

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
ADJOURNED MEETING
MAY 28, 2008**

At an adjourned meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Floyd County, Virginia, held on Wednesday, May 28, 2008 at 7:00 p.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, Board Members; Daniel J. Campbell, County Administrator; Terri W. Morris, Assistant County Administrator.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the reading of the handicapping statement.

The Chairman called for the Public Comment Period.

Mr. Wendell Peters, Clerk of Circuit Court – In accordance with Mr. Campbell’s instructions, I have reviewed the impact of the 2008 state budget reductions and the impact on my office. It is indeed a sad day when the State legislature keeps reducing the funding for the localities and signs their own praises. Last year, the Circuit Court Clerks presented the legislature with a plan to fund our staff. However, they opted not to pass the legislation. You are aware we are open Monday through Saturday except on holiday weekends. We are one of two in the state open to serve the public on Saturday. We are not closed for lunch. It is on rare occasion any of the staff are not available to serve the public during lunch. We usually grab a sandwich and eat at our desks. If someone comes in, we stop eating and serve them. The impact of the possibility of losing an employee with 8 years experience is devastating. There would be a loss of versatility and less time to try to get additional funding including grants. On a court day, I am out of the office. During vacation, a deputy is out of the office. That leaves two people to serve the public. If one of them happens to get sick or a family member gets sick, that leaves one. If we lose an employee, that leaves none. Do we close the office? Like most of the constitutional officers, we do not inflate our budget. Any reduction is critical. We are using desks that are held together by a couple of screws and chairs over 16 years old. Public chairs are from school surplus. File cabinets are purchased from government surplus. After the original investment in the records computer system in 1996, we have maintained the upgrades by finding state funding. In last fiscal year, we succeeded in getting over \$12,000 to pay the office expense plus grants of over \$28,000. Additionally, I am promised almost \$14,000 reimbursement in the coming year. The County has not paid for copy paper or toner for this office that is used for the record room and maintaining those records. This amounts to several thousand dollars in a year’s time. Other savings were outlined in our original budget request. A loss of staff would eliminate the time to locate additional funding. No funding is available for part-time help. Even if there was, they could not function as a deputy and answer questions from the public or perform other daily duties. I am requesting the budget for this office be left as it was originally, or the shortfall be taken from the \$12,000 the County was reimbursed last year, and cover the budget of this

office for the coming year. Attached, find a copy of the budget request. I have highlighted two line items that should cover the shortfall for this office. We will gamble the State will keep its promise and reimburse these. Thank you for your consideration. We have always worked as a team and in my opinion accomplished the goal of keeping our office one of the most updated in Virginia. Without your help in the past, we could not have accomplished what we have. As we work together, we can also overcome this problem.

Sheriff Shannon Zeman – I had written you a letter at the last meeting requesting the cut backs from the State budget be funded. I wanted to be here tonight to tell you the impact without that funding. I want to be totally honest with you, I feel that any reduction in staff at the Sheriff's Office jeopardizes public safety. I need more officers, not less officers, with the situations that we're having to deal with currently. Please understand, if you will remember back when the Compensation Board funded our annual leave and holidays, this type time, when they did away with that, you all asked us to try to work on working that time down, and we have tried to do that. These part-time positions help us to combat that problem, to have the amount of overtime that we have, and lose the funding for those positions, would be critical. I need to maintain a good work standard and am mandated to have a minimum training standard. I feel like the employees of the Sheriff's Office give 110% but they can only work so long and need their time off. To continue to get that type of production out of the employees there, I need these part-time employees to maintain our comp time and that type of thing. I appreciate your consideration.

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

A work session on the proposed FY09 budget was next held.

Chairman Ingram commented that the main focus of the meeting tonight is to address the State budget cuts and make adjustments in whatever way to make the numbers work out. Appreciate the comments that we've already had. We may need to amend the agenda or it may be ok with the Board, but there are some other officers here tonight that may want to make comments before we start our discussion.

Mrs. Maggie Sutphin, Commissioner of Revenue – I pretty much brought forward to you in the past what I have problems with as far as budgeting and staff that we have. I'm not going to take your time tonight to go over that again. We would appreciate you considering helping us out with the cuts that we're getting from the Compensation Board. I know you all have a hard job and it's not an easy thing to take what money there is, and put it in each place correctly that it needs to be. I want to thank you for what you've done for our office, you've always been a blessing to our office and I want to thank you and will pray for you as you try to budget these items because it is a very hard and thankless job. I thank you very much.

Mrs. Mary Turman, Treasurer – I think that my cut was around \$4000 and you know that we gave up one position in trying to save you money. The only place that I could cut would be my part-time help and if I cut my part-time help, the mail won't get worked as fast. I know that

you have to cut it somewhere, but that's the only place that I can see. I appreciate you considering this.

Mrs. Stephanie Shortt, Commonwealth's Attorney – I just want to echo the comments that Mrs. Sutphin made, that you all have a difficult task and that it's rare that the Constitutional officers have to come before the court because in the past they had reimbursed most of these things at 100%. Our office will continue to be doing what we can to minimize any budget problems and also to maximize any income that can come into the County through fines/costs program.

Chairman Ingram – I thank you all personally, for coming tonight and expressing your concerns. I think you know that the Board shares those concerns. We've also got other concerns that we have to deal with too, and I know that you all understand and appreciate that and I thank you for having understanding. It is difficult to decide how to deal with this. Wendell said it best, in his second statement, I've said this for years, it's pretty sad that it continues to be a downward flow from Richmond to here, and we have to deal with it here and make the hard decisions. I know they have hard decisions too, I'm not taking that away from them, this funding decision at the local level gets pretty difficult, what do we do or not do, what do we cut out? We'll try to do the best that we know how and make things work the best that we can. We appreciate all that you do.

Mrs. Turman – 2009-10, if they cut \$4000 from my budget this year, is that the same \$4000 that will be cut from 2010, or will there be an additional \$4000 cut in 2010?

Mr. Campbell – it will not be a further cut, is my understanding. But I will say, from talking to some other administrators in the area, there seems to be some confusion about how these can be handled and the true meaning, at this point. It is my understanding that it will not be a further cut; you would continue to have a similar amount cut. Good question.

Supervisor Boothe – the sad part is that these numbers are not locked in. The legislators have until August if they decide to play with them, so whatever we do, could still change between July 1 and August 1.

Doug Thompson, Floyd Press – I've lived a lot of places all over the country in the last 40 years, and I'm amazed at the amount of service that these offices give with the amount of personnel that they have now. And here we expect them to do more with less, it scares the hell out of me. The problem is, this is the level of County service that the people are used to and take as a matter of actual fact. These cuts scare me, the fact that Wendell could be left with nobody, and his statement was true. I deal with some other Counties where I own property and I can't go to their Clerk's office on a Saturday. I don't know the time with the County growing and more demands on these offices, how they can do it.

Chairman Ingram – I agree, that's Floyd County, that's what it is. What you're talking about, that's Floyd County.

Doug Thompson – that’s Floyd Countians, and trying to expect them to do more with less staff is above and beyond the call of duty.

Mr. Campbell outlined the budget changes made since the Board’s last work session, with the changes from General Assembly actions. With the changes on both revenue and expenditures, the net change is a positive \$16,992. Revenue: Comp Board changes in final reimbursement funding; deletion of ABC/Wine Taxes reimbursement; reduction in school revenue; addition of funding for communication center and communication tower from Suntrust proceeds. Expenses: reduction in raise amounts for Compensation Board employees; increase in the contribution rate for Forestry; reduction in school funding.

After considerable discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to take the entire State funding cut from the Comprehensive Service Administration program.

Mr. Campbell next presented the proposed application for submittal to the VML/VACO Commercial Paper Program for a tax revenue anticipation note. He commented that the current note will be paid off in July with renewal of this note on the same page. The amount to be borrowed will again be \$3.5 million, but feel confident that the entire amount will not be needed. The interest rate for this year is 1.85%. The application is due by June 1, 2008, with other documents to be approved at the Board’s June meeting.

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Gardner, and carried, it was resolved to authorize the County Administrator to submit an application to the VML/VACO Commercial Paper Program in the amount of \$3.5 million.

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

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Gardner, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to amend the agenda to include discussion of a County vehicle.

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

Mr. Campbell reported that the County van continues to have problems. A great deal of work has been done on it over the last year. When Supervisor Boothe and he were returning from a meeting last week, the transmission would not go into higher gears. A repair estimate was obtained in the amount of \$2400 for a re-built transmission with a one year guarantee. Have been looking for a replacement vehicle and reported on those options.

After discussion, it was the consensus of the Board for the County Administrator to proceed with procurement of a used replacement vehicle.

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Gerald, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn.

Supervisor Gardner – aye

Supervisor Allen – aye

Supervisor Gerald – aye

Supervisor Boothe – aye

Supervisor Ingram - aye