seeing them and learning about them and its increasing.

Supervisor Whitlock - its good as far as protecting the land but its going to make a shift because that real estate value will decrease.

Mrs. Martin - I guess the main place that would come into play, would be, the agricultural land is already getting a use value, but that's where the difference would come in, for forested land, that is currently not valued that way. So that's where you would see some difference. In the very long run, residential development costs more than it pays in taxes, by having fewer things develop that way then it could be a benefit. It all depends on the type of land and those kinds of things so its hard to give a blanket statement.

Supervisor Boothe - overall, with all the property with rebates, it going to eventually cause the real estate rate itself to skyrocket, at some point in time. Eventually its going to, especially if they're still allowing as low as five acre lots into it, eventually its going to flood the market. I understand the reason behind it and I don't disagree with conservation, but the other impact is the revenue of the County. Eventually you're going to get to the point where the vast majority of your property is rated at \$530/acre and you have little to operate on, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure that the real estate rate is going to skyrocket. Of course, we can always count on the State to help us out.

Supervisor Whitlock - it also gets you down to where your ability to pay is not based on what they supposedly think you're worth.

Mr. Nester reported that he had recently attended a meeting in a community where the meeting was held, had recently completed an independent study performed by the American Farm Trust. I have copies, I haven't had an opportunity to read it yet. The purpose of asking that independent group, which is based in Washington, to come in and go through the structure of their County's finances, look at what percentage of land use is used for each type of development in the County, and basically to assign what the average cost is for residential, farms, manufacturing, business. I think the intent is basically to educate yourself about what it actually costs to provide services based on the assessed value and the expected services. I think this is something that the Board might want to look over and if you think its appropriate, see if they might demonstrate this for us. I have a sample report that you can look at to see if you're interested. I think it helps answer some questions and sometimes the more you know about yourself, the easier it is to make decisions.

Agenda Item 8d - 175th Anniversary Celebration - reminder of the flag raising and related events this Sunday from 2-4 p.m. at the Courthouse.

Agenda Item 8b - Report on VOLSAP Program for emergency volunteers. Mr. Nester reported that a letter has been sent to the Fire Department and Rescue Squad to ascertain their interest in the County working with him to implement the program. We are trying to arrange for a representative from the Virginia Retirement System, which administers this program, to come

and conduct one work session with both groups to explain the program. At that time, I think they'll be able to express whether they're interested or not and then I can bring that back to the Board for whatever direction you tell us to take.

Agenda Item 8c - Request - Emergency appropriation for Animal Control to replace 2-way radio. Mr. Nester reported that funds were not available in the Animal Control budget to replace a radio that has gone bad, the vehicular repeater which is over ten years old. We have had it looked at and it can't be repaired. Its not a sizable expense, but since we do not have the funds available in that budget, I would like to ask the Board to make a supplemental appropriation of \$988 from Contingency for replacement of that radio.

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Whitlock, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the transfer of \$988 from Contingency to 4-001-035010-3310 for radio purchase.

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

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

- Update on the budget season that we're getting ready to start. The Governor's budget, that he put out December 19, as far as our office goes, they're not really suggesting any changes either way. There are no significant increases or decreases. They are projecting a 3% salary increase for all State employees next December is what this budget will be based on. That's really the only change that we're looking at. They're not looking at putting in any additional funds or not looking at any significant cuts at the State level. Our office will be basically be operating at the same level as we are now. There's not any major controversial areas.
- State has allocated an additional \$17 million in the budget for low income heating subsidies and weatherization. Once again, they did a one-time allocation this year, this was actually put into the budget and will be an on-going State subsidy to subsidize the Federal program. Hopefully that will revert the situation we ran into this year with heating costs that went above and beyond the allocation. That's certainly a positive change.
- Under my CSA Chairmanship of that committee, the CSA budget should increase 8% overall for the total State allocation for CSA. Our locality has to match what we pay at 23.24% for every State dollar that we get. We were significantly under budget last year and we are significantly under budget this year. So if we continue that onward, we're holding our costs steady where everyone else seems to be going up anywhere from 8-25% a year. We've been able to actually decrease ours for two years so we are trying to control the costs of that program. We have to match that money when it comes to payment.

Supervisor Boothe questioned if the sliding scale was still in effect when we go above budget for additional money? At one time, they set your initial budget and you had your percentage but if you went over that and they had to send more State money, the local share went up.

Mr. Ayers - no, its not that way anymore. Its locked in at 23.24%. I think we have \$735,000 for that program this year, if we spend \$1,735,000, its still the same rate, 23.24%. That doesn't change. You don't budget for the local match, so whenever we go above that, you have to come up with it. Our costs are actually going down. We will continue to try to control the costs.

Mr. Bob Beasley, Resident Highway Administrator, and Mr. Jeremy Hendricks, Contract Administrator, with VDoT, next appeared before the Board.

Supervisor Boothe - appreciate the work being done, especially the shoulders work.
- Asked that Mr. Beasley contact Mr. Jerry Bolt with VDoT, so he can bring you up-to-date on the logging operation problems on a discontinued section of road off of Bluebird Road.

Mr. Beasley reported that some machining work had been able to be done on stabilized roads with the breaks in weather recently.

Supervisor Belcher - reported that machining does need to be done on Chestnut Creek Lane because of the large amount of potholes.

Mr. Beasley commented that some roads have been machined 4-5 times already.

Supervisor Belcher - Route 716 - one of the VDoT officials had stopped by there and told a landowner that work would be done when the weather breaks, appreciate that.

- Route 603 toward Patrick County line - citizens appreciate the work that was done there.

Supervisor Whitlock - appreciate all the work you're doing. Especially appreciate the edges being done on Route 221.

- Water from Black Forest Subdivision is flowing from the entrance across the road, and causing a lot of problems. The culvert can't carry all the water.

- Appreciate the work done at Shanks - pipe was cleaned out and rap put into the ditch. He worked on the ditch some and said that if VDoT would put asphalt in the ditch, he would take care of the leaves and keep it cleaned out.

- Several roads, secondary hardtops, will really be coming apart in the Spring because of water and freezing, they will need a lot of work.

Mr. Beasley commented that they are already seeing that.

Supervisor Whitlock - Route 612 - we will really see this problem because it wasn't sealed. It will need work on the shoulders.

- Has contract been awarded on Route 221 bridges?

Mr. Hendricks - showing is tomorrow, will be the last part of January. Contractor will probably start work toward the end of March. With the amount of work to be done, they will want to move in as soon as they can. The two bridges will be bid together.

Supervisor Whitlock - Route 681 bridge past Route 680 intersection - is this scheduled for change soon? Have the permits been received?

Mr. Beasley - they are still working on the permits. There is a time of year restriction as to when you can work around a stream. Will probably be the end of March before work begins.

Supervisor Whitlock - Lovell Road in Floyd County, which turns into Tanning Bark Road in Montgomery County. The bridge crosses a stream there and the maintenance is divided at the County lines. There are bad potholes on both sides of the bridge.

Supervisor Gerald - Route 751, Indian Creek Road, bank is giving way.

Supervisor Ingram - secondary stabilized roads - need all the help they can get as the weather allows.

Supervisor Belcher - Route 8 improvements toward Woolwine. There is a large quantity of erosion next to the road.

Mr. Hendricks - that is not in our district but I know they have worked on the situation and are still working on it.

Agenda Item 8e - Report - Notification of Waste Management of Virginia - Solid Waste Agreement termination July 1, 2006. Mr. Nester reported that proper notification was submitted well in advance of the 180 days required, by certified mail. The return notice was received December 19, 2005.

Supervisor Boothe questioned if Pulaski County has approved Floyd County's entrance?

Mr. Nester - everyone has approved the agreement, but we have not received a copy of the approved contract.

Supervisor Boothe - has anything been done on the transportation?

Mr. Nester - they have not completed this yet, we will be putting out bids also.

Mr. Nester reported that the metal building company that was damaged in Hurricane Katrina is back in operation. The building for the Indian Valley Fire Station should be received

by January 19 and completed within five weeks.

Mr. Nester reported that two letters of interest have been received for the position on the Workforce Investment Board - Mr. Sam Stephens and Mr. James Smith. Consensus of the Board was for staff to arrange an interview time for the gentlemen at the next regular meeting.

On a motion of Supervisor Whitlock, seconded by Supervisor Belcher, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to go into closed session under Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph A.5, discussion concerning a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community.

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

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

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

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

CERTIFICATION RESOLUTION CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, this Board convened in a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote on the motion to close the meeting to discuss prospective business or industry in accordance with Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph A.5, of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act;

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

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

Before a vote is taken on this resolution, is there any member who believes that there was

a departure from the requirements of number (1) or number (2)? If so, identify yourself and state the substance of the matter and why in your judgement it was a departure.

Hearing no statement, I call the question.

Supervisor Boothe - aye

Supervisor Belcher - aye

Supervisor Whitlock - aye

Supervisor Gerald - aye

Supervisor Ingram - aye

This Certification Resolution was adopted.

Mr. Gene Dalton, EMS Operations Manager, next appeared before the Board. He reported: For agency #1219, we had a total of 44 calls for the paid staff, solely handled by the career staff. This report is the same every month except for the number of calls, etc., so I hope you're getting used to it and can navigate through it easily. Calls distributed by time of day, it shows when we have our greatest number of calls. A lot of our calls are handled during the day. Calls distributed during the particular day of the week, Friday seemed to be the busiest period for this report. Level of care, 23 out of the 44 calls were handled by ALS, either an iv was started or more advanced skills were used. 12 calls were handled by BLS, where there are no advanced skills at all, its mostly oxygen, taking vitals and transporting to the hospital. I have no incidents to mention for the last month. All calls were handled within a decent time period. In most cases, the ambulance is out the door within two minutes. We did have several incidents where we had multiple calls and the career staff and volunteers handled the calls together.

Mrs. Myra Grim, EMS Administrative Clerk, next appeared before the Board. She reported: My report is in the same format as the last several months. The other thing that I would like to add is, I told you last month, our deposits are increasing. I did a comparison and October was up 41%, December over November was up 25% more. As Diversified told us, this would happen and its easy to see that. Starting next month, if its ok with the Board, I'll start making my report as to the fiscal year instead of the calendar year, maybe that will assist you as you start to think about the budget. I have tried to get a percentage of payment collected from Diversified, but they have not gotten back with me. I will continue to try to get that number for you. I will have to get that information from them.

Mr. Steve Love, Rescue Squad Captain, next appeared before the Board. He reported: For agency #216, the volunteers ran 56 calls. December is usually our lowest month, but it wasn't this time. On the front page, if you'll look at the day of the week column, Saturdays and Sundays were our busiest days last month. Of the 56 calls, 12 were run on Christmas weekend. That's the way it usually goes, I don't know why. We had two DOA's that weekend. We had eight auto accidents in the month of December, none of which were due to the ice. We probably didn't run over five medical calls during the ice storms. Update on the truck, it should be here by March 1. It will delivered to Roanoke on February 15, and we should have it by the end of the month. We are already working on the next truck bids for next year.

Mr. Ford Wirt, Emergency Services Coordinator, next appeared before the Board. He

reported: I hope you've had an opportunity to take a look at the maps we did for you. Feel you will be pleased with the progress that we're making. These maps can now be done in 3-D, which should be very beneficial to your economic development. If you sell a parcel of land, and use the 3-D, and show it laid out and graded, it should be impressive. The Federal requirement for incident command system - several of us have completed the four tier requirement that is required for the management people. Fire/Rescue folks are continuing to work on the basic ones, called the 700 series, that all members have to obtain. The Sheriff's Office is also working on this as well. Mr. Nester and Mr. Ingram will also have to do the 700 series. The building for the Station #4 fire department is moving forward. The building structure is supposed to be delivered on January 18. Our grant programs that we're working on, the 2005 paperwork has been completed. The money is already in the bank and its been obligated according to the Federal guidelines. We're now working on 2006 paperwork. We're staying current, and we're not losing any money. We're staying on top of the situation and utilizing the funds as per the requirements.

Mr. Nester commented that the mapping system that Mr. Wirt is referring to is really neat. It's an add-on to the current system. Its allows you to actually go in and, for example, if we wanted to see how Lots 1 and 2 in the Commerce Park would look after they were graded, you could go in and show the material being cut, filled, and a building on the site. Its pretty sophisticated and it will help with marketing. People are unable to visualize what things will look like when they're completed so this helps. I think it will help us a great deal. The maps will grow with the County. They show all the streams, tributaries, etc.

Supervisor Whitlock questioned Montgomery County's Sheriff's Office problems with their radio system.

Mr. Wirt - did contact Sheriff Whitt, I asked him if was satisfied with the new radio system. He said absolutely, there was no way I would let anyone take that away from me. If I've got a Deputy up in Alleghany that can talk to my dispatcher and other cars on a portable, not a mobile, but a portable unit, its extremely valuable. He said he was having problems getting frequencies, not the radio system itself. He asked if they could have Floyd County's frequencies. I told him we had secured additional frequencies but were not interested in giving them up. Pulaski and Giles Counties are desperate for frequencies. It took us a year and a half and a lot of work in pulling strings to get the frequencies that we have. I know that Pulaski and Montgomery Counties did file a request with the FCC that if we didn't meet the deadline, that they wanted our frequencies. So we had to work to make sure that we got them. There just aren't any more frequencies in that available frame. We've got a situation now with our radio system that we've been working on for almost a week. Somewhere there is a signal coming into our base station that is opening the squelch on our system. So that means the Dispatcher is sitting there 24 hours a day with a constant noise. We've had the radio folks here, and we're trying to trace where that noise level is coming from. Its not a high enough level to activate pagers or mobiles or portable radios, but because that base station is high on the mountain, it could be coming from North Carolina, West Virginia, or wherever, it driving the dispatchers crazy. We've had to do an alternate system. They set the paging system off on one frequency, and then switch over to a

backup frequency. Its not giving us the coverage we need, and its very inconvenient for the dispatchers, but we decided that they can't sit there for a 8 hour shift and listen to that static noise. We've taken care of that on a temporary basis. I'm meeting again today with the radio people to see if they've found any solutions. Its not our equipment, we've already eliminated that.

Supervisor Boothe questioned if there was any type of block that could be put on the system once you identify where its coming from?

Mr. Wirt - the only way that you could do that would be to put in what is called a tone system. You would have to go back and change every pager, every mobile radio in the County and put a tone system in that only allows our particular system to communicate and that would be many thousands of dollars.

Mr. Nester - the first option for us is to locate the source, particularly if they're crystal sets, the older type radios, they can give off frequencies and oscillate just enough to pick them up, when actually they're on a different frequency. In that case, the FCC can require those people to turn those base stations so that won't happen.

Mr. Wirt - our problem is locating it, but we are working on it. You may hear some negative comments. As far as the Regional Jail budget is concerned, our committee is working steadily. We are also working on an expansion of the jail without a per diem increase.

Dr. Terry Arbogast, School Superintendent, next appeared before the Board. He reported on the following:

- Presented copy of School Board meeting highlights of December 19, 2005;
- Presented copy of enrollment report of November 30 - 2076 students;
- Presented copy of enrollment comparison report of August 18 - December 21, 2005 - December 21 showed 2068 students, August 18 showed 2066 students. The budget was based on 2094 students;
- December 1, 2005 child count for special education - total served is 352 with individual services and unduplicated. This is 16.96 % of the total enrollment. Early Intervention classes have made a great impact on children before they go into kindergarten.

The Board recessed for lunch.

On various questions from the Board, Mr. Nester reported on the following:

- Status Report on the Commonwealth's Attorney - has been a very unique circumstance when the Supreme Court rendered its decision that Gordon Hannett would continue to be the Commonwealth's Attorney, but there would be an Acting Commonwealth's Attorney in his place. Compensation is always real unique when it comes to the Comp Board, but this one was bizarre. The Compensation Board, in their deliberations, instructed that the compensation and

retirement benefits be split. For some reason, it was ruled by the Court that Gordon would continue to receive the benefit based on the salary paid by the Compensation Board. Secondly, the actual compensation would be paid to the Acting Assistant. These were actions of the Compensation Board and it gives you some idea of how unusual this situation has been.

Supervisor Boothe - when the Compensation Board sends the funds, are they sent quarterly?

Mr. Nester - we pay in advance and they reimburse us for that. The way their office is operated, the salaries and fringe benefits, with the exception of health insurance, are paid by the Comp Board on a reimbursement basis, at 100%.

Mrs. Morris - it is reimbursed monthly, not quarterly.

Mr. Nester - the rest of the operating expenses are local expenditures.

Supervisor Boothe - so basically she's getting a salary and no benefits.

Mr. Nester - that's right, just FICA.

Supervisor Belcher - and he gets the retirement and health benefits.

Mr. Nester - that's right.

Supervisor Whitlock - I noticed that she was only going to take payment for the time she was actually in the office. They told us she would have gotten paid for all the time. Where would that money have come from?

Mr. Nester - it would have been paid by us and reimbursed by the Comp Board. The Supreme Court's decision resulting in the Comp Board making a determination that the Acting Commonwealth's Attorney would be eligible for salary retroactive to May 2005, when the appointment was made. And this was eligible for reimbursement by the Comp Board. Speaking very well of the Acting Commonwealth's Attorney, she requested that the Compensation Board to pay her for only 11 days that she actually worked, not the time prior to that. I thought that spoke well of her.

- Balloon payment for Dreaming Creek. We were scheduled to make this payment on the building that is leased by Dreaming Creek on April 15. Remember, we did not complete and get a certificate of insurance for that building until April 2004. As a result, since our agreement for that 36 month period passed the execution of the certificate of occupancy, they require that the building be based on fair market appraisal. Since the actual closing with the industry is not scheduled to occur for 24 months, we are checking to find out if we can re-structure that loan so that it won't be due for another two years and coincides with the agreement where the company takes over and buys that building. Right now they are leasing it from us.

Supervisor Belcher - it we do it for two years, it makes it April 2008.

Mr. Nester - its one more year. Both the Board and IDA will need to pass a resolution to approve the extension of that loan for an additional period of time. The paperwork has been sent to the County Attorney and we'll get that to you for review. Its just a way of assuring that the revenue will be coming in before we close on the loan. We don't need any action on the matter today, we have time to work it out.

- Report from Draper/Aden concerning landfill issues. One thing went back to an inspection of July 2005. At that time, they had found, during the inspection, several things that they recommended we do. One of the things, in the cap of the old landfill, we had some trees that needed to be cut. The reason would be that if we had a windstorm, and a tree was knocked over, it would open the cap of the landfill. So staff made those cuts. There was also some erosion at the old landfill. There were some old appliances that were thrown away years ago, at least 20 years, and we had to remove some of those. Based on the notification that we got from DEQ, the requirements have been met and they've given us a letter that the things they asked for have been complied with. As far as I know, we're in good shape. They inspect the transfer station and landfill quarterly, they do a good job, and check a variety of issues. It speaks well for the solid waste crew that we get these good reports.

- Rescue Squad found a grant available from the U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Coalition. This coalition is a group of companies that sell smokeless tobacco. They have a grant program set up to help rural communities apply for a grant for a Polaris ATV or other brands. The idea is to be able, in rural communities, where you don't have access to areas like on trails on the Blue Ridge Parkway, the trail up to Buffalo Mountain, etc. if you have an accident or injury, be able to respond more rapidly. Did submit a letter of support for the Rescue Squad and we hope they will be successful.

- Parking and Courthouse and Administrative Building - we brought this issue up about two months ago, we've never received a clear consensus from the Board as to what direction you might want to move, leave things the way they are, or think about it some more.

Supervisor Boothe - I definitely think there needs to be something done concerning long-term parking at the Courthouse. I'm still hesitant on the day parking, but definitely something on long-term parking. I'm not opposed to some type of regulation on this lot here on a regular basis.

Mr. Nester - when you hear about restricting parking, everyone has their own idea of what that means. We've had some problems with vehicles being parked long-term, parking crossways so they're taking up several places, things people should know not to do but they do anyway. Right now we have no authority whatsoever to require the people to park properly or move their vehicles that's been parked there for an extended period of time. The most recent example was someone with a trailer that pulled in, parked it there right next to the street and set

up a homestead. It was an out-of-State vehicle, it was properly tagged, but that is the concern. Everybody ends up paying for this because parking is at a premium in town. We don't want to take parking away but to be sure that it is used properly so that there are spaces available for parking. I think that was the intent but may not have been explained as thoroughly as it should have been. Again, we have no control over them unless the Board takes some action. We do have a safeguard at the Courthouse because the Judge, under State law, can require whatever regulations to be enforced, that he sets out. There was some protection there, but the Judge has been reluctant to getting involved in those circumstances, leaving it for a local matter.

Supervisor Belcher - the man in the trailer left it there for over two weeks and he would take his vehicle out and do the things he wanted to do, and he'd been talked to a number of times by local officials who'd requested him to move his trailer and he would make various commitments to move, and he finally did move it. It could have been something they would still be dealing with today if he hadn't moved it. There was nothing they could do.

Mr. Nester - that's one of the issues, people think that a Deputy Sheriff or the State Police or someone like that, can just go and tell somebody to move something like that. You can't do that unless its impeding public safety. The only other time they can do that is if there is a written ordinance that allows it. In this particular case, we don't have that authorization. If the Board restricts anything, it can be as liberal or restrictive and can be amended whenever something needs to be changed. It's a fine balance to walk, you need to be sure that there is parking available for people that need to come into Town, into the Courthouse, and to the businesses, that they can find a reasonable place to park short term. We don't need to become the parking lot for all of these things.

Supervisor Boothe - I think of instances where people might have to leave a vehicle longer, such as a illness in the family and they leave a vehicle there for a couple of days while they're at a hospital. I think anything longer than that, they need to be empowered to be able to ask. If you've got a broken down vehicle and are unable to move it, that's one thing. But if you're just setting up house, that's a whole other issue.

Mr. Nester - we will occasionally have people with car trouble but they'll come over to the dispatch office and notify them, and we can work with them.

Supervisor Boothe - that fellow taking up 3-4 spaces for weeks at a time is taking up available spaces for those business owners and their customers, not just those that need to get into the Courthouse. We can make it liberal or stringent. The Courthouse lot, I definitely think something needs to be done for long term.

Supervisor Belcher - and I think Terri mentioned that people will leave vehicles there for days on end with for sale signs on them.

Supervisor Boothe - like George said, law enforcement is limited. I remember a Supervisor years ago got miffed because his car got scraped in the parking lot. Even though he

knew who did it, law enforcement couldn't issue a ticket for the parking lot. Or at least that's what he was told. I really think that we should do a little something rather than get the Judge involved.

Supervisor Belcher - maybe it would be good to look at other, smaller localities, to see what they do.

Consensus of the Board was for staff to research how other localities handle these situations and obtain copies of their regulations.

Supervisor Boothe - I'm not at all against restricting the parking lot here because you not only have our offices, but Social Services, Extension, and Recreation that all have to use this area for citizens to access the offices, plus our employees. There's not a whole lot left for the citizens after the employees all park.

- FY07 Budget - Mr. Nester reported that requests have been sent out to the departments and agencies and are due back January 20. We did do something unique in asking for two budgets. One request is to be at what is actually needed, and the other is to show a 5% decrease from the FY06 figures.

On a motion of Supervisor Whitlock, seconded by Supervisor Gerald, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn to Thursday, February 9, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. for a budget workshop.

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