

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
ADJOURNED MEETING
APRIL 21, 2015**

At an adjourned meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Floyd County, Virginia, held on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the County Administration Building, thereof;

PRESENT: Case C. Clinger, Chairman; Lauren D. Yoder, Vice Chairman; Virgel H. Allen, J. Fred Gerald, Joe D. Turman, 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.

At 7:00 p.m., the Chairman called for the Public Hearing on the proposed FY16 budget and tax rates.

The County Administrator read the call for the Public Hearing. He also read the notice of proposed tax increase for the upcoming fiscal year.

The County Administrator gave a brief synopsis on the budget: The County's overall projected increase over the current year is \$1,197,880. Some of the primary items that account for the budget projected increase include:

- An additional \$559,000 in additional local funds going to education;
- A \$90,000 increase to hire two additional Emergency Medical Services staff in an effort to improve coverage and response in the County;
- Approximately \$50,000 added to the Commonwealth Attorney's budget for an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney;
- Approximately \$35,000 added to the Building Inspection/Community Development department for accounting assistance based upon recommendation from the County's Auditor;
- A \$100,000 increase is being budgeted to Comprehensive Services for At-Risk Families and Youth;
- \$268,000 is being earmarked for the County's "Budget Stabilization Fund" to create a readily available source of funds that can be used to cover an unexpected emergency;
- \$200,000 is budgeted for next year to cover new debt service on the following "capital outlay" items to be acquired in the next year or so.

The Capital Outlay referenced above includes:

- Two fire trucks costing \$879,294;
- One ambulance costing \$170,000;
- Two Sheriff vehicles costing \$62,000;
- One Building Official vehicle costing \$30,000;
- Election equipment costing \$115,000;

- Three school buses costing \$240,000;
- One solid waste packer truck costing \$235,000.
- Total Capital Outlay cost = \$1,731,294 to be financed for 10 years at 1.95% interest rate.

Overall, the \$0.05 increase in the real estate tax rate is helping fund the new investments and the added debt service listed above.

The Chairman opened the Public Hearing for comments from the audience.

Emily Harmon, Indian Valley District and PTO President, but more important, the mother of a 2nd grader and an upcoming kindergartener. I wanted to thank you, the Board, for considering a tax increase. Since my kindergartener has started, every year I've asked for a sales tax increase or a real estate tax increase. The extra money can only help our struggling school system. We need to make it clear to the teachers and staff that we appreciate their dedication and hard work. We also need to prove to the students that we care about their education and we want to invest in their futures. As a community, we need to provide stability and security in the schools so they can succeed. Floyd County has always prided itself on being a close-knit community. Close-knit is one of the many reasons that I'm proud to be part of the Indian Valley community. At Indian Valley Elementary, we have over 30 volunteers every week that come in. That's parents, grandparents, community members, nobody is getting paid, they are doing it because they are invested in the children's education. Investment in their education is the best investment you'll ever make and that's what they are wanting to do. Why I am in favor of the real estate tax increase? I'm also in favor of a meals tax increase. I feel this would not hurt local eateries. If residents knew that the extra tax money would benefit the schools, I feel more of an effort would be made to eat locally. That would be a plus for business owners and schools. Also, why not take advantage of the tourists that line the streets of Floyd every Friday night from May to November and allow them to help fund our local government? Thank you again for the tax increase and thank you again for helping the future of Floyd County.

Bill Ellis, Locust Grove District – I want to thank you all for the opportunity to speak and I appreciate what you all have done for our families, our children, our community. What you are doing is noble and it is important work. I do support a 5 cent tax increase. I also hope that extra income is spent wisely. As Dan said, I think it will be. I believe it is important as we ask for this, to take a moment and just be aware of what is going on in this and what goes on in this room every month. That is, you guys do your best to support our community and you have a lot of tough decisions to make. I'll share a couple of stories with you. When my daughter was in first grade I went to have lunch with her. I'm sitting at the table with a bunch of giggly little 1st graders and the little girl across from me, I asked how she was doing. She says my mom went to jail last night. At that moment I realized, when they went back into the classroom, this teacher has a lot more on her plate than just teaching them to read and write. That girl's family, what she brings to school is a lot different than what my kid brings to school. But it all comes together in how it affects the classroom. And another story, this is why you are in such a tough position. I was speaking to a teacher's aide who just inherited the family farm. She makes, I would guess, \$11,000, \$12,000, \$13,000 a year, and she's got to figure out how to pay taxes on that farm in order to keep it. You guys have to balance those two things. I'm not sure if we should pay her more so she can afford her taxes or what. I do encourage you, you know there's that TV show where the boss goes in disguise and goes into the work place to see how things are going to get a

feel for things. I don't think you guys should go in disguise, I don't want to see Lauren in a wig, but at the same time, if you guys could try to spend a few days a month, not in your suits and ties in a formal visit, just go in the schools, have lunch with the kids, go in the classroom and read a book to them, talk to them, just get a feel for what is going on in the schools. Then when it comes time throughout the year to think about budget, you'll have a better sense of how to approach it. It is a win/win. If you're against the tax increase, you'll see the waste that is going on; you'll be able to manage that waste. If you see places that are in need, you'll say, hey, I couldn't do this job for \$13,000/year; maybe we do need to give them more money. I believe in you, I believe if you get information, you'll use it wisely.

Jennifer Sharp-Knott, Little River District – I wanted to thank you for proposing a tax raise that will support Floyd County schools in their annual budget. I grew up here in Floyd, I've been a homeowner in Floyd since 2007, I have two children in the Floyd County school system and I'm a teacher at Floyd County High School. Again, thank you and I hope that the tax increase this year is just the beginning of a trend to increase support for our school system.

Susie Warren, Reece Road – I first want to thank the Board for considering the tax increase for our public schools. I am a Floyd County landowner for over ten years. My husband's family settled in this area in 1756. I'm so happy that I can bring up my children in the land in which they have such deep roots. As a parent, I know how valuable Floyd County public schools are to my family. I have two children who attend Willis Elementary. One of my children has a mild form of autism known as Asperger's Syndrome. He was diagnosed when he was three years old. At that time he was completely non-verbal and had other developmental delays. The County placed him in the Preschool at Floyd Elementary and he began to receive the services he so desperately needed. Over time, he really came out of his shell. We have all heard the saying "it takes a village to raise a child". I have lived this. Without the resources that the County has provided, he would not be where he is today. He went from a three year old who was completely non-verbal to today he's a ten year old who is bright, he will talk your head off, especially if you're talking about fishing. I'm also a teacher at the high school. When I was asked why I wanted to teach, the answer was clear to me. So I could give back to the community which has given so much to my family. My job is part mother, part big sister, part therapist, part comedian, part teacher. As an educator, my pay is meager, especially when you consider that I have two Masters Degrees, and I'm currently finishing another graduate level certificate. Consider the fact that as a teacher in Floyd County, my pay qualifies my children for reduced lunch. As many of us know, free and reduced lunches are a way in which poverty is measured. So there you have it, I am a well-educated, employed professional who is at the poverty level. Even though my income is meager, I am more than willing to pay the increased property tax because I get how important Floyd County public schools are to me and my family. Let me take this moment to thank you once more for considering the tax increase.

Kerry Vandergrift, Courthouse District – Thank you for considering a tax increase. When we chose to move to Floyd County four years ago, we did so considering carefully the quality of the public schools. I'm happy to say that our experience with Floyd Elementary has been outstanding. We are both biological and foster parents and have had very good experiences. As an educator myself, I'm a Professor at Radford University, I know how hard this profession can be. We should not make it harder on our dedicated educators. I know people

in Floyd County believe our children deserve the best. But talking about giving them the best is not enough. That means strength and power and I'm so glad you are considering it. As a Social Worker, I am also keenly aware of the people on fixed and limited incomes. I strongly believe that we can raise taxes without interfering with people's basic needs. I believe we're creative enough and smart enough in this County to figure out how to mitigate that. Please consider a meals tax and please raise my taxes.

Megan Moore Hubbard, Courthouse District – I am a history teacher here at Floyd County High School. I would begin by thanking you for proposing this budget and I'm also going to ask you to follow through with your initial proposal and vote for this budget to pass. I moved to Floyd County last July after receiving this job and my husband and I were immediately welcomed into the wonderful community here. We have both lived in small towns in the coalfields of Virginia and immediately felt at home. We have fallen in love with Floyd and want to set down roots and hope to raise our family here. We hope for a bright future in Floyd County and that starts with investing in our young people who face these challenges every day. Again, thank you for considering this budget and I again ask that you follow through and vote for this budget to pass.

Penny Ernest, Indian Valley District – I've lived in Floyd County for 34 years, I am a single mother to a 14 year old son with disabilities who requires special needs assistance through the school. I have been actively involved at the school, volunteering my time over the years. I've been a PTO President for five years at the elementary school. I have seen a lot of good things at the school where they have to do more with less. We need to support the schools and fund the schools at the appropriate level so we can continue to meet the requirements to educate our children. With the ever-growing technology and keeping up with the world today and not be left behind. I support raising taxes five cents per hundred as proposed in order to fund our children's education. I know in the past real estate taxes were \$0.67/\$100 so just raising them by five cents is just a drop in the bucket. We could handle it before and we can do it again. Floyd County children are our future and we need to think about them.

Jeff Pennington, Little River District – I am a special education teacher at Floyd County High School. I want to first thank you for your time this evening and your consideration as to what's going on in the minds of us in the community. I want to say that my mind recently has been set at ease. It has and I have you to thank for that. I'll explain. I was greatly encouraged to hear that this Board unanimously proposed a five cent tax increase, proceeds of which would benefit County services in dire need of support. The primary beneficiary would be our school division. As you know, Floyd schools are among the most successful in the Commonwealth on just about any academic, athletic or extra-curricular benchmark you could name. We do it all and we do it well. The truth is, as I reminded you all last year, Floyd cannot maintain its unique culture, it can't sustain its great agricultural history, won't perpetuate its beautiful artistic identity, without doing its part to provide for its kids. Your proposal to increase revenue to invest in our kids is a sign of strong leadership and forward thinking. It is a sign to potential businesses that this community believes in investment and what greater investment can any community make than in its kids. I'm urging you this evening, stick to your proposal and do what it takes to ensure that the School Board is not in a position to have to cut deep into the soul of one of our greatest investments, our kids. I joked last year that tax can be a dirty word but it is

not a four letter word. As long as our tax dollars are going to something as vital and great as Floyd County public schools, I'll gladly pay a few dollars more every year.

Peggy Kesler, Locust Grove District – I've been before you all many times to hopefully give you all an idea of how passionate I feel about what this County could use and needs. I want to thank you for what you've done this past year for our schools. I'm here to applaud you for finally giving us a tax increase to help our County. It is not just our schools that need this money, it is the whole County. The Sheriff's Department, the Attorneys and prosecutors that need to be taken care of, the crime. I'm sorry to say, we're known as a County and its drugs. It comes very close to my heart. I want to say thank you for the five cents. I'm hoping that next year you'll add a little more to keep up with what we're gaining and what you're doing here. It is not going to stop, nothing will get any cheaper, things will not get any better if we just stop in what we're doing. We can't afford to keep losing good teachers, we can't afford to keep losing good service people from this County. The meals tax should not be off the table. Any other things that you can do to help increase revenue for our County, it has to be. I wish we could go back to when I was in school, 36 students per teacher, but we can't do that anymore with the technology that is out there. When I was in the 5th grade, we were told that someday computers would be in every home, I thought that was crazy. How in the world could you get a computer as big as this room into your house? Well look at what we have now. Where do you think that came from? The education our children receive and the protection that we have to give that to them so they can continue to go ahead and do good things for this County. Our County needs your support and continue your support. That means you need to look at increases every year. We can handle this, we need this, the whole County needs it. Thank you for everything that you've done, thank you for the proposed increase, I approve it to help our County.

Emily Sansberry, Courthouse District – I am a teacher and resident of Floyd County. First and foremost, thank you for proposing a budget that invests in education and puts the kids of Floyd County first. I sincerely appreciate the components of the budget that will support public education in Floyd County including the proposed tax hike. Floyd County has the lowest property tax in our region. We can certainly afford the necessity of higher taxes in order to provide for the education of our County's children. I commend you for your efforts to invest in education and I strongly urge you to follow through with the proposed tax increase and the investment in Floyd County education.

Casey Worley, Burks Fork District – I came merely as a spectator today but I felt called to say something. I graduated from Floyd County High School in 2008, started my 8th grade year and went all five years at Floyd County High School. I own a home now in the Burks Fork District. I just want to commend you all for the work that you do. I serve on the Tourism Advisory Board for the County so I know most of you. I do want to say that when I decide to raise a family, it is going to be here. This five cent tax increase is going to help the education for the future so when I decide to have a family, whenever that time comes, there will still be a school district here because of the tax increase because it will help that. I wanted to thank you for considering it and thank everyone who spoke here today as well.

Jeremy Yuvanavattana, Little River District – I am a taxpayer, landowner and most importantly, a father. I come tonight to show my support for the proposed five cent tax increase

for the County. Gentlemen, I believe it is your responsibility for our community, to watch over two main priorities. That is public safety and public education. The more you put into each one of those programs, I have a feeling that it will directly affect how much you have to put in the other. In other words, if you put more money into the education, in the long run it will be less money going to public safety. Vice versa, if you put less money into public education, you'll have to put more money into public safety down the road. I appreciate the hard choices that you all are having to make right now. I agree that tax can be seen as a dirty word and I'm like everyone else, I do not like my money being taken for something that is not necessary. I believe the transparency in this budget proposal is very clear and I appreciate and support it.

Linda Wagner, Courthouse District – As an accountant, I know the hard work it takes to analyze and prepare the numbers in an orderly fashion to appease all the wishes and desires to effectively and efficiently run a community. It is not an easy job that you have being an elected official. I thank you for your diligence with the fiscal responsibility you have to the citizens of Floyd County. Support for the local school system is the biggest part of our budget. Dr. Harris and the School Board and all the teachers always talk about how much they love the job they contracted to do. I thank personally all you teachers here. It is a job that I couldn't do. With that, it seems like there is always the need for higher wages, which is always equated to better teaching, resulting in better educating children and grandchildren. Yet, I see no correlation whatsoever between the two. While realizing that teaching is a real gift and not very many people can do it. The pleas from some parents and students have packed these meetings over the years and we all hear their passion. Many of you can also remember real passion of the past when times were tough and jobs and businesses were on the line due to financial crises. Passions drove us back then. That was not the action taken by someone who asked for someone else to pay for their wants or desires. It is a passion that drove us to realize that our jobs and businesses could not survive or thrive but we could do our part to do what our own selves, not a Board with some other funds. In those instances, we chose not to take pay for months or we took it a dramatic decrease in our pay just to prevent losing our jobs. It was in those instances that we chose not to take pay for months so our businesses could not dissolve or close, leaving not just one person with a job but many people with a job. This is real passion with real results. I do not know the current statistics with regard to the percentage of Floyd County residents that are at or below the poverty level, but you do. You get the statistics all the time. This dramatically impacts those that are hurting and below the rest of the community. Maybe if all of our teachers and administrators within our district, who are residents, may not be such a push to compare Floyd County to other Counties with larger budgets based on larger populations. It is the apples vs. oranges philosophy. Given that, I do believe that the staff people in our schools need periodic raises and are quite often left out of the equation.

Tony Diebler, live in Christiansburg, Floyd County High School Principal – my comments today will focus on some of my own political views which I typically don't discuss in my professional life. But I am a conservative, I actually consider myself a libertarian conservative. Because I believe the role of the Federal government should be as small as possible in that it exists to protect our individual freedoms not to provide our every need. This belief that an over-reaching bloated Federal government which creates dependencies that if self-reliance is the true motivator behind all of my political thoughts and all of my political action. As a result, I truly hate the excessive taxes I pay to the Federal government. Simply because I

believe that every additional dollar that goes to our do everything Federal government transfers more power away from the people and away from the states and localities to this centralized entity. I believe this viewpoint is basically at the heart of what motivates all conservatives. The problem comes when conservatives such as myself become confused. We forget what the source of our motivation is. We sometimes confuse our opposition to excessive Federal taxes with just a simple opposition to or hatred of all taxes. Sometimes we conservatives end up confusing Federal taxes with local taxes. I'm certain communities appreciate conservative local governments which work hard to keep taxes low but they may not realize the effect actually does the exact opposite of what really motivates them. By not raising the needed revenues locally to do things like ensuring top-notch education for their children, we place a greater reliance on and give even more power to the Federal government. This spring, I have filled out more references and written more letters of recommendation of behalf of our faculty and staff than I have ever before. Great teachers and staff members who are feeling compelled to leave Floyd County for greener pastures. I hear my co-workers talk about receiving a 1.5% pay raise but then they also talk about the health insurance rates which were temporarily held in check by the school system having to dip into the health insurance reserve, money that will not be available next year, we'll have to make up the 11% increase from last year as well as the increase, whatever that may be, for next year. To me, it looks like we'll end up taking home less money each month, not more money. Other school systems are paying more and often asking less of their employees. The ever-growing consensus is, surrounding Counties are making an investment in education. Let me conclude by telling you what I see and by giving you fair warning. Floyd County is a special place and Floyd County public schools has the potential for greatness, or, as I like to say, it has the potential to be truly awesome. I'll end there but I appreciate the five cent increase but I don't think it is going to be enough for us.

Matt Simmons, Courthouse District – I'm a landowner, a homeowner, went to Floyd County public schools myself, kindergarten through graduation. I'm here to support the tax increase, I agree with the principal that it is not enough, we are already way behind where we should be in funding our schools and other public safety aspects that people talked about. We've got to invest in the kids which is really an investment in the employees of the County. It is going to allow you to retain your good teachers that are mobile, they can drive to Blacksburg just like me, I work in the private sector. I am a conservative in a lot of ways but we do have to invest in the teachers, the administrative staff, the infrastructure, now, or we're going to get way behind and further behind than we already are.

Laura LeRoy, Burks Fork District – I'd just like to start by saying that I support the proposed budget and my hope is that it will be approved as is. I was born and raised in Floyd County and educated here in Floyd County and I have a kindergartener at Willis Elementary. I was really pleased that you guys were able to sit down with the School Board and especially in light of the burden that the State of Virginia placed on us with the funding match. I really appreciate you guys moving forward with the budget and at least bringing a portion of what was requested. I really think it is a good step in the right direction and I would like to see more funding in the future. We are so fortunate in this County to have such a great, wonderful, talented, devoted group of educators, teachers and support staff, and most of all I think it shows our children that we're willing to invest in our future that we will be leaving them and that we want to see them succeed.

Jessica Cromer, Little River District, Check Elementary Principal – I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for considering the five cent tax increase to help support the needs of not only our schools system but our Sheriff's Department and emergency services. It is clear, obvious more like it, that our County must do something to combat the rising costs that are facing nearly every department. I applaud you for taking this first difficult step. I also encourage you to carry through with approval of the budget that does include this small increase in revenue for our County. I understand the challenge of leadership can often be daunting and I know firsthand that some decisions can be much more significant than others. While we definitely cannot please everyone, investing in the future of Floyd County is always a good decision. Thank you for your time and your dedication to our community.

Chris Hewitt, Montgomery County resident, Floyd Elementary Principal – As a 14 year educator here in Floyd County, it has been a pleasure to serve the students and community members of Floyd. With a really good school system filled with caring individuals and parents who understand the value of a quality education. With the proposed tax increase in mind, I commend each of you for your willingness to address the physical needs of our school system. This is the beginning of what I call, living up to the expectations of our students. Our students' expectations are high, with safety as a priority. I'm thrilled that a number of our students will travel the roads of Floyd on newer school buses. We cannot stop here. We should do everything in our power to make certain our schools live up to our children's expectations. I want our school system to be what we could imagine it to be. We should make every attempt to be better than just good.

Melissa McDaniel, Burks Fork District, Indian Valley Elementary Principal – I hadn't planned on speaking, I could spend a lot of time telling you how fabulous Indian Valley is and our school district. More importantly, I want to speak to you as a parent. I have a child that graduated from Floyd County High School last year and have one who is a junior this year. I just thank you for this proposal of a tax increase and I fully support it. I just want to encourage you to fully fund all of the requests of the School Board; there is nothing frivolous in that budget that they asked for. The new things that they asked for are not really even new; it is just replacing people that we've lost in the past. They just want to try to build that back up. I want to respectfully disagree that teaching is a gift. We do have gifted teachers but it also takes a great deal of training to be able to teach and give a quality education to our children. We have excellent teachers in Floyd County but we want to keep them. As Mr. Daibler stated, we lose them all the time. They may start here because our starting salary is somewhat competitive but after they get a few years of experience they move on, because they can do better elsewhere. We've invested a lot of money in our education so we can invest in our children and I want the very best for my children, I want them to have every opportunity possible. I just thank you and ask you to continue to support our schools.

Kirsten Vest, Locust Grove District – I too, had not planned to speak tonight. I come to you as a parent, Floyd County High School employee and a taxpayer. I too am a conservative and I never thought in all my years, and I do get involved in politics, I never thought I would ever say please raise my taxes or thank you for considering a tax increase, but I would like to say that I do thank you for considering this five cent tax increase. I do think it is necessary at this

time. However, I do have one thing I would like to say, in moving forward after this year, that you consider. There is a handout that was given out at the door about funding education. It said, ask Floyd County government to fund the school district at a greater percent out of the County's annual budget. Further, increase real estate taxes to increase revenue, initiate a food tax to increase revenue, levy a general retail sales tax at the rate of 1% addition as allowed by the Virginia Code to increase revenue. And those are all great things but those are all individual taxes. I would encourage you to also please consider and work closely with the Economic Development Authority and businesses in this County to bring business into this County. Work to fill up our industrial park to get something in here other than tourism. To get a tax base in this County that can afford to increase pay for teachers and to buy new equipment for emergency services. As individual taxpayers, we know that our taxes are going to go up but we can't afford nor sustain continued tax increases year after year without also including an industrial tax base or a business tax base to help compensate. Thank you for the consideration of the real estate tax increase and hope that you will pass that. Also, in moving forward, please, please work to get businesses to come into Floyd so we don't have to bear this burden alone.

Eddie Worth, Little River District – I was trying to wait until last and I too didn't plan to speak tonight. But after hearing everything that I've heard, and by the way, for the locals here, I bought the Taco Bell house down on Little River. Everyone knows it by that name. I moved here about ten years ago, one thing that I have found out tonight, is that I am totally Floyd proud. I think these folks that came out here tonight are Floyd proud. Everyone had such positive comments on our community, our schools. My wife teaches school, I get it. Goodness knows how much we pay a year for her to go to work to provide stuff for the kids. It has been said that school teachers steal from home to take to work, that is true and it is ok. We want to do it. I just want you to know that I certainly thank you for your consideration of what you're doing. Please continue to keep this at the top of your list, this is just a beginning. Thank you guys for your consideration. Hopefully one day I'll be considered a local.

Joe Montague, Locust Grove District – I have no objection to your budget, satisfying the need for the equipment that the County has to use. But you're still having trouble separating nicety from necessity. You had been doing pretty good for a couple of years. You had a problem several years ago and I got it straightened out. In my experience, you don't get a raise just because you haven't had one for a while. That's separating necessity from nicety. One thing that you're going to have to do without a tax increase is to find out that the schools are doing the job that they are supposed to do, the governments in Washington and Richmond, we're products of the school system. Not this particular one but the whole one. Half of them, the staff is making most of the government regulations and they don't understand how the government is supposed to run. The only reason for our having a public school system is to produce replacement citizens. We don't do that, you're wasting your time. If you want to train welders and people like that, I'll tell you what the welders will be doing in about 10-15 years if we keep going the way they're going. They'll be welding the cells that they will put the rest of us in if we keep training people for Washington and Richmond that have the educational background. The School Board and you need to see that the Richmond and Washington folks are asking the schools to do things that they shouldn't be doing. Then we'll be able to pay the schools to do the things they should, turning out citizens that will run this country according to the Declaration of

Independence, the Constitution, Statute of Laws. When they are not working, stop them from getting paid.

Two letters were received from citizens that were unable to attend the meeting.

Virginia Neukirch, Courthouse District - Dear Supervisors, I will not be able to attend the meeting Tuesday about the budget. As a resident and taxpayer in Floyd County, I wanted to let you know I approve of the budget you have set forth especially the monies for the school system. I have no children myself but believe they are our future and should be given the best education possible. Thank you for all your hard work in creating a sound budget.

Becky Howell, Burks Fork District – Gentlemen: I appreciate all the hard work you do for Floyd County. Budget time is extremely difficult because of the fundamental economic problem of having seemingly unlimited human wants but limited resources. Dr. Harris implied that support for the school system has decreased based on a reduction in the tax rate from rates of 60-75 cents/\$100 of assessed value in the 80's to the current 50 cents/\$100 of assessed value. Perhaps not being a resident of Floyd County, he does not realize that property values have increased resulting in the lower rate providing the same or an increased amount of tax revenue. As taxpayers, we know that equipment and facilities wear out and need to be replaced; as assets age, more maintenance is required and there is a general increase in the cost of supplies and services. How do we know this? Because the same thing is happening in every home in Floyd County! Of course we have to provide money for additional expenses for the school system, but if the student population is expected to decrease, why do we need to provide 2 additional teachers and 13 AmeriCorps tutors? Dr. Harris said the average teacher salary, with benefits, is \$55,000 and the average principal's salary, with benefits, is \$100,000. Based on information in the Floyd County Community Profile, published by the Virginia Employment Commission, the average salary for all employees in Floyd County, with benefits, is \$34,970 and the average for local government employees is \$36,920. My guess is that many of our citizens do not receive an additional 25% salary for benefits. If you raise taxes to provide a raise for school employees, that means Floyd citizens will have less money for their living expenses because they will be paying more real estate taxes! Again, thanks for all the work you do to balance the wants and needs of our educational system and governmental services with the ability of Floyd County citizens to provide for them through our real estate tax.

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

Chairman Clinger noted that State Code requires the Board to wait at least seven days before any action is taken on the tax rates or budget.

On a motion of Supervisor Turman, seconded by Supervisor Gerald, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn to Tuesday, April 28, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor Turman – aye
Supervisor Gerald – aye
Supervisor Allen – aye
Supervisor Yoder – aye

Supervisor Clinger – aye

Daniel J. Campbell, County Administrator

Case C. Clinger, Chairman, Board of Supervisors