

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 9, 2008**

At the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Floyd County, Virginia, held on Tuesday, December 9, 2008, at 8:30 a.m., in the Board Room of the County Administration Building, thereof;

PRESENT: David W. Ingram, Chairman; Jerry W. Boothe, Vice Chairman; Virgel H. Allen, William R. Gardner, Jr., J. Fred Gerald (entered the meeting at 1:30 p.m.), Board Members; Daniel J. Campbell, 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 Chairman Ingram.

Chairman Ingram led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Mary Turman, Treasurer, appeared before the Board. She presented the invested cash and cash in office report as of December 9, 2008. She reported that her office staff still had a lot of mail to work, and would have a tax collection report in January.

Ms. Morris reported that due to the Treasurer's Office being tied up with tax collections, they were unable to complete the month-end reconciliations yet. Will forward the balance sheet and revenue/expenditure summary to the Board when completed.

The minutes of November 18, 2008 were presented to the Board for review and approval.

On a motion of Supervisor Gardner, seconded by Supervisor Allen, and carried, it was resolved to approve the minutes of November 18, 2008 as presented.

Supervisor Gardner – aye
Supervisor Allen – aye
Supervisor Gerald – absent
Supervisor Boothe – aye
Supervisor Ingram – aye

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

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

Supervisor Gardner - aye

Supervisor Allen – aye
Supervisor Gerald – absent
Supervisor Boothe – aye
Supervisor Ingram – aye

There was no report this month from the Sheriff, Clerk of Court or Commonwealth's Attorney.

Agenda Item 9a – Subdivision plats as approved by Agent for November 2008. Mr. Campbell reported that seven new lots were created during November, with a total of 124 for the year. This total is down from last year's figure of 157 at the same time. He reported that he and Mr. Bryant, Planning Commission Chairman, are keeping up fairly well on plat review.

Agenda Item 9b – Floyd County Recreation & Parks Authority appointment – Burks Fork District. Mr. Campbell presented one letter of interest for the position.

On a motion of Supervisor Allen, seconded by Supervisor Gardner, and carried, it was resolved to reappoint Mr. Benny Harris to the Floyd County Recreation & Parks Authority for a four year term, representing the Burks Fork District.

Supervisor Gardner – aye
Supervisor Allen – aye
Supervisor Gerald – absent
Supervisor Boothe – aye
Supervisor Ingram – aye

Agenda Item 9c – Memorandum of Understanding for Septage Service Outside of Service Area for Calendar Year 2009. Mr. Campbell commented that this agreement with the Peppers Ferry Regional Wastewater Treatment Authority is for disposal of leachate from the transfer station tipping floor. The relationship with the Authority has been very good.

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Allen, and carried, it was resolved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for Septage Service Outside of Service Area for Calendar Year 2009 with the Peppers Ferry Regional Wastewater Treatment Authority, as presented (Document File Number _____).

Supervisor Gardner – aye
Supervisor Allen – aye
Supervisor Gerald – absent
Supervisor Boothe – aye
Supervisor Ingram – aye

Agenda Item 9d – Health insurance options for County employees. Mr. Campbell reported on the process to-date for health insurance options. Advertisement for bids was completed by staff. Only one insurance carrier bid on the County's policies, which was the current carrier. Staff has also researched the possibility of joining the New River Valley Health Insurance Consortium and the State Local Choice Program. The one bid from Anthem indicated a 17.8% increase over the current rates. Mr. Campbell recommended that the Board consider

switching to the State Local Choice Program, with the choices of Key Advantage 200 and Key Advantage 300. Both of the programs include a dental policy also, which would be an added benefit for the employees. These two programs are comparable to the current Keycare 20 and Keycare 25 programs.

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

Mr. Don Johnson, temporarily President, Floyd County Chamber of Commerce – All I wanted to do since this is my last opportunity to speak to you guys as President, and I wanted to express deep appreciation for this Board’s support of the Chamber of Commerce. Both financial, which is always important, but to me more important, is your representative, Jerry Boothe. He has really been a big, big help to me, especially during the first part of the year, he had good counsel for me, and we had some big conversations. I want to thank him, as public as I can get, for that.

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

Supervisor Boothe commented that he would like to thank Mr. Johnson for being a good President for the Chamber, and hate to see you move on. I received as much counsel, or more, than you did. I’m looking forward to another good year.

Further discussion followed on Agenda Item 9d – Health insurance options.

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Allen, and carried, it was resolved to approve for Floyd County to join the Local Choice Health Benefits Program; offering options Key Advantage 200 and Key Advantage 300.

Supervisor Gardner – aye
Supervisor Allen – aye
Supervisor Gerald – absent
Supervisor Boothe – aye
Supervisor Ingram – aye

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Allen, and carried, it was resolved to approve a contribution of \$400/month/employee for health insurance with the Local Choice Health Benefits Program.

Supervisor Gardner – aye
Supervisor Allen – aye
Supervisor Gerald – absent
Supervisor Boothe – aye
Supervisor Ingram – aye

Ms. Korene Thompson, Town Manager, next appeared before the Board. She reported:

First of all, I want to thank you for the addition of Clearview Street to our curbside garbage pickup. The Town Council, at our meeting on December 4, did vote to offer the service

to each of those residents that are already within our route at a fee of \$5 per month. It is optional and we hope to send out letters shortly.

Update on Town grant activities: Enhancement grant – in November, I updated you that VDoT was waiting on easements, information on placement of the gateway entrance signs. We're pleased to say that we've received verbal approval from all the landowners for the gateway entrance signs and we've met with the architect this past week to review sight distances. One of the landowners wanted the sign to be re-located from the original site, so that set us back a little bit. You'll recall that part of the approval includes that the signed easements actually are included in the grant information sent back to VDoT. We are looking at some time frames there but I'm pleased that we're seeing progress with that. In regard to the gateway entrance signs, we're seeking information on the old concrete structure. We've researched it and found it was an old creamery that stands below the Gulf station on the Howard property. We'd like to use this structure as one of the entrance sign locations. What we would also like to do is preserve it as part of a historic preservation. If we could get a history or perhaps a picture of it. The best that we can come up with is that it was in operation in the late 1800's, early 1900's. If anyone has any information or can guide me as to who to contact, I would appreciate it. The whole idea is maybe we can put a historic plaque on the building and preserve it some way. That would be a good addition. At the last meeting, I told you that the public restrooms part of the grant was finished. This is really an asset to the Town of Floyd and we want to be responsible in keeping it an asset. We continue to have graffiti issues and postings and so forth. We're just encouraging anyone who witnesses any vandalism to report it to the Sheriff's Office and the Town Office. Our public works guys really work hard to keep it nice and clean.

Innovation grant – progress is continuing and we're moving toward completion.

Crosswalks – the Town had two options for the crosswalks, one near Angels in the Attic. It was assessed by VDoT as being the most efficient as far as construction and less impact on parking. At the Council meeting last week, the members really want to re-visit that site, there are some concerns about fire hydrants and distances and so forth. VDoT has indicated that the project may be put on hold because of their budget reconstruction.

Loan Pool – Town Council voted that we advertise our loan pool availability. A couple of things have changed from the initial loan pool issuance. (Read the loan pool requirements – copy on file). The project area is almost saturated and we are now expanding out of the area. The area is from Winter Sun to the stoplight, including Farmers Supply.

Old Hensley Road – we've had one pole moved and AEP has told us that they do have work orders for the additional poles and electric lines to be moved. Weather issues will hold up any concrete or construction.

Partnership for Floyd – the Warren G. Lineberry Park development, hopefully you saw the article in the Floyd Press. You're aware of the efforts to obtain citizen input and participation in both the Design Committee and the Fundraising Committee. We certainly want to see participation from our citizenship because it's their park.

Vehicle License Tax Ordinance – at the December 4 meeting, they did approve the vehicle license tax ordinance to be effective January 1. The Town residents will receive their bills in March or early April and we've already had several residents who said they were billed and paid their taxes to the County Treasurer. So we'll have to work through the issues and details to see if that's the case. I think there's some confusion of the tax vs. the decal fee.

Town meetings – our Town work session with the NRVPC on local ordinances such as zoning will be December 18 at 6:30 p.m. It's open to anyone that is interested. Our regular

meeting in January will be moved from the first Thursday to the second Thursday due to the New Year holiday.

Under Other, I would like to make a couple of comments. This past week's events in the Town, the Dickens Night and the annual Parade, I feel were a great success. I feel there were more participation in the community for both events and we should be proud of our organizations, such as the Chamber, Rotary Club, and all the people that came together to make them a success. I saw on your agenda today that you're doing some appointments to various boards, I'll just let you know that Robert Shelor and Larry Petrie were re-appointed to the Floyd – Floyd County Planning Commission and Doug Thompson is the Town representative for the Floyd Rec Authority.

Mr. Woody Crenshaw, representing Round The Mountain, next appeared before the Board.

Mr. Crenshaw – I appreciate the opportunity to come before you this morning. We're here to talk about economic opportunities for Floyd. You might wonder why I'm interested in this. I moved here 20 years ago, I brought my business here and was doing great. I didn't need to take on anything else. But I became interested in crafts and craftsmanship because that's what my business is about. I became interested in Floyd. I realized that my business could bring employment and people to the community. I felt like this was something that I could expand on. So I got involved in some things in the community. About ten years ago, Rick Boucher asked me to sit on a board that was exploring new strategies for economic development in Southwest Virginia. A couple of years after that I was asked to sit on a board of an organization down in North Carolina called "Hand-made in America". I became more interested in the creative arts as an economic strategy. About five years ago, the State of Virginia called me and asked me to be part of an organization that was just forming called "Round The Mountain". Then it was called "A Steering Committee to Figure Out How to Get the Artisan Community To Work Together". Because we had this kind of rich artisan community and heritage in Southwest Virginia but everybody was doing their own thing. This came on the heels of the initiation of the Crooked Road organization. I'll talk more about that later. So here we are in 2008 and I'm up to my neck in this issue and it's very important and interesting to me. That's how can we move into what I would say are the new strategies for economic development in rural Southwest Virginia. I know I'm preaching to the choir because I know you think about this day and night and I'm probably not going to bring a whole lot in front of you that you haven't heard before or don't already know, but I've been waiting these several years to present these ideas and this organization to you. I've been waiting because up to now we haven't been ready but we now have 4.5 years of this organization under our belt, we built it, it has become quite strong. Pat Sharkey and myself are working all over Southwest Virginia, with local governments, to present these ideas on behalf of the State of Virginia. Our lead agency is the Department of Housing and Community Development and I have a letter for each of you, which is written to Dan from Bill Shelton of DHCD. This letter essentially says is that Bill has funded this organization, he's seen it grow, he believes in it, and he recommends our work to you, the governments of Southwest Virginia. As I said, Pat and I are both from Floyd, and there is a lot of representation from Floyd on this organization. As a matter of fact, some of the Counties think it is a Floyd organization because we have such a strong presence on the board and are so active in these issues. I'll just start with a few slides. The Cross Creek building was built for a textile manufacturing plant and now is

sort of a retail and office center and I think it is emblematic of what is going on here. If we look around Floyd, we see that there are a lot of businesses growing here that we didn't ever think we would see here. For example, if you stand at the old Courthouse and look across the street, to the building that Bob Boswell is in, on the 3rd floor of that building which has been vacant the whole time that I've been in Floyd, there is a business with four employees designing web sites. That's pretty surprising. And that's a little bit of the direction that our community has taken. What we're talking all over the region is a transitioning to what's referred to as asset based economy. From the asset based economy comes the idea of creative economy. Let me briefly describe those. The asset based economy is this idea – since WWII, the strategy of most local governments is let's recruit a business that's from outside our community to come into our community and we'll find a place for them, we'll do whatever we have to do to get them here, and they will help bring jobs and prosperity. That's been a good model. The asset based economy is an idea that rather than depend on someone from outside coming in and developing that relationship, is that we build and develop the assets that we currently have here now. If you start to think about that, there are a couple of things to think of. One, those assets don't go away nearly as easily and quickly as a company from somewhere else that doesn't live here, doesn't have any kind of feeling about the community. The assets that are here are the assets that have grown here and developed here. So those are much more permanent. From that, you do an asset inventory. This is what is happening in communities all across Southwest Virginia. What do we have that is an asset that we can develop? This image right here, of course, is the Blue Ridge Parkway. That is an enormous asset for us. There are more or less two million people a year that drives through our County and Floyd County has more miles of the Parkway than any other County. The creative economy is an offshoot of the asset based economy. The creative economy refers to a specific group of assets and they are the things which people want to come and be a part of that are of a creative nature. They are the arts, music, artisan culture, crafts, natural assets of scenery and outdoor recreation. If we look around Floyd, we have a lot of those things. How do we then begin to think about maximizing and supporting those? When I came here, and you all know a whole lot more about this than I do, but I remember that these were the three things that really drove our economy – textiles, agriculture and wood products. Those things we all have to accept are really changing. Maybe they haven't totally gone away, well, the textiles probably have, but we're still strong in agriculture, the family farm, and the whole way it has changed. Wood products, there were a couple of sawmills here then that aren't here now. I was talking to Mike Turman a couple of weeks ago, it was inconceivable to me, but apparently the deal now is that we cut trees and send them to China as whole logs and they send them back as all the products that we buy. The economy doesn't even support us cutting up our own wood. Those things have changed. They've gone away. We know that. So the State of Virginia starting about six years ago, following the lead of other states, particularly North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, West Virginia, started to invest in Governor Warner's Virginia Works Program, into the creative assets of Southwest Virginia. They have made a pretty substantial investment and it has resulted in this year, the creation of the Southwest Virginia Cultural Heritage Commission. It is a commission that has been approved by the State legislature. There are 30 commissioners; the head is Senator William Wampler. Terry Gilgore is one of the key people, there are 7 elected officials, people from local government, private sector and people who it was felt that could bring the ideas together on how to develop the cultural assets of our region. From that umbrella, a number of agencies are going to appear. First and foremost, is going to be a facility that is going to be built. This is going to be built

outside Abingdon and if you look at a map, between Rocky Mount and Lee County, Abingdon is pretty much dead center of our region. This Heartwood Center is going to be the bricks and mortar facility that will be the center of the Cultural Heritage Commission. From Heartwood, there are two primary organizations – the Crooked Road, which we all know about and the Board has been supportive of, both with your energy and contribution, and Round The Mountain. The Crooked Road is about gathering, enhancing and developing the music of our region, Round The Mountain is to do the same thing with the artisan culture. I could not show this slide show anywhere else in the region because everybody else is jealous of Floyd. All the other counties in our region, none of them have the combination of the Blue Ridge Parkway, the Crooked Road and a major destination of Round the Mountain. We have these creative assets to a higher degree than any other small community in Southwest Virginia. It's important because everybody else wants to be like Floyd in this regard. To talk specifically about Round the Mountain. We're a 4.5 year old non-profit organization with our main office in Abingdon. We started very slowly by trying to build an organization which would be able to get our arms around the artisan community. These are like cottage industries. People live in their homes and have a studio out back or in the garage or next door, who have for years made a good living in our region. Floyd is an example of this and there are many people here who do this. You know the 16 Hands tour, you see that there are some highly skilled potters, who live in Floyd, but each one of those is thought of as being an individual business, all doing their own marketing, all spending 10, 12, 15, 20 weeks a year going to craft fairs, trying to sell their work. What could we do to try to gather that community together and try to help them? This has really been our mission. We can help them with marketing, we can bring the customer to them as opposed to them having to go out. Any artisan will tell you that the most ideal situation for them is to be able to sell retail in their own back yard rather than having to sell wholesale to galleries far away or having to travel. Round the Mountain is gathering together the artisans, musicians, instrument makers, destination farm products and all the supporting businesses that would help. The idea is that people will come into your region and if you have the right marketing materials, if they have a clever website, if you interest them, they will come, and they will come into people's studios, they will come into the crafts stores and gift shops, they will stay in the hotels, this is a proven model. Floyd, in particular, has a product to sell here. This is very much coordinating around the development of Floyd, the Town of Floyd, the CDBG grant, and the revitalization work that we've been talking about. It has been noted that in the Town of Floyd, the work that has been done in the last year and a half, has been very successful in creating jobs. If you think about it just as the Town of Floyd, it turns out to be about 40 jobs; some of those jobs came from the County into the Town. If you just talk about new jobs, independent jobs that have been created in Floyd, it's in the high 20's, just from the work that's been done. I know how hard you all have worked to create a single job. I think the creative economy is one of the primary reasons for this. So here we are, this is a project that is coming to the whole Southwest Virginia. You know that my wife Jackie is English. The English, not having much of an industrial base, and not having a lot of industrial infrastructure, they have gotten on this asset based and creative economy years ago. About five years ago, she and I went to Lancaster, which is on the northwest coast of England. I was amazed to find how many people that would come to this area primarily because of what is known as the Lake Poets. It is a group of poets including William Wordsworth, who spent time around Lake Windermere, and this region, writing poetry, 150 years ago. There are literally hundreds of thousands of people who come and visit that area, visit the places that these poets wrote in, have this experience of the scenery that they wrote their poetry

about. It's an extraordinary thing to consider. Most of us would not consider that to be an economic strategy, but it's an example. (Next shared a 6 minute DVD with the Board explaining the Round The Mountain organization). You may think we're going to end this up with a big ask, but we're not. We're just bringing information and some suggestions to you, with a small ask. The whole idea about developing the artisan assets, it probably couldn't have been done 20 years ago. We're coming into an age when it can be done. The same way we see the web designer on the third floor of that building, we have ways of doing this now in Floyd County that haven't been able to be done before. The web is a big issue, we actually have a grant from the Tobacco Commission right now to do an overarching tourism web site for our region, which will really focus on Round The Mountain and the Crooked Road. So someone in Cleveland, sitting in their arm chair, would actually be able to go on line, find an artisan here in Floyd County, have a little 2-3 minute biography of that person, see them working in their studio, see the view out the kitchen window, getting a sense of the life and hand that makes these objects, and then be able to go on line and order these objects. So you know, from a commercial standpoint, it has the potential, not just about people coming to Floyd, but about generating a lot of one and two-man businesses here in Floyd. Round The Mountain has a very strong component on education, so we're not only helping the current generation of artisans, but we're educating and developing the next generation. Young people want to come. It enriches all our lives when the young people come, and start this work. At its real core, Round The Mountain considers itself a community development organization. It may not be quite so evident here in Floyd, but a lot of these small communities, especially in the Western counties, have experienced this kind of boom and bust of mining or depressed economically and culturally, and this generating pride in what you have and the people that live here, is a part of developing a community. So we see this as a big piece of our work and at the moment, we are very deeply into one of our projects. It is the trail development initiative. What's happening here is not new, its been done other places, but we feel like we're doing it better than anybody else. We are developing a trail initiative that's been funded by the Tobacco Commission and its going to end up being a marketing tool that will bring people into our community and help our artisans.

Pat Sharkey – I've been working with Round The Mountain this year on the artisan trail network which has been one of the major projects of RTM. The timing is right, I think, for the community as well as the artisans. Last year was my 18th year running around trying to make money at my jewelry business in other communities such as Virginia Beach, Richmond, DC, Florida, and last year before I even knew much about Round The Mountain or the Trail work, I just decided to base my business here and get off the road. I think a lot of artisans in Floyd feel the same way. I think we have decades of people who have established small businesses and are ready to establish them here. They've been running around and they're tired. The timing is great. The trail network is being established in all 19 Counties and 4 Cities. It is a huge service area. It is one of a number of projects that RTM is doing. The main goal of the trail project, though, unlike some of the others, is to get the visitor to the sites in our community, and get them to the sites that want visitors. It's similar to Crooked Road, although Crooked Road is following just Route 58, but the artisan trail is in each community, and each community will develop its own trail. Floyd will have a trail, Patrick, Franklin, Grayson, etc. and then they'll all be linked together to form a network. It's a huge endeavor. I just came on to help RTM this year, and I think RTM has done a really good job in preparing themselves to manage such a big project. 19 Counties is a big area. RTM reviewed trail models in other states, particularly Kentucky and

North Carolina. They also actually worked with those communities, in consultation ways. We had consultants from those projects who were willing to tell us what they did well and not so well. So we feel we've got the best of a lot of trail projects. In 2007, RTM worked with Bland and Wythe Counties to develop a pilot trail, to develop a pilot for communities to work together. In 2008, we started working on the trail development full tilt. I came on in April to work full time and will be working with them in 2009 and 2010 until complete. Thankfully, for the health of my vehicle, we have another person, Sarah Romao, in Tazewell, who's established the Appalachian Arts Center, and is working on trail development in far Southwestern Counties. I've been working in about 10 Counties. We've established local artisan trail committees in all 19 Counties. We've pulled together local government, chambers, Cooperative Extension, artisan groups, museums, farmers and artisans who are ready to have visitors. I've worked with them to assess their assets, develop a data base of assets that could benefit from this project. We've held a series of community public meetings in a lot of the Counties. We'll be doing more of those meetings in Montgomery, Giles, Radford, and Franklin. We have 275 RTM members to-date. From my work and Sarah's work, we have over 100 people who have joined as trail sites, which mean that their businesses are ready to receive visitors. Those could be artisan studios, home studios, gallery, country store, museum, art center like the Jacksonville Center, anyone who sells local hand crafts or agricultural products. We've tried to be very inclusive, but we do have criteria and they need to abide by zoning laws. Particularly for artisan studios and farms, they are open by appointment only. That is a good way to engage them in the project, especially for those that aren't quite ready for public hours. Agri-tourism businesses can participate. Other businesses, like restaurants and hotels, can participate and be listed. We have a lot of agricultural sites in Floyd that are participating, I was surprised. A lot of artists studios are participating, especially in Floyd. RTM has already set up an interactive map and trip planner on their web site. We did learn from the model that maybe you and I don't plan our trips on the web, but a lot of people do. We'll have all the trails in all 19 Counties on that web site, so if a visitor comes to the site, and specifically want to visit Southwest Virginia, they key in where and what kinds of products they want to see, all the participating places come up, and they can actually create their own trail based on their interest. We will have trails in each community established but the visitor can develop their own trip with a variety of venues. We're also developing artisan trail brochures for each community. We've been working with a graphic design company to create a template so that they all have a similar look and feel. We'll develop a regional brochure and after that, RTM will be able to show the whole project. That brochure will have a little pocket where other specific locality brochures could be stored. When the trails are complete, all of those local trails will be on RTM's web site so they can be downloaded. Woody didn't talk too much about the details of Heartwood. RTM's relationship to Heartwood is really to help. One, we jury all the artisans. All the products that are sold there are juried and RTM has a committee of folks that do that. To make sure that Heartwood is not just a destination, but is the hub of the trail system, and really the gateway to entice people to get out into the community. We'll have the local trails promoted there, we'll have kiosks there, we'll have computer banks if somebody saw my work there and wanted to see how much work I might have here, they could use the LAN, find out where my studio is, and come by on their way back home. The Heartwood, while it's way over in Abingdon, it's really to be the hub for all the activity in Southwest Virginia. Floyd artisan trail, its been very fun to participate in this and be from Floyd. I'll have to say that jealousy is truly the right word. Floyd has more businesses and creative people that are ready to take their creativity and their work on their farms, into a small

business venture. They're either already there or about there and we have so many more people ready to do that. There are some communities that this is a discouraging project because they don't have a lot of assets, they don't have folks ready. But I think this project also entices those people because some of the artisans can't imagine having a studio open or even doing a cooperative in their downtown and marketing it themselves. This is showing them that they have support outside their own process. There will be another layer of this after the original trail gets established. Floyd has more artisans participating, I think we have about 20 already signed up, I anticipate that with the folks in process, that we'll end up with about 50 sites on our trail. Some communities are struggling to get a dozen. The local trail brochure is a financial partnership with the community. Round The Mountain, through the Tobacco Commission grant, gives \$1000 to each community. Floyd County, in the ten communities that I work with, is the only County that has the partnership and the links between non-profits and businesses, for them to figure out a way to fund the brochure. I think it's another \$4000-5000 that RTM provides to do that, without asking Town or County governments to play a big role. So we have more small assets, more people networking, and I think people are jealous of that. We did have three big public meetings this year to promote the Trail. One at Chateau, one at the Jacksonville Center and one at Sweet Providence. Food works to get folks there. Our meetings were really well received, we had 40-45 people at each meeting. I think this project is really exciting, for me as an individual business owner, I've been ready to base my business more at home. People are excited to have support and a network. You don't have to be a big venue to participate; a 1-2 person studio can participate and be marketed in a regional way. Floyd is really in the lead in an admirable way, it's a great reflection on all of us.

Supervisor Boothe – are there dues to join?

Ms. Sharkey – membership, there's an annual dues membership, for artisans and farmers, its \$20, which is very reasonable. For venues its \$40. Lodging and restaurants can't formally participate as members but can join. It's \$50 for an artisan to join in year one, which gets them linked into everything, the web site, the brochure. The following year it will be dropped down to \$10 so it can be affordable for small businesses.

Mr. Crenshaw – this Trail component of this economic strategy is that every community view its own assets, we figure out what we have here, and then we create a group of people within the community, to figure out how to connect all of those places. Artisans, studios, agricultural farms and entities, which have things that people want to go and see. The whole thing with the wineries is an example of an agricultural product that people want to go to. There are farm operations, not that many in Floyd, but a place like Sweet Providence, that is a farm and a destination for people. The llama farms are another example. People pay to go and do that, to pet a llama. We gather a group of people within the community, we do this asset inventory, and each community designs its own loop system, through the County. That becomes a map. On that map are all these businesses and all the supporting businesses, such as restaurants and hotels. When we finish with this, Floyd will have a fold-out with all of these different businesses and how to get in touch with them. Additionally, this map will be available on-line. As we go further, more things will be included such as activities. It will develop in a way that will help many businesses. So, that's one piece of Round The Mountain. We feel that Floyd is ideally suited to this. The only thing that I would leave you with is that the County has the lodging fee

which will be coming in the first of the year. I was very much in support of it, it was a good idea. As we have opportunities, I encourage the Board to try as best you can, to fund tourism development and the development of the assets that we have in the community. With the same kind of idea that we would fund a project going into the industrial park, for example, we don't have to do that, these jobs won't cost as much. If we can from a government level, begin to put more energy and emphasis on these types of projects, it would be very helpful, and you've done that when you hired Lydeana, and the work that she has done has been very helpful. It's a building of that aspect of our economy. I'm going to give each of you a letter which comes from me, as Board Chair, and it very briefly summarizes what we've discussed today. Among other things, it talks about the fact that our organization has been supported by the ARC, a grant from the Wachovia Foundation, grant from the Virginia Commission for the Arts, Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, Tobacco Commission, Tourism Commission, Virginia Works Initiative. We are doing some good fund raising to support our project. Starting in 2009, we're going to be asking each of the communities for a small donation to our organization, based on population, 7 cents per person, so it would basically be a \$1000 donation or investment from Floyd. We're asking that you put that in your 2009 budget for us. More than any amount of funding, I think the real future of this organization is for our county and other counties to begin to believe in us, believe in this initiative, and support us along the way. I thank you very much.

Supervisor Gardner – from your committee, please do everything you can to encourage young artisans, maybe even a sub-group for this area.

Mr. Crenshaw – it's a very good point. What we have is a sub-committee that is an education committee that is working with the community colleges. In North Carolina, for example, there is a community college called Heywood Community College and they have built a whole curriculum around crafts and handmade arts. Virginia doesn't have one of those, so we're working both with Highlands Community College and the one in Abingdon, I can't remember the name, to do that very specific work. It's a long process, but you're right, we have to inspire and educate the whole next generation of artisans and crafts people. Of the 275 artisans that are currently members of RTM, the average salary of those is over \$40,000/year, so we're not just talking about people making subsistence wages. These are serious business opportunities for people.

Mr. Campbell – what is the schedule for Heartwood?

Mr. Crenshaw – the building is designed, we are probably about three months away from choosing a contractor. It's been a two year effort already. It will be a fantastic building, it will do for the arts of Southwest Virginia what Tamarac has done for West Virginia and other models in Kentucky and so forth. It's about a 20 month project to build it.

Mr. Kenny Bartlett, EMS Operations Manager, next appeared before the Board. He reported 48 calls for the month with 25 transports and 5 cancellations. The response vehicle responded to 25 calls, with 4 cancellations, with a total of 73 combined calls. There were 3 calls to the nursing home for the month, with 18 for the year.

Ms. Myra Grim, EMS Administrative Clerk, next appeared before the Board. She presented her November report for the Board's information. She reported that deposits are down, which is normal for Medicare at this time of year. In response to a question concerning a constant decrease in collections, she reported that Medicare has changed their payment policy. We have requested a meeting with Diversified to explain. In other parts of her job, she reported that she continues to work with Round The Mountain, Crooked Road and other tourism efforts while Mrs. Martin is out of the office.

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

- Regional Jail renovations are on schedule, still re-couping funds with the direct purchase program, still projecting \$800,000 in savings;
- Daily population is down somewhat overall, but we are up five from last month;
- Communication Center – very pleased with the transfer from the old to new center – few items to be completed to make it 100%;
- Radio system in Copper Hill area is about 95% complete, we have started testing and hope to be done in the next couple of weeks;
- Parkway radio system – we have submitted Mr. Cornwell's suggested changes and are awaiting to hear from them;
- Well at Indian Valley – Mr. Campbell has submitted a revised easement agreement but we have not heard back from the family as to the agreement;
- Constantly looking for grants. The Fire Department just received a \$1000 grant for a replacement computer – 100% grant.

Mr. Don Johnson, Rescue Squad, next appeared before the Board. He presented a membership breakdown as per Supervisor Allen's question:

23 active members, who are required to take rotation shifts, average 8-10 nights per month with one weekend day shift;

5 associate members – work 2 shifts/month, 24 hour shift;

4 drivers – not EMT's but certified drivers

4 members on educational leave;

2 members on medical leave;

2 members on personal leave;

6 life members who are semi-active, they don't run calls but hold offices;

3 probationary members

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

- Presented copy of State accreditation report – all schools are fully accredited and over benchmark levels;
- Presented copy of on-time graduation report (not a drop-out report), indicates those who have completed a diploma within four years;
- Presented time-line for Literacy Framework Revision/Implementation – reading strategies for teachers;
- Presented copies of writing SOL test scores for 8th and 11th graders – have to pass this to graduate – 8th graders had a 93.6% pass rate and 11th graders had a 97.4% pass rate;

- 1st semester SOL tests begin tomorrow;
- Presented copy of School Board meeting highlights from December 8, 2008 – did receive next \$5000 installment check from Stellar One for technology enhancements;
- Expected to receive information on December 17 on the Governor’s budget, should receive Floyd County’s numbers by December 19;
- Presented copy of December 1 child count for special education – 434 served;
- Presented copy of November 26, 2008 enrollment report at 2049.5, 14 students withdrew in one month;
- Presented copy of Autistic Children Support Team brochure.

The Board recessed for lunch.

Supervisor Gerald entered the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Mr. Bob Beasley, VDOT Residency Administrator, next appeared before the Board. He reported that staff is working on patching potholes with cold mix, grading gravel roads, brush cutting, and stand-bys for weather. Repair requests from last month have been taken care of except for Route 793, which needs warmer weather for asphalt. Would request that the Board set a date for the secondary roads public hearing either in late January or early February. Hope to have all State figures by December 17.

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Allen, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to authorize the advertisement of a public hearing on the 6 year secondary road plan at 7:00 p.m. on February 10, 2009 in the County Administration Building, Board Room. Inclement weather date set for February 17, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

- Supervisor Gardner – aye
- Supervisor Allen – aye
- Supervisor Gerald – aye
- Supervisor Boothe – aye
- Supervisor Ingram – aye

Supervisor Boothe – Route 615 North, between Thompson Beef and Lineberry home, pavement is breaking off at edge because of a washout. No ditch is probably the problem. Appreciate everything else you’re doing.

Supervisor Gardner – nothing to report today.

Supervisor Allen – nothing to report today.

Supervisor Gerald – nothing to report today.

Supervisor Ingram – any report on Route 642?

Mr. Beasley – we did receive results from the speed study. There are an average of 140 vehicles per day on the road. In a three year search, there were no reportable accidents,

development is moderate to sparse, traffic is local. They did not recommend a speed reduction because 85th percentile of folks drive in a reasonable manner at 50 mph.

Agenda Item 9d – Health insurance options – in further discussion of the matter, Mr. Campbell reported that based on the Board’s action earlier in the day, an Adoption Agreement and HIPPA Memorandum of Understanding would need to be considered by the Board to join the program.

On a motion of Supervisor Allen, seconded by Supervisor Gardner, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the Adoption Agreement for Health Benefits Program and Memorandum of Understanding Related to HIPPA, with the Virginia Department of Resource Management; authorize appropriate officials to execute same (Document File Number).

Supervisor Gardner – aye
Supervisor Allen – aye
Supervisor Gerald – aye
Supervisor Boothe – aye
Supervisor Ingram – aye

Agenda Item 9e – Health Department Agreement. Mr. Campbell presented a copy of the annual agreement with the Health Department that states contributions to be made by the State and County. The amount shown is less than the Board of Supervisors approved budget because the State will not be contributing their full share.

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Allen, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the agreement as presented with the Virginia Department of Health and authorize the County Administrator to execute same (Document File Number).

Supervisor Gardner – aye
Supervisor Allen – aye
Supervisor Gerald – aye
Supervisor Boothe – aye
Supervisor Ingram – aye

Agenda Item 9f – Floyd County Humane Society agreement. Mr. Campbell reported that he had met with Ms. Shaut of the Society on the proposed agreement. Changes as suggested by the Board have been incorporated into the agreement. Feel we should delay implementation of their services at the pound until an animal control officer is hired. In checking with our insurance company, our policy does not cover volunteers of any type. A copy of their insurance policy has been sent to the County Attorney for review – the County would be added as an additional insured once the agreement is executed.

Supervisor Boothe commented that on page 4, the execution should be done by the County Administrator only, and not the entire Board. Also, would like to request that anyone under the age of 18 not be allowed at the center. That is in their agreement but feel we should have a specific reference to it in our agreement.

On a motion of Supervisor Gardner, it was resolved to approve the agreement as amended with the Floyd County Humane Society and authorize the County Administrator to execute same (Document File Number).

Motion died due to lack of a second.

Supervisor Gardner commented that he was very disappointed with this since we have a committed group of volunteers who want to help us and I don't like to see this taken so lightly.

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Gardner, it was resolved to approve the agreement as amended with the Floyd County Humane Society and authorize the County Administrator to execute same (Document File Number).

Supervisor Gardner – aye
Supervisor Allen – nay
Supervisor Gerald – nay
Supervisor Boothe – nay
Supervisor Ingram – aye

Supervisor Boothe commented that he had not run into one single person in my constituency who is in favor of this outside of the Humane Society. There are options we can do once we are fully staffed, especially if we go to shifts, where one officer would be available if they want to come in and take photos for adoption, for example. We can explore other options.

Agenda Item 9g – Facilitated planning retreat. Mr. Campbell reported that a county administrator from North Carolina has a weekend place here in Floyd and has offered to facilitate such a retreat, at no cost, if the Board is interested. Consensus of the Board was for the County Administrator to try to schedule a retreat in January.

Agenda Item 9h – Setting of meeting date for reorganization.

On a motion of Supervisor Gerald, seconded by Supervisor Boothe, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to set the date of January 6, 2009 at 7:00 p.m., for the Board's reorganizational meeting, with January 8, 2009 as an inclement weather date.

Supervisor Gardner – aye
Supervisor Allen – aye
Supervisor Gerald – aye
Supervisor Boothe – aye
Supervisor Ingram – aye

On a motion of Supervisor Allen, seconded by Supervisor Boothe, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt the resolution recognizing Mr. Calvin Gardner's retirement from County service on December 31, 2008 (Document File Number).

Supervisor Gardner – aye
Supervisor Allen – aye
Supervisor Gerald – aye
Supervisor Boothe – aye

Supervisor Ingram – aye

The Board requested that a resolution be presented next month for the 2008 FCHS football team and their accomplishments.

At 3:00 p.m., the Chairman called for the Public Hearing on the Proposed Ordinance Amending Section 46-356 of the Floyd County Code to Provide for Payment of Certain Personal Property Tax Prior to Issuance of Motor Vehicle License.

The County Administrator read the call for the public hearing.

Mr. James Cornwell, County Attorney, commented: We revised our Motor Vehicle Licensing requirements. When we did so, we put the provision in that says no vehicle shall be licensed until all personal property taxes upon the vehicle and all delinquent personal property taxes on any vehicle owned by the owner of said vehicle which have been properly assessed or assessable against the County, have been paid. The statute allows also the following provision. The County, City or Town may require that no motor vehicle, trailer, or semi-trailer shall be locally licensed until the applicant produces satisfactory evidence that all personal property taxes on the motor vehicle, trailer, or semi-trailer to be licensed have been paid and satisfactory evidence of any delinquent motor vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer personal property taxes have been paid, which have been properly assessed or are assessable against the applicant in the County, City or Town. We do that. This Code section would add, no vehicle shall be licensed until tangible personal property taxes properly assessed or any tangible personal property used or usable have been paid. This is in line with the State Code which says the County, City or Town may also provide that no motor vehicle license shall be issued unless the tangible personal property taxes properly assessed or assessable of that locality, on any tangible personal property used or usable as a dwelling as determined by the Department of Motor Vehicles and owned by the taxpayer, have been paid. So basically this would add to our requirement of paying your taxes before you can get an automobile decal. Not only would the tangible personal property taxes on that vehicle and any delinquent personal property taxes on any vehicle be paid, but also that any personal property taxes on any vehicle used as a dwelling, which is a manufactured home, would also be paid before you could get a motor vehicle decal on a motor vehicle. So right now the way the ordinance is, if I have an automobile and I want to get a decal, since we don't have decals any more, taxes must be paid or you'll get a DMV stop from the Treasurer. I have to pay the personal property taxes on each vehicle. If there are any delinquent personal property taxes on any vehicle that I own, whether I'm going to get a decal or not, the taxes have to be paid. This would add the requirement that all personal property taxes on any manufactured home that I have, would be paid.

Supervisor Boothe – what do you mean by a DMV license?

Mr. Cornwell – if you have a manufactured home, there is a provision in the Code that you can turn it into real estate if you surrender the license, send the title to DMV and they convert it to real estate. If you don't do that, the home itself is considered personal property. We just want to make sure we collect our personal property taxes.

The Chairman called for comments from the audience.

Mr. J. C. Holden – from Copper Hill. I guess this is a repeat when we were here sometime back. There were some questions, one of the questions especially that we had. Mr. Boothe and I was talking about, after the meeting, was if you could lose your driver's license over this, and you can according to this ordinance. The way that I understand, and what I checked out, and I'm asking a question here, does this stop all DMV privileges, you couldn't renew your driver's license or anything else if you haven't paid your personal property taxes. I was opposed to that then and I'm opposed to that now because of the hardships it can cause on the people, especially the way that times are now. They're talking about depressions, putting us in the car business and the house business and everything else and we didn't intend to get into and they're not going to bail us out. But there's a lot of people out here hurting. I pastor a church and you'd be surprised how many people don't have the money to pay their personal property taxes right now. You say, well that's not true. But you get out you find that most people are going to bed hungry. There's people that we've taken boxes of food to, older people, you knew they needed it but their pride wouldn't let them take it. This thing here has the potential say, a man was driving a truck and cancer came along and bills and everything else, he had several kids, and he was in a tight spot and couldn't pay his personal property taxes. His driver's license needed to be renewed, he'd lose his job because he can't renew his driver's license. There's all kinds of things. Before, the house trailer wasn't in here because it was a home. It seems not to be necessary, you're not going to be running it up and down the road. It does say in the ordinance here, I want to read this first part that goes along with this. I know I'm for consumption tax but I've never heard of a presumption tax. The first paragraph says there shall be levied and assessed a license tax and fee and it goes on down to conclude, motor vehicles, trailers, semi-trailers, motorcycles, tractor truck and trailer, normally garaged, parked or stored in Floyd County intended to be used or operated upon the streets and highways within the County. Now you're not going to run a house trailer on the roads. That would be a motor home. So anyway within the County a license fee is provided herein. It says, it shall be presumed that any person who had acquired a current valid license plate and/or registration for any vehicle normally garaged, parked or stored in the County, or who lists it upon the records of the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, that such vehicle is kept within the County, is subject to the County license fee and who intends to operate the vehicle upon the streets and highways within the County and any personal residing herein. All right, there again, I think the house trailer shouldn't be there. But this is presuming, it says presumed, to operate a vehicle on the road, and for instance, I've got some antique cars. I've got a '59 Chevrolet that I'm restoring for my grandson. It's not on the road, it can't be put on the road, it's off the body. But if I want to get the title, the State says I have to keep that title in my name and it's a felony to get caught with a title in somebody else's name. If I put it in my name, then I don't have a problem with paying a junk car fee, I mean, I think its \$2.70/\$100, it would be worth \$100 for junk. If you charge \$2.70 for the tax, that would be fair, but I've got to get a bill for \$25 for a fee to run it on the road, presuming I'm going to run it on the road. Suppose I just bought it and put it in my barn to keep it for a while? You can't presume somebody's going to do that, that's like going out here and stopping a man going down the street, and saying I presume you're going to be speeding in a little while. I understand that this lies right here, it's not with the Treasurer or anybody. She's worked with me and I'm sure she works with people. But, there's a failure to

communicate with the DMV and the Treasurer's Office in this instance because the Treasurer's Office is not notified whether the car has tags on it or not. Right?

Mrs. Turman – the antique tags, there's no tax and no license fee.

Mr. Holden – but if you buy an antique tag, there's a \$50 fee and they got so many restrictions, that you could lose all your privileges of having a motor vehicle on the road for five years if you stop at the store to buy a loaf of bread. So, if you don't want to buy that, there again you're presuming I want to run it as an antique car. When I get the '59 finished, my grandson wants to drive it so we won't put antique tags on it. But what I'm saying is, I buy a car, put it in my name, it's a junker and I'm going to restore it or keep it. I don't mind paying the tax on it for having it but why should I be paying the decal fee, to let it sit at my home when I have no intention of putting it on the road, and I'm not going to put it on the road until I buy my license plates and get my inspection sticker. That's where I say there's a breakdown, if you're going to use what the DMV has, it ought to be cars that are licensed to drive on the road, not titled in the State of Virginia.

Mr. Elmer Underwood – on that same matter, I've already for the last 15-20 years, on that County tag, if you're pulling a vehicle, its got to have the County tag on it. A State trooper told me back yonder that I didn't have to have, Sheriff Branscome said I didn't have to have, so I never did get it. But Deronda Thomas told me that I had to have it, and I told her I didn't to have to have, because I would pull it out there in the field and park it, and that's what I done. So I didn't have to have it. But I mean, yet, if you get a license plate for five years, I think you can get it for lifetime for \$50, you ain't supposed to pay that but for five years, that County tag because after five years, you done paid over what the tag cost you, you ain't supposed to pay it, but they don't tell a lot of people about that. I think something ought to be put in the paper about it, because a lot of people just keeps buying their tag and that's \$10 extra for other people every year on that.

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

Supervisor Boothe – the best I can understand, you go to renew your tags, it will block you, but not driver's licenses.

Mr. Holden – the DMV told me that it was DMV privileges, period.

Supervisor Boothe – that's different from what I was told.

Mrs. Turman – before we do DMV stops, everybody will get a letter stating that they have 30 days to pay or this is what is going to happen. I'm working with a few that are paying so much a month. If they'll work with me and pay me what they say they will pay each month, I'll work with them and won't do the DMV stops. If they skip a month, it goes to the DMV. If we don't include the mobile homes, we'll never get the taxes.

Mr. Cornwell – let’s recall what we’re doing. The decal ordinance is not on the table. The only thing on the table is an amendment to a portion of the ordinance where it talks about the manufactured homes. The other was not advertised for public hearing and is not before the Board for consideration. This is not a tax, this is an enforcement of the ordinance.

Supervisor Ingram – the only thing this amendment deals with is the mobile homes.

Mr. Cornwell – correct, it is an enforcement issue for mobile homes. It doesn’t have a thing to do with setting the decal fee, DMV stops, or anything like that.

Mr. Holden – it didn’t say anything about that in this copy of what the hearing was about. It didn’t mention mobile homes from what I saw. This was what Susan gave me; I think I was given the wrong thing. The newspaper said pick it up here at the office, but she gave me the wrong thing.

On a motion of Supervisor Gardner, seconded by Supervisor Boothe, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt the Ordinance Amending Section 46-356 of the Floyd County Code to Provide for Payment of Certain Personal Property Tax Prior to Issuance of Motor Vehicle License (Document File Number _____).

Supervisor Gardner – aye
Supervisor Allen – aye
Supervisor Gerald – aye
Supervisor Boothe – aye
Supervisor Ingram – aye

On a motion of Supervisor Gerald, seconded by Supervisor Allen, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn to January 6, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. for the Board’s reorganizational meeting, with an inclement weather date of January 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor Gardner – aye
Supervisor Allen – aye
Supervisor Gerald – aye
Supervisor Boothe – aye
Supervisor Ingram - aye