

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
ADJOURNED MEETING  
MAY 18, 2011**

At an adjourned meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Floyd County, Virginia, held on Wednesday, May 18, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the County Administration Building, thereof;

PRESENT: David W. Ingram, Chairman; J. Fred Gerald, Vice Chairman; Virgel H. Allen, Case C. Clinger, William R. Gardner, Jr., Board Members; Daniel J. Campbell, County Administrator; Terri W. Morris, Assistant County Administrator; Kayla W. Cox, Administrative Clerk.

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.

Ms. Debbie Fullbright – my comments tonight are primarily for Mr. Allen. You don't know me, Mr. Allen, but I am the District Technology Secretary in the Central Office for the school district. You may recognize my name from this document of incorrect information that you and your wife Cheryl and Marie Spence, and I'm not sure who else has passed this around the community and the school system. The information on here regarding my salary is incorrect. I have a letter from the Treasurer, Mary Turman, who has apologized for that and I thank you Mary, she is here tonight. You were notified on that day, May 16, as well as a copy to you, of the incorrect data on that sheet and she provided a corrected sheet for you. You were also told by someone on May 7 that the information was incorrect and yet your wife continued to pass out this document at the School Board meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup>. I spent a lot of time building a reputation of honesty and ethics and a little document like this can tear a reputation down, and I don't appreciate that. I'm also concerned that if this incorrect document is out there, what other documents have been out there that people actually believe. Did this and other incorrect information skew your votes on the budget, did it affect your votes, did it affect your votes in any way that you were thinking School Board personnel got raises when they did not? We expect our officials to do due diligence, we expect you to be responsible and trustworthy with the facts that you give to us and the press. This incorrect document shows me that I'm very disappointed. I think we all agree that we need to be rebuilding bridges, rebuilding trust, for the sake of the community and our children. This rancorous budget process has hurt the entire school district, our community, our students and the staff, for the third year will receive no raises when all prices are skyrocketing, as you well know. Since this information was disseminated to the public and since I know you are not allowed to speak during this time period, I will wait until your Board process begins where you can offer me that public apology, I would like to have that apology tonight.

Mr. Emmett Byrd – I am an employee of Floyd County schools and live here in the County in Indian Valley. I'd like to address the poison atmosphere that has affected the budget

process this year. I don't believe that anybody from the Board of Supervisors or School Board would intentionally do anything to harm the children of this County. Unfortunately, due to a lot of misinformation, that is exactly what has happened to the children. People's characters have been tarnished by half-truths and the handing out and printing of false information and misleading information. What has played out in the Press and internet is only half the story, that's not what the people of Floyd County deserve. People who read those reports and don't preserve the truth themselves get the wrong idea. It certainly does not help when those that are responsible don't print or publish corrections. We need to heal this rift between the Board of Supervisors and School Board and the public before more damage is done. Some of the numbers that I've heard floating around are just plain wrong. I have a copy of the handout that Debbie was just referring to that has been passed around. Some of the information on here is wrong. Unfortunately, this information lead to some hasty decisions, I believe, made in the heat of the moment. Passions have been inflamed in this County because of this. I understand that. But you need to know all the facts before you can make an informed decision. Bearing that in mind, I don't think the Board of Supervisors taking charge of the eight budget categories in the school system is a very good idea. It might be well intentioned, but I think it is misguided. The actions of some of the Board members who've passed on bad information before fact checking or understanding the budget, leads me to believe that they're not qualified to budget the money by category. The School Board itself has a far better understanding of how the process goes than the uninformed members of the Board of Supervisors. I'm not going to pretend that I know how it works any better than most of you because I don't either. But after a cursory glance at the budget last week, I can tell that I understood it a lot better than some of the members that I'm addressing right now. Furthermore, category funding leads to the worst kind of waste in the government, any type of bureaucracy. When you categorize your funding, whoever is seeking that funding is going to spend every penny of that funding every year so they can justify asking for it next year. There's not going to be any savings, there's not going to be any penny pinching because they're going to need that money for next year. They're going to spend money on things they don't need. That is wasteful. The school system this year faces a loss of five teachers aides. Before the \$600,000 in new taxes is allocated, I'd like to ask the Board of Supervisors for \$110,000 for the School Board, for those people to maintain their jobs. They've done nothing wrong. I think decisions made were made in haste and the children of the County will suffer if they're not here as well as those people. They live in the County too; they pay taxes in the County too. I'd also like the Board of Supervisors to consider how much of that \$600,000 tax increase is going to be spent on recurring expenses as opposed to one time expenses. With the cost of everything increasing, it would be prudent to bear in mind that the \$600,000 tax increase isn't going to go as far in the future as it will this year. Also bear in mind that the School system will lose another \$500,000 in funding next year for the 2012-13 school year. I'll explain now so it won't be interpreted as a budgetary tactic later when it is addressed. The loss is coming from the cashing in of the CD's for the school system this year as well as the use of the last of the stimulus money, and the loss of one-time help from the Governor tied to the composite index. School systems will not have this money available next year, we're going to be looking at this type of situation with the School Board coming asking for money again, another large figure, we're going to go through it again next year. In conclusion, I'd like to add that I know times are hard. I have bills that I'm late paying now. My money, like everyone else's, doesn't go as far as it once did. I do implore the members of the Board of Supervisors and the School Board to work together better in the future so this year will be a one-time anomaly instead of a recurring issue.

We all want pretty much the same thing but I think civil discourse and better communication could have prevented this whole problem.

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

Mr. Will Griffin, Mayor, Town of Floyd, next appeared before the Board. He commented: Thanks for allowing me to speak to you tonight. First off, I sit on the other side of the table sometimes too and I understand how tough the job you have is, and I know the reason you do it. We all love our community and we're here to do the best we can. Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose, but your efforts are applauded and appreciated. The main reason that I wanted to come out tonight is that we've been presented to by the Floyd Lodging Association, several times on the Town Council, pushing for this tourism incentive/use of lodging tax. We're getting feedback, well, the County Board of Supervisors has told us this and that, and I feel you guys are hearing the same thing, that the Town's feelings are this or that. It is a little bit unclear as to where everybody stands. I thought this would be a great time for us to join as one group, sit at the table together, have the Floyd Lodging Association come and present to us, their proposal. Their proposal, quite honestly, slipped up a little bit on us too. Hopefully, we'll give them the opportunity to come and talk to us as a group; we can help move their initiative one way or the other. Either come together and support something or say we're not interested. I don't think from our Council's viewpoint, we can't make a good decision without truly knowing how you guys feel. I think it is going to take a combined effort to do this the right way and I hope you guys feel the same way about that. Plus, I think it is good for the folks to see us sit down at the table together and try to work through some items that cross over and have impact on both the Town and the County. I hope you'll consider this suggestion, I think it would open doors to working together more in the future.

Consensus of the Board was to have a joint meeting at 3:30 p.m. on June 14, 2011 if time will work with the Council and Lodging Association.

Agenda Item 4 – Approval of minutes of May 5, May 10, 2011.

On a motion of Supervisor Clinger, seconded by Supervisor Gardner, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the minutes of May 5, 2011 as presented.

Supervisor Clinger – aye  
Supervisor Gardner – aye  
Supervisor Allen – aye  
Supervisor Gerald – aye  
Supervisor Ingram – aye

Supervisor Clinger commented that he would like to add, on page 17 of the May 10 minutes, the comments from Mr. Cornwell on: 1) Chair can make motions; and 2) Motions can be made without seconds.

On a motion of Supervisor Clinger, seconded by Supervisor Gardner, and carried, it was resolved to approve the minutes of May 10, 2011 as amended.

Supervisor Clinger – aye  
Supervisor Gardner – aye  
Supervisor Allen – aye  
Supervisor Gerald – nay  
Supervisor Ingram – abstain

Agenda Item 5 – Request for Station #2 Fire building pump system. Mr. Campbell presented a copy of a letter request from Mr. Tony Weddle, Station #2 Chief, for assistance in payment of \$2400 for the pump system. This would allow the filling of the tanker from the pond behind the building. They have problems in inclement weather with filling the tanker. They hope to have the addition under roof by the end of the summer.

On a motion of Supervisor Gardner, seconded by Supervisor Allen, and carried, it was resolved to approve the request from Station #2 Fire Department for \$2400 for a pump system; transfer \$2400 from Contingency to the Fire Department.

Supervisor Clinger – aye  
Supervisor Gardner – aye  
Supervisor Allen – aye  
Supervisor Gerald – abstain  
Supervisor Ingram – aye

On a motion of Supervisor Allen, seconded by Supervisor Clinger, and carried, it was resolved to amend the agenda to include discussion of payment of mileage and an additional retirement payment request.

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

Supervisor Allen – we have a retired employee that attends Regional Jail meetings, sometimes up to 2-3 times per month. He had requested that the Board consider paying mileage.

Mr. Campbell commented that Mr. Wirt had talked with him as well. Since he is Chairman, he has more meetings than just the regular meeting themselves. He puts quite a bit of time into that and is using his personal vehicle.

Consensus of the Board was to reimburse Mr. Wirt for mileage to Regional Jail meetings since he is serving as the Board's designee.

Supervisor Allen – I also had a call from another employee requesting that the County purchase some additional retirement time for him. He also talked to another Board member. I think it would set a bad precedent if we decided to do that.

Mr. Campbell – we have researched the matter with VRS, it will not be possible to purchase additional time. If he had cashed in some prior service, the County could buy that, but this is not the case.

Agenda Item 6 – FY12 proposed budget work session.

Mr. Campbell commented, for additional information, that two months of payment for the DEX rental needed to be added back in; reduce the VML/VACo interest payment; Board needed to make a decision on the transient occupancy tax – if positive, that amount needs to be added back to the revenue side.

Lengthy discussion ensued on different options for reducing expenses in various areas of the budget.

On a motion of Supervisor Allen, seconded by Supervisor Gerald, and carried, it was resolved to transfer \$125,000 from the FY12 School Board Administration category to all appropriate categories; with the recommendation to give all employees a 1% raise. This will show the school employees that we have a heart and we appreciate them.

Supervisor Clinger – aye

Supervisor Gardner – abstain – statement included concerning employment  
With Floyd County School Board

Supervisor Allen – aye

Supervisor Gerald – aye

Supervisor Ingram – nay

Consensus of the Board was to request that the School Board present a revised budget indicating the above transfer before the entire County budget is approved.

Consensus of the Board was for the County Administrator to relay the final budget number to the School Board and also the revision in categories.

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

Supervisor Clinger – aye

Supervisor Gardner – aye

Supervisor Allen – aye

Supervisor Gerald – aye

Supervisor Ingram – aye

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Daniel J. Campbell, County Administrator

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David W. Ingram, Chairman, Bd of Supervisors

