

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 8, 2016**

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Floyd County, Virginia, held on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. in the Board Room of the County Administration Building thereof;

PRESENT: Case C. Clinger, Chairman; Joe D. Turman, Vice Chairman; J. Fred Gerald, Linda Devito Kuchenbuch, Lauren D. Yoder, Board Members; Terri W. Morris, County Administrator; Cynthia Ryan, Assistant County Administrator.

Chairman Case Clinger called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with the reading of the handicapping statement.

The Opening Prayer was led by Supervisor Gerald.

Supervisor Lauren Yoder led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

On the motion of Supervisor Turman, seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and carried, it was resolved to approve the minutes of February 9, 2016; February 23, 2016; February 29, 2016; and March 1, 2016.

Supervisor Gerald – aye
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – aye
Supervisor Yoder – abstain
Supervisor Turman – aye
Supervisor Clinger – aye

Supervisor Kuchenbuch asked which vehicle broke down and was towed by Jolly's Classic Towing?

County Administrator Morris replied that it was one of the Sanitation vehicles. The new truck is scheduled to arrive at the end of the month.

Supervisor Yoder asked what would happen to the old vehicle.

Ms. Morris replied that it will be used as a spare as long as that is feasible.

On the motion of Supervisor Yoder, seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and carried, it was resolved to approve the March 2016 monthly disbursements.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – aye
Supervisor Yoder – aye
Supervisor Gerald – aye
Supervisor Turman – abstain
Supervisor Clinger – aye

Agenda Item 7.a. – Subdivision plats as approved by Agent for February 2016 – Ms. Lydeana Martin said that there were 3 plats to review in March.

Ms. Martin handed out a summary on the possible Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) Planning Grant. She explained that she wanted to review where we are and ask for guidance. When you spoke about it last time you had three main areas of concern. One was making cluster development possible in Floyd County; another concern was you wanted it in areas served by public water and sewer AND in any location where a private developer would create a central water and sewer system. Your third concern was about keeping the work within the planning grant budget which is a maximum of \$20,000.

I drafted an application and asked VHDA to review it and then Ms. Morris and I met with them to get their feedback on it. In the draft application I had to put where the project area would be. Since we don't want this to be about one particular development, I indicated it would be areas expecting higher density development such as where the land lays better, it is near schools, is on a good road, that kind of thing.

In the proposed budget I listed 3 different types of experts I think would be useful. One would be a planning expert on cluster development; another would be legal counsel, and also an engineer that would have knowledge about small water and wastewater systems that would review the criteria for the ordinance.

The feedback from the VHDA staff was they liked the project concept; they liked including the 3 experts. They strongly encouraged that any private development water and wastewater system designed be acceptable to PSA so they could take over operations. In other communities if a water and sewer system is privately done, a lot of times the developer does not take care of it. It falls apart and then the PSA is asked by those communities to come in and clean up the mess. Their suggestion is to coordinate with the PSA on this and make sure the standard is set for the privately developed systems to meet a minimum threshold and coordinate with them. I don't think it would have to be determined ahead of time where the PSA would be willing to take something on but I think the ordinance can be set so that before a project is approved, PSA would be willing to take on service or operation of the system.

I have revised the application but I wanted to check in with you on it. We would invite the PSA's engineer to be the expert, if the grant funds awarded would cover that expense, so the minimum criteria on any privately developed water and sewer would be acceptable to the PSA. Due to the concerns about staying within the budget, staff recommendation is to have 1 or 2 Board members work with staff to develop language and then that could go to the Planning Commission for feedback. Then the proposal would go to the entire Board of Supervisors and if you were then ready for a Public Hearing you could do a joint Public Hearing with the Planning Commission. That would seem to be a way to keep it as concise as possible, but open to everybody's feedback. I invite your thoughts and feedback.

Chairman Clinger replied that Ms. Martin should get the PSA involved and make sure the language is okay with them about being willing to take over. She needs to make sure that mechanism is in place.

Ms. Martin said she thought she would try to get on the PSA agenda this month or the next month and let them know about this possibility. Hopefully they won't see it as any pressure on them. It is more an opportunity to get some funding to help.

Chairman Clinger said the Health department usually handles the septic systems, but I am not sure if that goes up to a certain size. The onsite is usually done by the local engineers.

Ms. Martin replied I feel like cluster development is within their purview but it kicks it up to a whole other level. I would want to make sure that even if it is acceptable to the Health department that it is something PSA would be comfortable with.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch said let's discuss a hypothetical situation like PSA taking something over in Copper Hill; I guess it is something that could be done. I think the oversight of our PSA for whatever is developed is done properly, in tandem with the Health department, is absolutely necessary. It looks to me like if we had them on board, the success of our getting the grant would probably be greater. Not that you would want to do something just to get the grant money but I think PSA is part of this puzzle and an important part of it. I guess this would widen the purview of the PSA, but it is an important inclusion so I am all for it.

Ms. Martin said I think over the next year or two there might be some transition there with a retirement coming up. I know there is interest in looking a little further and stretching out a little bit. But current maintenance issues have them concerned at the moment.

Supervisor Yoder said I think this is a good approach. I think what you have laid out here is the way to go.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch asked if VHDA liked the approach.

Ms. Morris and Ms. Martin both concurred and replied they seemed to like it.

Agenda Item 7.b. – Building Permit Report for February 2016 – Ms. Morris said permits have started to pick up a little bit for spring building season but overall we are down a little bit from last year at the same time.

Agenda Item 7.c. – Approval of Health Care Plan for FY17 for Employees – Ms. Morris said as I told you at our last meeting I am happy to report that we have no increase in premiums this year. Ms. Ryan and I met with the Anthem representative and we recommend that we keep the same two plans. You take the single rate of the two plans and get an average and we are required to pay 80%, which we are doing. You could pay more than that if you wanted to, but you can't go below that amount.

On a motion of Supervisor Yoder, seconded by Supervisor Gerald, and unanimously carried, Anthem Key Advantage 250 and Anthem Key Advantage 1000 provided through The Local Choice were accepted as the health care plans to be offered to Floyd County employees for fiscal year 2017.

Supervisor Yoder – aye

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – aye
Supervisor Gerald – aye
Supervisor Turman – aye
Supervisor Clinger – aye

Ms. Morris thanked the Board for their approval and said she thinks the employees have been pleased with these plans.

Agenda Item 7.d. – Proclamation April 1-7, 2016 as Local Government Week – Ms. Morris said the draft proclamation is provided for your consideration. I also found some teacher resource materials and provided them to the high school government teacher and offered that Board members or staff are willing to speak to a class.

On a motion of Supervisor Kuchenbuch, seconded by Supervisor Turman, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt a proclamation stating April 1-7, 2016 as Local Government Week (Document File Number 864).

Supervisor Gerald – aye
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – aye
Supervisor Yoder – aye
Supervisor Turman – aye
Supervisor Clinger – aye

Agenda Item 8.e. – Appointment to the New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Development Board – Ms. Morris said this agenda item was included to keep reminding you about the board position vacancy.

Agenda Item 8.f. – Strategic Planning Subcommittee – Ms. Morris said the idea of a subcommittee was discussed at the last Strategic Planning Meeting.

Chairman Clinger said several people have expressed interest and he has been trying to figure out the best way to go about it. At one time we said the Chairs and Mayor and 1 other person from each entity, but I think it is up to each of the other groups to decide their own membership rather than us. The only thing we can think about is the two members from our Board. We need to decide how to assign or place those. I'll open up discussion for how we will do that such as nominate or rotate or how we would like to do that.

Supervisor Yoder said I think the best thing would be to discuss what the committee would look like.

Chairman Clinger explained that the way he offered it was something informal before the big meeting so that we could discuss topics like the last closed session we had. We could find out if there was interest from the other parties. There is a lot of business that goes on in closed session about economic development and we could get the others involved. Other people and people from other boards might have some different ideas.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch said we discussed having the whole Strategic Planning group get together in 3 months or 4 months. I understood that maybe once a month the subcommittee

formed from members from all the bodies would come together and discuss what is going on whether it be from closed session material. I viewed it as more identifying the goals of where we want to go.

Supervisor Yoder added what he would like to see is actual planning. It is hard to do in a group of 30 people, but it might be possible in a group of 8 people. For example if you get 30 people together to discuss a sidewalk to the Jacksonville Center you will get 30 opinions. You would have a 3 hour meeting on something that could be decided in 15 minutes. A group of 8 could go out and walk the property and see what the Town needs to do and what the County needs to do. We could work on some areas that each could take back. Down the road a subcommittee like that would be really good for looking at planning for schools. It would involve a lot of different people. The school system might not be thinking about economic development.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch said that is the idea about goals. You are planning, looking ahead. It's not just that it is looking at the kinds of employers we want to bring to the area. I know that this group, in our brief roundtable discussions we had that Monday evening, are thinking about the kind of growth and kind of businesses we want to see. Do we want to expand some of the ones we have? They have found this area to be good so do we bring in like businesses? The subcommittee could really brainstorm and bring it back to the full committee.

Chairman Clinger said each group might have different ideas. Each group needs to meet and form their own charter on it. As far as our participation in it, I think we should move forward and I like the idea of once a month. The Town has offered 3 months from now to host the next one.

County Administrator Morris said they will host in May. Town Councilman Patton suggested goals regarding sidewalks.

Chairman Clinger agreed and said he suggested getting pass the Blue Ridge Apartments and maybe out to the Commerce Center. That project overlaps several things at one time. If the PSA has any line work they are doing out there we might be able to time this together. This would allow us to avoid duplicating efforts. Rather we would concentrate all of our efforts and get things done quickly and cost efficiently.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch pointed out we would all be working on the same page and not operating in a vacuum. This is the idea of open and better communications. I would love to serve on this committee. I don't know who else is interested, but I throw my hat into the ring.

Chairman Clinger responded that as Chairman he felt obliged to serve to at least get it going. The other agencies might not send the Chairs but it was offered. I brought this up for general discussion because I know multiple people are interested in serving.

Supervisor Yoder said he is also interested in doing it. He said if he were appointed he would approach it as a working group.

Chairman Clinger said it should be both working and information.

Supervisor Yoder agreed.

Chairman Clinger said once we get together as a group the whole dynamic might change when we get everybody together. I think it will be more working by getting the synergy of all the groups working together to get some goals accomplished. I also think it is very important to be a liaison back to this Board.

Supervisor Yoder agreed and said I see so many areas that need planning. Since I have been involved we haven't had a very good idea about what is going to happen in the next 10 or 20 years or even the goals. Some of that has been limited because funding might not be there. That is something we need to discuss. The Recreation department is a prime example of Town and County working together for the area because they bring in so many people to the town. The Recreation department is a great example of where we could plan together.

Agenda Item 7.b. – Chairman Clinger called for the Public Comment Period.

Ms. Becky Howell from Burk's Fork came forward and thanked the Board for the new speaker system.

Agenda Item 8.f. – Strategic Planning Subcommittee continued.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch said she had been thinking long and hard about bringing more people in. Everybody knows my commitment to recreation and such in the county from a personal standpoint. But from a public standpoint I don't know. If we bring in the Recreation Authority then why isn't Fire and Rescue included? I almost think if we get too large that it dilutes the effectiveness of the actual governmental bodies that are trying to meet. That doesn't mean you can't bring in people to these meetings, and the subcommittee would be a great place to do that. But I think if you get so many people involved it does dilute your effectiveness. The Recreation Authority is an economic driver but I think from a planning point of view, I think we should stick with who we originally felt should be here: EDA, Town Council, School Board, and Board of Supervisors. We keep it here and then bring folks in to talk about how they see their role in development. I am willing to be on the subcommittee but I don't have to be. We should probably figure out how the other boards are going to make up their members and we should resemble that.

Vice Chairman Turman said you are both right about if the subcommittee gets too big; you aren't going to accomplish anything.

County Administrator Morris suggested that different authorities such as the PSA could be invited to the quarterly meetings. This would be a good way to include others; by including them when items would be discussed that concerned their areas.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch agreed.

Chairman Clinger added and if you have any other group, like PSA that is looking at major development. The go to stop would probably be the subcommittee who could determine

where the overlaps are between the Town, County, and EDA and how to best grow. I can see something like the cluster development, which is looking at a larger infrastructure, meeting with the subcommittee first.

Supervisor Yoder said as Board of Supervisors we should lead on this.

Chairman Clinger said I would like to come to a conclusion on members today so we can contact the other boards.

Supervisor Yoder agreed and said those members could go to the School Board and Town Council meeting and say this is what we are doing.

Chairman Clinger added and ask them to pick their members so we can start meeting.

All agreed that it was up to the Board of Supervisors to take the lead since they called the first meeting together.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch said this will spur a whole new way of working together and she is very excited about this.

Supervisor Yoder asked if these appointments would have terms?

Supervisor Kuchenbuch said she thought there should be terms like other committees. Members could rotate on and off.

Supervisor Yoder agreed that it would be good to have new people rotate in.

Chairman Clinger asked if they wanted to rotate monthly or a full term?

Supervisor Kuchenbuch suggested a minimum of a 1 year term.

Vice Chairman Turman added it would be good if terms were staggered.

Other Board members concurred with the idea of staggered terms.

Supervisor Yoder said it is good to rotate members on all boards so you can learn new areas.

Chairman Clinger said being on a new board gives you a fresh perspective when you come in. For the subcommittee should it be 1 year for 1 member and 6 months for the other so they don't come off at the same time?

Supervisor Yoder suggested that 1 member serve a one year term and the other member serve a two year term and then all be two years afterward. You need at least 1 year to get through some issues. I think it will be hard to get together once a month. You can start that way but in the long run you can over meeting people.

Chairman Clinger agreed and said if you meet just to meet, people lose their drive.

Supervisor Yoder added if something important were going on the subcommittee could meet every week.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch suggested that Supervisor Yoder serve initially on the subcommittee and Chairman Clinger if he felt he needed to be on it.

Chairman Clinger replied that he felt that he did for at least the first term. He added that the point was to bring information back to the Boards and have communication back and forth.

On a motion of Supervisor Turman, seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to appoint Chairman Case Clinger for a one year term and Supervisor Lauren Yoder for a two year term to the Floyd County Board of Supervisors/Floyd Town Council/Floyd Economic Development Authority/Floyd School Board Strategic Planning Subcommittee.

Supervisor Gerald – aye
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – aye
Supervisor Yoder – aye
Supervisor Turman – aye
Supervisor Clinger – aye

Chairman Clinger said he would try to go to the School Board that evening and the Town Council meeting next Thursday.

Agenda Item 6.c. – Ms. Dee Wallace, Chantilly Farms – Requesting resolution in support of County Fair. Ms. Wallace said she appreciated the efforts being made to work in cooperation with other branches of government. She is sure good things will come from this effort. She came this morning to introduce the Floyd Livestock and County Fair. It is not a new thing for sure. We are going to be in our 10th year this year. But I am introducing it because like you mentioned before, we want to be inclusive and not exclusive as far as our Livestock and County Fair goes forward this coming year. We have proposed some verbiage for you hoping that you will recognize the Fair and give it your support and help us to spread the word.

Ms. Wallace introduced Ms. Julie Weddle, the Fair Organizer, who helps out at Chantilly Farm. She has also been involved with the Fair from the Extension side of it in the past. Basically we wanted to let everyone know the relationship we have currently. We moved the venue to Chantilly Farm in the past year of 2015. We have already enjoyed some successes with the Fair since moving it. If you are familiar with the history of it, it has been homecoming and harvest festival and livestock county fair. It has had different names and different themes with different aspects in the way it has been approached in prior years. But we certainly feel like we have an opportunity for growth. We want to include a lot of things that highlight our county, especially the agriculture and heritage that we are so proud of. We have set up an advisory board and we are having monthly meetings. They are important for us because September will be here before we know it.

There will be a pageant this year, which there has not been before. Next month you will start seeing in the paper where we will be inviting young ones to teenagers to represent who we are in Floyd County. We will invite civic groups, individuals, and businesses who want to promote themselves through the fair and who believe in what we are and in the mission. We want to invite them to be part of the planning.

The main problem we have is getting more legs on the ground. If we don't have more people actually working the Fair it won't matter how many people come because we can't put legs to what we are trying to offer. We want to grow in a way that makes sense and we want to execute it well. We want to give acknowledgement to the Floyd County Farm Bureau and Women's Committee. They have done an excellent job over the years and they are still involved and represented on the board. We have also invited the input of Tourism, Ms. Pat Sharkey specifically, to help us grow in a way that will be attractive not only to people in the county but also to those who visit from out of county. A lot of our attendees at last year's fair, much to the surprise of everyone, came from North Carolina.

Ms. Julie Weddle said we had about 500 people in 2014 in the parking lot by the Extension Office. Last year at Chantilly it tripled and we had about 1500 people come. We are trying to keep that going forward.

Ms. Wallace said we are also trending younger for audience with a lot of games and interaction for children in the past which we want to maintain. We will keep those to the earlier parts of the day. We want to have more offerings that will attract our teenagers and young families with things into the evening. In years to come we want the Fair to cover multiple days so we will have a longer presence from the tourism aspect. We want people to come and stay longer and spend more money. We want those things for the fair and for the county.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch asked who are the members of the board for the fair?

Ms. Wallace replied that Ms. Julie Weddle is the Fair Organizer along with Vicky Spangler. Other board members are Mr. Lauren Yoder, Ms. Pat Sharkey, Betty Blackwell who is the Chair for the Women's Committee, and Gray Lineberry from Farm Bureau split one position on the board. They swap times when they can each attend.

Vice Chairman Turman asked how long it will be before the fair is multiple days?

Ms. Wallace replied they hope to go there next year. We didn't want to do that this year because we are carrying forward a budget and involvement which doesn't allow it. I think it is what people expect. We don't want to look like anyone else's county fair exactly; we think we are pretty diverse and we have a lot of things to highlight, but when people come to a fair they have a certain expectation. We want to make sure we are moving forward in that direction.

Supervisor Yoder said there are definite advantages to a multiple day fair. One would be working with the school system to get the elementary students involved.

Ms. Wallace responded we are hoping they will move their Agriculture Day to the Friday, which is the day before the Fair on September 17. That way they can get a preview. We

can make their Agriculture Day a more robust experience. That will help us to transition to multiple days next year. I know there have been conversations about ordinance. We think everything we have in the plans is going to be okay per the ordinance. If in the future we need to be part of the meetings to make sure our planning is the way it should be, we want to work to be in concert with you.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch said I know your board is cognizant of wanting to keep this the County Fair. More often than not the County Fair is held on county land. It becomes part of the county. Obviously we don't have a space that is designated for a county fair. And there is this wonderful space that worked so well last year. It was amazing – the growth. It was an amazing word of mouth. I just have to make sure that as this grows that this continues to be Floyd County's Livestock & County Fair.

Ms. Wallace said I am glad you mentioned that. We have looked at many different models. One of the tough questions is “who gets the money?” First of all the reality is for anytime in the foreseeable future there is not enough money to cover expenses. But it is a fair question. We want to make sure all the represented groups and the people of Floyd County are benefitted, including economically. There are different models and that is currently what we are working on in the planning meetings with the board. We want to find a model that is sustainable as we go forward. Pittsylvania County for example is totally private and that county is happy with that. Franklin County is all public and donations and county funds sustain that one. Others are hybrid. We want to make sure that whatever we start with we can sustain over the years.

Vice Chairman Turman stated that the one in Carroll County is held on the Recreation field, which is county property so they fund that over 3 days.

Ms. Weddle said they have carnival rides and that is a lot of income for them.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch agreed and said that is what they do in Dublin too and at a lot of county fairs across the country. We did hold ours at the Recreation field the first couple of years.

Ms. Weddle said when it first started it was the 175th birthday of Floyd so when they started it was the community of Floyd celebrating what we are and what we have plus the agriculture component to it and trying to bring that all together. That core still exists.

Supervisor Yoder said I know what your budget is and it is amazing what you have accomplished. You are working magic. It is impressive what you are able to do with very few funds.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch said it has always been a public-private partnership. That is the legacy it started with and it is going to continue because the public wants to know that this is their county fair.

Supervisor Yoder added at some point I would love for us to become partners with and being a funding source for this. It is one of the ways we brand Floyd County.

Chairman Clinger said this could be brought up during the budget work session today.

Vice Chairman Turman said he is glad to see county fairs coming back because they were about to die out. It is part of a tradition that should be kept alive.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch said she remembers the first fair and how excited everyone was to see something like that.

Supervisor Yoder said there is a movement all over the country of people wanting to see where their food comes from. They want it to come from someone who is ethical and clean. They don't want to go out and do the work but they want to see what is going on.

Ms. Wallace agreed and said there are so many nontraditional methods of farming that people want to learn about while we honor our traditional farming methods.

Supervisor Yoder added, "Floyd is perfect for it." We are right by so many areas that are not farming communities but are becoming really interested.

Ms. Wallace said I think we can be unique enough and special enough that people will want to come to our fair.

Supervisor Yoder said last year he sat at the welcome booth with Pat Sharkey for a good part of the day. I was amazed at the number of people who drove more than an hour to come. Floyd has its own brand. People recognize that. When you start talking about food, people think fresh, wholesome, and clean. We have an advantage in some ways. We have a brand that can be sold.

Ms. Wallace added our water too. When people find out that our water doesn't flow in from anywhere they are amazed.

On a motion of Supervisor Turman, seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the resolution in support of the Floyd County Fair (Document File Number 865).

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – aye
Supervisor Gerald – aye
Supervisor Yoder – aye
Supervisor Turman – aye
Supervisor Clinger – aye

Agenda Item 6.d. – Mr. David Clarke, Virginia Department of Transportation – Mr. Clarke stated we have had another month dominated by weather events and we've been dealing with those and the aftermath. Hopefully this is the last and this month we can get back to regular things. We had the snowstorm in February, followed by thawing and rain. I'm sure you heard from your constituents because the gravel roads became quite a mess not only in Floyd but also in Montgomery County. Brush Creek Road, Sowers Mill Dam Road, and Thunderstruck Road were all really bad. The list goes on and on. We spent a lot of time just trying to get those back in shape. Sometimes there wasn't a whole lot we could do because the more equipment you put on the worse it gets. You just have to let it dry out.

Some of the things mentioned last time like Sunny Ridge Road and Walnut Creek Road we were able to get to. We are still working on getting the final part of headwall put on the pipes on Hope Road that got washed out in the flood back in the fall. Other than that there are no other major maintenance items.

There are a couple of construction items that we are proceeding with. We are starting to work on Vaughns Mill Road, an unpaved road project. We will do some tree cutting and grading work. Alum Ridge Road is a paved road project that is on the six-year plan. That is still going through design and a little bit of negotiating on right-of-way. Right now we are looking at a December advertisement for that project. We are hoping to have a citizens' information meeting, something informal, maybe contacting a couple of property owners. We want to let everybody know, before the trucks move in, what the plan is for that. I will keep you updated.

I will be back later this month so we can do the Six-Year Plan Public Hearing. We will present a draft. There is room to put another small unpaved road project on there. We are probably going to reduce the limits on a couple of the ones we had before. We will have the public hearing first, and then decide with you.

Supervisor Gerald pointed out that Horse Ridge Road and Indian Valley Road need work on potholes. Sumpter Road needs gravel. Some of the people over there have hauled gravel themselves. Are the asphalt plants open yet?

Mr. Clarke replied that they are just now starting to be able to get some hot stuff. We are just trying to keep up.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch was contacted by a constituent about a school bus that travels Wild Cherry Road, which is off Laurel Creek Road. As I understand it, there is a culvert about ready to wash through. They don't know how a bus has been able to go over it all this time. It is in the straightaway. I guess it is the freezing and thawing. Please check that one out since a school bus travels on it.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch added also Rt. 615 going into Rogers Road is a major accident waiting to happen. While it is not in our county, Floyd residents from Little River, Courthouse, and Locust Grove travel that road every day. If you are not paying attention you are going to go flying into the other lane.

Mr. Clarke replied that our maintenance manager drives that road everyday too. He is well aware of it.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch expressed her appreciation for all the road work that has been done.

Vice Chairman Turman said I know it's the weather. Halls Store Road and Moles Road have a lot of potholes that need to be machined.

Mr. Clarke replied that he would look at those roads and see when he thinks the earliest time the machines can be put on the roads without doing more damage.

Vice Chairman Turman also mentioned that a culvert was stopped up which is located near his springhouse. I have 3 big oak trees up at my building and the last storm took one of them out. I had to cut it up before the school bus came through. Would the state help me get the trees down?

Mr. Clarke explained that the trees would have to be on the right-of-way before the state could do anything. We can trim stuff that hangs over the right-of-way. I will take a look at them.

Vice Chairman Turman said it breaks my heart to cut them but it has become a safety issue. If the state could limb them, I will get the main part.

Supervisor Yoder said Jack's Mill Road still has a big hole in it on one side about 2' deep. I have been getting calls from the Radford/Cypress/Walnut Knob area, across the Parkway on the Franklin County side.

Mr. Clarke responded I think they have worked on Radford Road and Cypress Road. But if they did it early in the month, they might need work again.

Supervisor Yoder asked if Floyd County crews maintain Walnut Knob Road since the majority of it is in Franklin County?

Mr. Clarke answered probably so. I can't remember specifically, but we have agreements all over the place where it might be technically in another county but it is hard for them to reach and maintain.

Supervisor Yoder said I didn't know what to tell the folks who live down there because the road starts in Floyd County and goes into Franklin County.

Mr. Clarke said he would look into it and find out who maintains that area.

Supervisor Yoder said that when he ran a call for the Rescue Squad on Goose Creek Road and Griffith Creek Road towards Shawsville, they weren't sure they would be able to make it out of there. Those roads need some machining. I have been impressed with the winter weather crews. They have done a good job each time we had a weather event.

Chairman Clinger said he appreciated the patchwork done on Rt. 8. I don't have anything major because I know you will address them as you can. Are you getting gravel from Floyd yet?

Mr. Clarke answered that he wasn't sure where they were getting gravel from.

Chairman Clinger asked if there were any updates on the sidewalk up to the high school?

Mr. Clarke replied we might want to talk about this for the six-year plan and a little bit right now too. At one time the County talked about doing a Safe Routes to School grant for that.

I said you can do that but you can also do it with secondary construction which would be easier. But when I saw the latest allocations for that, there are a lot more small projects than I thought. It might not be a bad way to go. For one thing it is tough administratively for us to build a sidewalk on a school-type of road simply because it is not really right of way. So we are going to have to figure out an easement or right of way. I can do it on a regular road because that is our right of way. But school roads are school property and we just have an agreement that we will maintain a school road for the school. It is not VDOT right of way. Putting in a sidewalk we would be doing work off of VDOT property. There is all types of liability and administrative issues that come into play. So Safe Routes to School might be a better way to go. It is not really a cost issue. When we had people doing sidewalks in town we thought that might be a good way to go. But I think we will run into right of way things. I looked at a couple of other things. Going from the corner up to the school would not be a problem. But some of the other roads could be a problem because there is not a good place to build sidewalks adjacent to the road.

Chairman Clinger said I do want to continue moving forward. Do we need to do a Safe Routes to School grant?

Mr. Clarke replied that he would look into the application process. I think Safe Routes to School bypasses the right of way issue somehow. If the process takes a long time we will look at a quicker way to do it, but if it is timely enough that might be a better way to go and it wouldn't cost you anything out of your secondary funds.

Chairman Clinger asked Mr. Clarke to investigate this and to get back to County Administrator Morris on his findings.

Supervisor Yoder asked if there was a difference going up Baker Street to the high school and Oak Hill Drive which goes up to Floyd Elementary School. Oak Hill Drive has houses along the street.

Mr. Clarke confirmed that VDOT has right of way on Oak Hill Drive.

Supervisor Yoder said then maybe two different sidewalks could be put in. One to the elementary school and one to the high school.

Chairman Clinger said maybe we could do the one to the elementary school with secondary roads and the one to the high school with Safe Routes to Schools funding.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch said both sidewalks are needed.

Mr. Clarke said he would seek recommendations from Salem staff who deal with this on a regular basis.

Chairman Clinger asked the County Administrator if she were aware of any road issues that needed to be discussed.

Ms. Morris said that next to Barberry Road there is a tree that has fallen into a field over a creek. It is on private property but has stopped up a culvert. The property is owned by Mr.

Lawrence Wood, since he is 99 he probably hasn't driven out that way. Water stays backed up there all the time. Is there anything you can do?

Mr. Clarke said he would look at it and see what they can do.

Agenda Item 8. – Old/New Business – Closed Session – Expansion of Business §2.2-3711 A. 5.

On a motion made by Supervisor Yoder and seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to go into closed session under and A.5, Discussion concerning a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community.

Supervisor Gerald – aye
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – aye
Supervisor Yoder – aye
Supervisor Turman – 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 Gerald – aye
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – aye
Supervisor Yoder – aye
Supervisor Turman – aye
Supervisor Clinger – aye

On a motion of Supervisor Yoder, seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt the following certification 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 property in accordance with Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph 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.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – aye
Supervisor Yoder – aye
Supervisor Gerald – aye
Supervisor Turman – aye
Supervisor Clinger – aye

Agenda Item 6.e. – Mr. Rob Glenn, Blue Ridge Center for Chinese Medicine (BRCCM) – Mr. Shannon Zeman said that he was on the Board of Directors for BRCCM. He has been involved with them for several years. I started out as a patient. I had a bad knee for years. I saw the good that they did. Along that path there was another gentleman I worked closely with over the years with Floyd County Cares and Medical Charities. He was a mutual friend of myself and Rob Glenn. I met Rob and realized he brought a lot of good things to BRCCM and it was a blessing to have him there and his leadership. I wanted to come with him this morning and introduce him to you. He is the owner of RG Research. He is also the Chairman of the Board of BRCCM. He will tell you a little bit about our Garden Project and how it is going. He is a good man.

Mr. Glenn said we have so much going on at the center that it was high time that I come and brief you on what we are doing. Things are going so much better than we had planned. I apologize for not having been here before. I was asked 3 years ago to come and assess the Blue Ridge Center for Chinese Medicine and determine whether it should close, or whether it should continue, and if so, how. Its founder left the Floyd area and went back home, which is I think, Michigan. The organization had to decide where to go from here.

The organization has 4 parts to its mission:

- 1) Health care;
- 2) Physical exercise;
- 3) Education to the public;
- 4) Use and expansion of Chinese medicinal herbs.

I can tell you when I started this 3 years ago I didn't know anything about Chinese medicine. I can tell you as I stand here today I still don't know anything about Chinese medicine. But it has helped a number of people so it appears to me to be something that is very much needed. When I looked at the organization, the thing that jumped out at me is the one part of the mission that was not really being focused on was the Chinese medicinal herbs. As I started looking into that I found out that there is a huge demand for them and a very, very scarce supply. Why would that be? 99% of the herbs in the United States are imported from China. As we all know from what we see and hear on the news, Chinese pollution – water and air – is terrible. The plants and the quality of them show it. There are approximately 30,000 licensed Chinese practitioners in the United States. They are very disappointed with the product from China which is inferior. Delivery times are unpredictable and the cost has gone up, up, up.

Ten years ago when this organization was founded a Chinese medicinal herb garden was planted with approximately 50 herbs. There are, as best as we can tell, about 500 different Chinese herbs that can be planted in the United States. These 50 were chosen by the Floyd practitioners with a consultant from New York. So far we have created a sister organization, if you will, that is called the Appalachian Herb Growers Consortium. We received a little over

\$300,000 of private sector investment from here in Floyd. We have received 2 Tobacco Commission grants. The first one was \$152,000 and the second one for this year was \$196,000. We have also applied for a grant from ARC for \$125,000. We have invested about \$750,000 in the project I am telling you about. When that really hit me was when I thought the Board needs to know about this.

We began this project with the idea that we would do 3 test groups of 10 farmers each over a 3 year period, taking it slow, seeing how things went, how we needed to adapt. Well, the very first year we had 50 farmers sign up. Right now we have 21 more on a waiting list. I do not know how many we can accommodate. It is going to be a balance between our infrastructure at the center and our staffing and so on and so forth. That was a real shocker to me. I thought 10, 10, and 10 made a lot of sense. Fifty has kept us scrambling. But I am amazed at the interest and the knowledge that these farmers have. These are what you would refer to as high-value crops. Part of our original mission was not only to grow more herbs but to involve the farmers in Floyd County in the growing of these herbs so as to help increase their income. From the very beginning it has been an economic development project, an agriculture-based economic development project. It may also grow into an agritourism project.

We have had more than I can count people come out to see what we are doing and how we are doing it. Curiously I will tell you this is the first time in my career I've ever run across something quite like this. I would tell you in short that this project is noncompetitive. What in the world would that mean? Back to the supply and demand. We cannot supply enough of these herbs. So somebody calls us from the State of Washington, which they have, and want to be involved, no problem. If we have 100 more farmers here in Floyd who want to be involved, no problem. We can't grow enough.

There are a couple of things that are unusual about this that are going to require some patience and learning on our part. Most of these plants are perennials. Not what the majority of farmers would be used to, which are annual crops. Plant in the spring and harvest in the fall. These plants derive their value from the root. So taking 2-3 years to have that plant mature is the hard part – the planting and waiting for 3 years – when a farmer is used to planting and harvesting in a few months. Also curiously, the longer you let these plants grow, the more potent they become. You could wait 5 years, 10 years to harvest them depending on the farmer's choice of want or need of additional income. If the farmer didn't need additional income this year, there is every reason in the world to wait until next year to harvest it.

Well speaking of plants we have 13,000 plants in the ground right now. In 2016 we will add an additional 39,000 plants. They are easy to grow, almost weed like in structure, and they cannot be grown effectively in a mono-cropping scenario. For example, we couldn't pick one of these plants and grow an acre of them. It just doesn't work that way. The model we are using right now are beds of 4' by 100' with about ½ dozen different herbs in that one bed. We have last year grown 30+ plants on the farmers' land and determined that was too many. We have gone back and picked out the highest-value crops. We have narrowed things down to about 18-20 that will go on farmers' land. We are doing some testing with about that many more.

Our basic infrastructure is in place. We have 3 greenhouses now, one of them thanks to Shannon. He was the donator of one. We have our processing center up and running and we

have a certified food grade kitchen. We did our test harvest these past few months and sent a dozen finished product samples to about 30 Chinese practitioners across the country to get their feedback. So far the freshness of a locally grown crop, if you will, has really blown their minds. I have mentioned to you that we've got about 30,000 licensed practitioners in this country. We can't possibly supply even a fraction of that total if we had 150 farmers partnering with us on this. I have every reason to believe that the project will go very well. Another thing that is very curious is these practitioners were surveyed and they are willing to pay a premium over what they were paying China. Now what is going to happen in China? I don't know. It is predicted that China will come and try to buy up a project like ours. We are not interested in that at all. China has its own problems. If you think about it they have 1 billion more people than we do. It is just unimaginable. Our market is the United States. Our number 1 market is this area, this region. There are enough practitioners in the Asheville/Floyd/Piedmont, NC area to probably take everything we could produce. So we are not quite sure yet how we will tell somebody politely, "No, we can't sell to you." But that will be a nice problem to have.

I want to leave you with just a couple of things here. Our project has been featured on National Public Radio, which sounded like a really good idea at the time. But the phone has been ringing off the hook. People have been wanting to come out and see our process. What we've had to do is tell them as politely as we can, "We're a very small group and we don't have a PR director, so it really is not possible for us right now to accommodate the number of people who want to see what we are doing." The same thing happened with the Associated Press. My hometown is in North Carolina. I got a call from my father one night and he said you are in the paper here. The Associated Press article went all over the world.

Our largest goal is to be successful with this project and to have Floyd and Chinese medicine be synonymous with excellent service and a superb herb medicine product. I think we will be well on our way in about 2 more years. We will harvest our first real crop this fall and go through some testing again to make sure the crops are superior to what anybody can buy anywhere else. This puts us on the cusp of a change that is taking place that not many people know about. It is called collaborative medicine. Some people call it integrative medicine. Our preferred description is collaborative. That is western medicine and Chinese medicine coming together under the same roof to practice medicine and serve patients. We have such a clinic as close as Duke. John Hopkins is one. Mayo Clinic is one. Cleveland Clinic is another. This is a new trend. One of our "to do" items is to go visit Duke and learn more about what they are doing with their collaborative medicine. And it is possible that Floyd could have the first rural collaborative medicine clinic in the country. That is a lofty goal, but we are working on that. I appreciate your time. I hope I have made some sense here. The biggest thing to remember is helping farmers in Floyd County earn more money is a foundation of this project.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch said you are in my district and I am alum of BRCCM. I am one of the people who used the collaborative medicinal approach. A number of years ago my western doctor felt compelled to allow me to use my choices treating what I had and I was probably one of the first folks who used the 10 year old crop when it was coming off. I drank some of that tea. I am firmly behind BRCCM and everything that it is doing. In my mind Floyd has the ability to be a leader in health care both alternatively as well as traditionally. I think we have the land available. I think we have the space available. I think something like this rural collaborative clinic whether it be in association with Duke or John Hopkins or a Mayo or a

Cleveland or forms on its own is an amazing thing. I believe you are probably outgrowing the area where you sit right now. Is the kitchen in the original house or the secondary house?

Mr. Glenn answered that it is in the original building.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch asked if the processing was in a new structure.

Mr. Glenn replied that it is an addition to the existing structure. We went down. We had a huge basement area with 9' ceilings and used a portion of that.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch said I think this is wonderful. I am remiss in that I have not been back out, which I guess is a good thing that I haven't needed anything. I applaud everything that has been going on. This is a boon. Maybe my farm which is a stone throw from your facility, might be available as some of our tree crops come off, we might be interested in doing something in this as well. We have been farming for over 30 years on the ridge. I'll come by and visit.

Mr. Glenn responded we would love to have you as one of our growers.

Supervisor Yoder said as a farmer in Floyd I appreciate the support for local folks, the economic development side of this is real important because sometimes it is hard to make a living farming, but it is our traditional way of living in Floyd. We live on a farm that goes back generations in my wife's family. They grew apples. They had a big orchard and they took apples to Roanoke. It was a three day trip in a horse and wagon to get apples to Roanoke. It is amazing to know what has gone on in this county over the years and the people of Floyd found a way to make a living through farming. This is the next step to find a way to make a living.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch asked if all the farmers growing right now are in Floyd or do you have them regionally, like some in Franklin?

Mr. Glenn said that is a great question. All but 4 are in Floyd. The Tobacco Commission is very insistent that we expand throughout the tobacco region. Our argument is that we need to have a hub that is fully functional and grounded here in Floyd before we get too far out. That question always comes up.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch said Franklin and Patrick seem to me to be the next general extension. They are neighboring counties and are part of the tobacco region. Some of the mountainous part of Franklin mimics what we have here. I don't know that you want to get pass 220 East because that is a whole different growing region.

Vice Chairman Turman asked if a farmer wanted to get started what do they have to do?

Mr. Glenn answered through one of the grants we have a walk-behind tractor. All they need to do is till 3 of these 4' by 100' areas. We provide the seedlings that have been grown in the greenhouse. This past year our staff planted all of them. In the future the farmers will be very participative and do the planting themselves. Some are going to try planting from seed. I worry about that a little bit. We will try that and see how it works.

Vice Chairman Turman asked if this was like a ginseng product?

Mr. Glenn replied, "Very similar. It's a good example." That's a good example people can identify with. You'll see at the Farmer's Market this spring a number of these plants that people buy just because they are flowering plants and they are beautiful.

Vice Chairman Turman said I was going to ask you about the bee population. Would it be something good for helping the bees?

Mr. Glenn said, "Absolutely!" We are very fortunate to have a staff member, Adam Fisher, who has a bee farm. He was kind enough, unbeknownst to me, to bring 3 hives over and put in our garden. That is a tremendous help in having these plants grow their best.

Supervisor Yoder said the County Fair folks were here earlier today and I think this would be a good fit. I serve on the advisory board for the County Fair. There are a lot of traditional farmers, especially beef cattle which Joe and I both do, you have a lot of people doing that but there are other things going on in the county whether it be organic farming, vegetable farming, or growing what you are doing. I would love to see some of those things get tied into our Agriculture Fair so people in the county could know that it is a very diverse farming community here.

Mr. Glenn enthusiastically agreed and said we have been on the tour that the Tourism Council has put together for the last 2 years.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch added when I went to BRCCM it was in a house on Thunderstruck Road. How BRCCM has managed to build bridges into all different facets of our Floyd community is a testament to what works. I am thankful that Jason Redinbo laid the groundwork and foundation to everything that has managed to come. And to all the folks who have come on since and the very dedicated board members that have helped shepherd BRCCM along. It is very gratifying and I am very proud to have it as part of Floyd County's economic team.

Mr. Glenn thanked Supervisor Kuchenbuch for her kind words. He said he has two requests. I am not here to ask for money. We would not be where we are today without the work Ms. Lydeana Martin has done to assist us. I don't know what is customary, but in whatever way Lydeana could be honored and thanked for what she has done, please do. You have a fantastic asset in Lydeana. Secondly, our biggest struggle is not getting grants. It is coming up with match money. It has become ridiculous. I can understand the concept. If you want some of my money, you should be able to prove to me that you have some skin in the game too. I understand that. But most of the grantors now are moving towards 100% match. If I had \$100,000 I wouldn't need to be asking someone for \$100,000. Now I am in a predicament for example I've got to need \$200,000. Writing the grant, being selected, we can do that and do it well. But as you are out and about with the other powers to be that makes these policies and decisions, you could help us by mentioning this increasing use of increasingly high percentage matches really hurts the little organizations. It is not hurting the big ones at all. Thank you very much for letting me be here today. I look forward to visiting with you in the future.

Agenda Item 8. – Old/New Business continued – Ms. Morris mentioned the new Animal Control system is working well. The Sheriff has 2 deputies hired and they are working already on staggered shifts so we have more coverage. One is working 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and the other is working 1:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. so there is a little overlap. Our part-time employee is still working. He is quite happy that he is not having to do on-call and weekend work. It is working well.

Supervisor Yoder pointed out that Fire and Rescue respond to a lot of calls that involve dogs and it would help if they knew who to call. Maybe this is something I should talk to the Sheriff about. The reason it came up is we were on a call at the fire department recently and there were animals and we didn't know who to call.

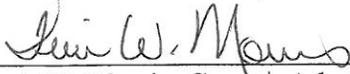
Ms. Morris said they should call dispatch. She will send an email to chiefs and captains telling them that Animal Control is fully staffed and they should call dispatch with issues involving animals.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch asked if there was any way that we could do a report that shows FY2015 and FY 2016 on the same sheet for Animal Control. It could be set up similar to the Building Inspector's report.

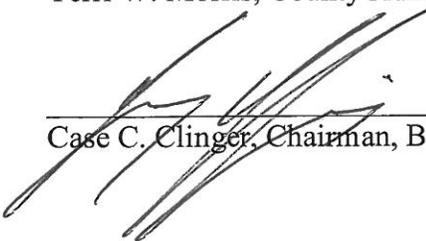
The budget work session started at noon. The Board of Supervisors looked line-by-line at changes from FY2016 and made preliminary decisions in the following Fund 1 departments:

Dept. #	Department Description	Comments
1101	Board of Supervisors	
1201	County Administrator	
1208	Auditors	
1209	Commissioner of Revenue	
1210	Assessors	
1213	Treasurer	
1301	Electoral Board	
1302	Registrar	
2101	Circuit Court	
2102	General District Court	
2103	Magistrate	
2104	County Attorney	
2105	Juvenile and Domestic Court	
2106	Clerk of Circuit Court	
2201	Commonwealth's Attorney	
3102	Sheriff	Asked County Administrator to contact Sheriff about possible change in salary request.
3204	Forestry	
3301	Correction/Detentions	
3401	Building Official	
3501	Animal Control	
3503	Medical Examiner	
3505	Emergency Services/Hazardous Materials	
4302	Buildings and Grounds	
5101	Local Health Department	
5201	Mental Health	
5305	Area Agency on Aging	
6401	New River Community College	
7102	Recreation	Asked County Administrator to check with Rec Board and see if they wanted to come before the Board of Supervisors again with their detailed priority list.
7301	Library	
8101	Local Planning Commission	
8106	New River Valley Planning District Commission	
8107	New River Criminal Justice	
8203	Skyline Soil Conservation	
8205	Miscellaneous Programs	Asked County Administrator to see if EDA Board had ideas on line items.

On a motion of Supervisor Yoder, seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and carried, it was resolved to adjourn to Tuesday, March 22, 2016 with a budget work session at 6:00 p.m. and regular meeting at 7:00 p.m.



Terri W. Morris, County Administrator



Case C. Clinger, Chairman, Board of Supervisors