

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
February 24, 2015**

At the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Floyd County, Virginia, held on Tuesday, February 24, 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 Comment Period.

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

Agenda Item 3 – Approval of month-end disbursements. A list of additional bills was also presented for the Board’s review. Questions and discussion followed.

On a motion of Supervisor Allen, seconded by Supervisor Yoder, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the month-end disbursements, plus additions, as presented.

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

Agenda Item 4 – Unpaved road traffic data. Mr. Campbell provided the information from VDoT for the Board’s review. He also noted that VDoT will be advertising for the public hearing for the 6-year road plan on March 24, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

Agenda Item 5 – HOMES Consortium appointment. Mr. Campbell noted that with Mr. Terpenney’s retirement from the Town, that there is a vacant position. Each County has two appointments, of which he serves as the other appointment. They meet quarterly on the 4th Thursday at 4:00 p.m. at the PDC office.

On a motion of Supervisor Yoder, seconded by Supervisor Turman, it was resolved to appoint Chairman Case Clinger to the HOMES Consortium.

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

Supervisor Yoder – aye
Supervisor Clinger – abstain

Mr. Jeff Liverman, Executive Director of The Jacksonville Center, next appeared before the Board. He provided the Board with an update of the recent strategic planning session held. He reported:

- Mission – Floyd’s Jacksonville Center for the Arts facilitates, showcases and supports artistic endeavors and creativity, and provides education in the arts throughout our community and region;
- Vision – Floyd’s Jacksonville Center will be a vital and vibrant Art Center enriching our community by cultivating a creative culture;
- Values – our community, the arts, diversity, learning, collaboration, creativity, fun, inclusiveness, quality, inspiration, partnerships, sustainability, thanking people;
- Who They Serve – the Floyd community (organizations, volunteers, entrepreneurs, residents), visitors (travelers, tourists, guests, Artisan Trail, Crooked Road patrons), artists (visual and performing artists, visionaries, out-of-the-box thinkers, design thinkers, makers, emerging artists and entrepreneurs), art lovers and appreciators, students and learners (pre-K-12, college students and professors, K-12 teachers, parents, seniors);
- Strengths and Opportunities – solid core of faithful supporters and participants, great offerings, workshops and events, community that values creativity, highly dedicated staff and volunteers, Floyd is well thought of throughout the region and county, long and solid history of work in community, great location, interesting facilities and spaces;
- The Big Idea – develop an identity around *Maker Culture* (do-it-yourself) with a Floyd and art focus;
- Why a “Maker” culture? Embraces the things we are already doing, way to connect non-artist to our work and mission, DIY is already a significant cultural identity in Floyd, highlights the importance of the arts/creativity in education and careers, makes stronger connections to students and schools, Maker Spaces create an active, dynamic and exciting environment, can create additional opportunities for funding by connecting to more people, demonstrating the relevance of art and creativity and expanding grant maker opportunities for funding;
- Maker – what will that be like? New look, increased energy, arts activity, art and technology connected, new ways to develop programs;
- Goals – enhance our programs and activities to engage and sustain community and visitor participation, strengthen earned income through grants application and fundraising capacity to ensure long-term sustainability, create marketing and awareness programs that build our presence/visibility and drive participation, optimize the facility to better reflect our mission and services, foster a quality work environment for staff and volunteers, ensure effective governance by the Board of Directors;
- New at The JAX – Finn Graphics, Rising Sun Community School, Photo Lab is open and running (EDA project);
- New construction – 30x20’ structure added on the back of the building and remodel of front entrance – funded by VA DHCD and Tobacco Commission.

Dr. Kevin Harris, School Superintendent, next appeared before the Board. He presented the School Board meeting highlights from March 10, 2015 and reported:

- Certificates of recognition presented to Clerk and Deputy Clerk of Board for their tremendous work and contributions;
- Public Comment from three folks – requesting Career/Technical education classes especially the re-institution of the Building Trades class. Also request for culinary arts program on a full-time basis;
- Board approved solicitation for a RFP for a Facility Use Study. Bringing in an architectural firm to help us look at where we are building-wise, to help us to come up with a plan that could be accepted by the citizens of the County, your Board, my Board. For the purpose of creating a situation where we have viable schools for the next 30 years. I really agree with Mr. Clinger’s comment when we did the walk-through – we don’t want to spend money on things that aren’t going to be here for the next 20-30 years. We have to come up with a plan to renovate buildings so we can continue to offer the quality education that we have. Part of it is having good instructors but part of it is having good buildings to do that instruction in. Right now, Ms. Ryan and I are working on an RFP and we will send that out to as many people that want it to find out who can help us with determining the direction we need to go as a school system. We hope that the study would be done within the next six months. We believe the key right now is coming up with a plan that everyone can accept and determining what is the most important for our community. Is it important to our community to have a middle school? Do they want to maintain the elementary schools as they are? Would K-5 elementary schools work, creating more space? Maybe taking the Floyd kids out to the other schools. We’ve already calculated that. You could take the Floyd Elementary folks, some toward Check, some toward Willis, some Willis to Indian Valley to fill up those three schools, emptying Floyd Elementary, making it a middle school and then you would have that configuration. The space is there. I’m not suggesting that as what we’re going to do, that is just an example of the many options that are out there.
- We have 1987 students as of January 31, 2015.
- Right now, we are \$8000 in the red on our forecasted budget. In a \$21 million budget, to be \$8000 either side of zero is certainly hitting the bulls eye on a budget that large. We’re doing a really good job of predicting our spending and hopefully in a way that benefits the students.
- AmeriCorps Application requirements – we’ve partnered with Carroll County schools to do an application for this grant. This is a program similar to Peace Corps. AmeriCorps Reading for Life is a program that allows you to hire volunteers to work with K-8 students. There are some benefits that come along with the program. As the grant is written, we would be able to hire 13 volunteers who would each work 900 hours with students for part-time wages, paid partially by Floyd County Schools, partially by AmeriCorps. The other thing that comes with this is for every year that someone participates in the program, they are given the equivalent of a Pell Scholarship which is now about \$2800. They can use that scholarship to go to college themselves for five years, use it to pay off college loans that they currently have, or if they are 55 and over, they can put that money aside for their grandchildren to attend college on. Right now, in Carroll County, they have several retired teachers who are coming back through this program earning money to send their grandchildren to college someday. We’ve applied

to be a part of that program. Our cost per year would be about \$35,000 which I feel would be money really well spent. Thirteen volunteers at 900 hours each to help with literacy in grades K-8 is a tremendous value. We will not know until June whether we will receive that grant. Carroll felt they were on the verge of losing the grant since they weren't doing anything differently over the 15-year period and we really didn't have enough population here to justify a grant just for us so it is a win/win situation combining with them on this grant.

- Working with the New River Valley Health District to conduct some vaccinations in our schools for pertussis, we will serve as a site only. It will be free to people who don't have insurance, if you do, they will bill your insurance. Trying to bring services to the people here who may need them.
- Status of high school tennis courts. Another firm has come in and taken a look at them and has recommended that they are just in a terrible shape. We have some erosion problems also. The company said they would never recommend building back where they currently are. We are looking at some options such as renovating the courts at the elementary school. Instead of doing four courts like is there now, doing two more for a total of six. Those would become the only courts on that campus and turn the ones next to the softball field into a parking lot. We have \$88,600 to put toward that project, it will be more than that, and we're looking for ways to fund that.
- School Board member Bishop requested that we research an anonymous bullying texting reporting system. There are several schools in Virginia doing this. We are looking into what other localities are doing. The only problem I see is there will be a lot more things to investigate and staff at the high school are doing about all they can.
- Budget – presented a list for the FY16 budget. Have looked very carefully at the things to maintain a quality school system. The biggest priority is finding some way to compensate teachers. Our teachers are getting behind the curve in terms of salary potential. We lost more teachers last year than ever before, a total of 25. We feel that the compensation is on everyone's mind. When we've met with teachers and administrators, that is what everyone is talking about. They are behind the rate of inflation, they are not earning at the same level of their peers and many are looking at other opportunities. That is something we feel that we really have to look at. Another big item is \$240,000 to cover employee health insurance. What we have done this year is dipped heavily into our insurance reserve account. As you know, we're self-insured. We have a big pot of money that we use to pay for employee health care costs. We can use that money for a variety of different things. Last year we used some of that money to balance the budget. That fund is being depleted at a rate of \$50,000/month. Right now, we have about \$1.1 million. The reason it is being eroded away every month is because we have artificially low rates for our employees. We've created rates so we wouldn't have to increase the premiums. We're allowed to do that. It is their money and we can use it however we want to. Last year we really had no choice except to pass the costs along to them. Without a raise, we didn't want to do that. We really feel like we have to in some way, provide adequate compensation for our employees and find a way to not take that compensation away by adding to their health insurance premiums. We haven't gotten our rates yet but right now, insurance rates are going up about 10-11% per year per group. A lot of it has to do with pharmacy. There are so many more drugs out there, expensive drugs, that is the one thing driving up the cost. That and the Affordable Care Act. This

year we paid over \$21,000 in fees to the Affordable Care Act. To be honest, people that can afford insurance, can. Next year, we'll pay \$44,000 in fees. The money to fund the ACA is coming from us, people who earning salaries and affording health insurance. We have 240 employees insured out of 350 eligible. School Board pays \$425/month toward the plans. For Keycare 25 employees, they pay \$69. For the HSA plan, the employees pay nothing.

- The School Board would like to have a joint meeting and discuss the items with you in the near future and talk about the things we're asking for, why we need them and how you will be able to help us maintain what I feel like is a very good school system. We do a lot of things on a very tight budget and provide good quality education for our students. It is my goal to try to keep that quality as high as we can possibly keep it.

On a motion of Supervisor Gerald, seconded by Supervisor Allen, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to go into closed session under Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph A.1, discussion, consideration or interviews of prospective candidates for employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body; Paragraph A.3, discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.

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

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

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

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

**CERTIFICATION RESOLUTION
CLOSED MEETING**

WHEREAS, this Board convened in a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote on the motion to close the meeting to discuss personnel and property in accordance with Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph A.1 and A.3 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act;

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

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

Before a vote is taken on this resolution, is there any member who believes that there was a departure from the requirements of Number (1) or Number (2)? If so, identify yourself and state the substance of the matter and why in your judgment it was a departure.

Hearing no statement, I call the question.

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

This Certification Resolution was adopted.

On a motion of Supervisor Yoder, seconded by Supervisor Turman, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to authorize the County Administrator to advertise for a public hearing on March 24, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as possible, on disposition of 5.22 acres in the Floyd County Industrial Park to a private business.

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

Discussion followed on setting of dates for budget workshops. Consensus of the Board was to meet at least once before a joint meeting is set with the School Board to have an idea of possible revenues/expenses. Reminder that real estate tax rates need to be to the Commissioner of Revenue by April 24 and a bottom line amount to the School Board by May 1.

On a motion of Supervisor Turman, seconded by Supervisor Allen, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn to Thursday, March 5, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. for a budget workshop.

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