

**AGENDA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
March 1, 2022**

1. Meeting called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Joe Turman, Board Room, County Administration Building.
2. Opening Prayer – led by Supervisor Cox.
3. Pledge of Allegiance – led by Supervisor Boothe
4. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Dr. Millsaps called the roll.

Supervisor Cox – present
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – present
Supervisor Bechtold – present
Supervisor Boothe – present
Supervisor Turman – present

It was determined that a quorum was present.

Dr. Linda Millsaps, County Administrator requested one change to the agenda for approval. Dr. Millsaps requested to add a closed session under § 2.2-3711 A.6 discussion or consideration of the investment of public funds, or competition or board bargaining is involved where it may public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be adversely affected, and that's particularly related to one contract. Chairman Turman asked the board to consider this addendum to the agenda and asked for a motion to approve.

5. Approval of the Agenda

On a motion of Supervisor Kuchenbuch, seconded by Supervisor Bechtold, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the agenda with the amended changes of adding the closed session under § 2.2-3711 A.6 for March 1, 2022.

Supervisor Cox – yes
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Bechtold – yes
Supervisor Boothe – yes
Supervisor Turman – yes

6. Presentations

a. Dr. John Wheeler, Superintendent of Floyd County Schools.

We don't have the House or Senate templates, obviously, with the way the world is, we have a couple of heavy lobbying groups that keep us informed as far as the superintendent. So, we'll see how those shake out. You can look at our budgets at this point, we don't have a whole lot to go on, we can have a balanced budget, but we still have some more needs than that balanced budget involves the same amount from the local that we got. And, you know, historically, this is our sixth budget. We don't get enough money for everybody. And what has happened historically, and you can go through our budget, during early years where there was a lot of money locally, that was the supporter for the raises. In our six years, we haven't had to ask for that money, we just basically have done it within what the state gives. So that's about two-thirds. That doesn't involve everybody, as we always do, everybody gets raise. So, this will be good. A big year that the initial state conversations, there's 4%- 5% in there right now for the raises, our budget has a 5% raise, and hopefully, 5% over the biennium is what the current budget sitting in Richmond says, and we'll see how that goes. There are a lot of real caveats to that budget, that there'll be details on how they're going to give us that money. So, we'll see where we are with that. The other part of it, the money they'll give, they're looking at the infrastructure, and that's a one-time pot of money, which we don't get a lot. We'll probably go after two roofs and get those up and do a few other little projects with that. But you know, we're probably at the same place we are every year at this point in the budget. We don't have the House or Senate. Yet whichever manner we go through to get kicked around. We have a meeting Thursday. We're in the same place we were last school board meeting. But you know, there are some other needs and the biggest is when we restructured the salary scales to make them work correctly. The mechanics you got to keep given a step and given the raises to be competitive. And because we don't get hit too hard by the teacher shortage most of the other 11 do. So, we got to stay competitive. And obviously, we're the largest employer in Floyd County, the largest employer for Floyd County residents, we want to make sure we stay as much ahead of inflation as possible, which can't happen every year. But that's where we are with the budget. Once we get more news on it, get a template, and it will be revised. We'll have you one by March 28. Hopefully. But everything elsewhere we're on a track like always the CCDC is not going to go over budget at all. Right now, we're still looking at probably, the end of April, or May, which will be for transition time. We got to find a place to store what we have, especially with welding and building trades, it's on loan basically from different places. That's just how that works. The school years going well. And we'll get through the next phase of the pandemic and see where we are, but like I tell our board, there's no question that these two years went to impact our budget, the cost of goods is over 150% higher now, for our consumables, we must increase those lines, we've already adjusted our fuel lines for the upcoming budget. And put money there because you don't want to run out there. So, we feel pretty good. We adjusted it for the new heating system. And that worked out well. And we just must increase a little more. But we are at five percent and that is going to be big, hopefully, we can get it, even if they say four, we're going to still work to try to get 5% raise, and we'll go from there. Did you have any questions?

Supervisor Kuchenbuch questioned if there is any way to recoup some of those funds with the infrastructure money. Dr. Wheeler replied that we don't know what the stipulations are yet to know. But once we know we will look at it. As you know the roof must be replaced within the next three years and we presently have the money to do it now. We will start those estimates, especially because estimates do not last very long. Once we get three more budgets together, House, the Senate, and then the final, Governor's budget it will be good. We are not getting a lot of money. We couldn't build a structure with that, that is for sure.

Supervisor Turman noted that has been brought up to him by a couple of parents the question of the school board meetings could also be held at Willis and Indian Valley. Dr. Wheeler stated that we can investigate that. Supervisor Turman asked if there were any other questions for Dr. Wheeler. Dr. Wheeler thanked the board of supervisors for their time.

b. David Clark, Resident Engineer, Virginia Department of Transportation

I've had Pulaski last night. Today Floyd and I have Giles tomorrow. Three board meetings in less than 48 hours. Well, I guess pipe cleaning was a little bit kinder to us than in January, but we still had a lot of weather-related things. But in between that we were able to do some pipe cleaning and some pipe repair in Goose Creek. For Stagecoach Run we completed some potholes. At Daniels Run, we were able to do some of the pipes as well. Still working on some of that block on Thunderstruck. They started; I don't know if they're finished with the ditch there at Ridgeview. I'd like to take a better look at some work that has been done. I'm not sure if they're finished or not. We're having a staff meeting with the superintendents this afternoon and Ricky Nichols and Will have that section and I'll ask him if they had other plans on their equipment in there. So that's at least halfway done. We are going to try to concentrate on some ditching here in the next few months. We'll probably put together a residency-wide ditching crew. So, it will not hit any one area too hard. Each county has its unique ones for the county if you're not doing ditch and you're doing gravel, or road maintenance it's always a trade-off. So, we're going to try to concentrate on ditching mainly, maybe we have to get off the gravel roads for a little while and get some of the ditching done. But we're also going to do a lot of patching here in the next few months because we have the overlay schedules coming up. And I don't have that list yet. But we'll have an overlay schedule of hop-lite mix overlays, post-primary, and secondary service treatment. And then that preventative maintenance of a seal or latex, there's usually not much of that. I'll have that list for you. But our secondary road construction project for this summer will be Silverleaf. And we're still in the early stages of design on that. That's all I have as far as updates. Again, we are just trying to get as much of the maintenance work between weather events for February.

Supervisor Cox thanked Mr. Clark for all the hard work and thanked him for the attention to the email that was sent. Mr. Clark continued to state he still had a couple of residents ask for some more gravel and road maintenance. Mr. Clark replied that there will be more gravel as the spring wears on. Supervisor Cox noted that he will contact the residents and let them know.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch discussed the issue on Route 8, and there was another accident last Wednesday. A car careened off the side of the road between Rock Church and State Route 602 Laurel Ridge Mill Road. It was a very severe accident. Supervisor Kuchenbuch questioned if there is a need to speak with our compatriots in Montgomery County about lowering the speed limit. But emphasized something needs to be done. Supervisor Kuchenbuch also noted that the folks on Silverleaf are very happy to hear those things are moving ahead and She appreciates that as well.

Supervisor Bechtold stated thank you to Mr. Clark for all the hard work and stated that she knows he is aware of all the potholes and ditching and everything else and will get to them when time allows.

Supervisor Boothe noted his appreciation for the work that everyone's done and the attention to the things that were brought up previously. Supervisor asked if there were any updates on the signs that are going in. Mr. Clark replied that the same crew that does the concrete work will work on that as well. Supervisor Boothe then requested a new schedule from Mr. Clark. As well noted, the crews have done a great job this year and whatever they did after our first snow showed drastic change and greatly noticed and appreciated it, much better.

Supervisor Turman shared that he is grateful for all the hard work and wants to thank Mr. Clark and the crew.

c. Kevin Sowers, Director of Public Safety – Stream Gauges

There is a new flood sensor program and we tried to get them previously, but they were extremely expensive I believe around \$160,000.00. Since then, there has been updated technology through I-Flow and we have been pre-approved with a grant through Homeland Security. The cost would be about \$6000.00 each with a yearly cost of \$1022.00 for all. This will help as far as getting good data for Emergency management and would eliminate the need to drive 45 minutes or make several calls to different people in different districts and areas asking what is going on. There are other benefits, and Lydeana Martin would be better to explain those. Mr. Sowers stated that the annual fee would cover service to transfer data back and forth. Multiple groups will be getting this data like Homeland Security and USGS. This will also help with our first responders that are responded to calls into these areas.

Lydeana Martin, Director of Economic Development

So, to continue, I just wanted to go over a couple of things, we have two types of water risks. Here we have flash flooding and drought. And flash flooding, of course just means happens super quick. So, every minute you can add to the warning, the more you're going to help your residents and your public, your first responders. Just a reminder of the last significant flood we had in 2015, you know, we had nearly 50 houses damaged, they were mostly in that corridor and the central part, along Little River and its tributaries were highlighted in red, just to kind of give you a sense of the area that was affected by that. Why that's significant is Floyd County is part of three watersheds. If everybody knows we're at the top of the watershed, all water flows out. So, you can see that most of the county is in the upper new watershed. So that's what the little river is, it goes to the New River. The reason this is important is that little northern tip that's in the Roanoke River watershed or where two of the three rain gauges that we have in the county are, so they don't feed information to the core part of the county. So, I know I'm mixing and matching here. We're talking about stream gauges today, but I'm just mentioning rain gauges, because in the future if we have the opportunity to get some of those, I just wanted you all to be aware of that need as well. So of course, string gauges and rain

gauges are the two early warning systems. There are no rain gauges in Floyd County whatsoever. The closest one is Grayson town, on the Little River. And it's good that it's on a Little River even though it's downstream from us. So, what that means is once we get stream gauges in place here, we start to get data collected here and we can compare, if it were 11 feet there, and 12 feet there, then we'll start to be able to use that older data because we can see the correlation. We should get our money's worth out of these things. Like I say in Grayson, Pulaski County just to give you a sense of the data that it gives you can see kind of hourly data. Maybe every 15 minutes. I know the rain gauges are. But then you can also see if it's been raining for three days, the cumulation that's happened. So, it's very useful. So, these are stream gauges that of course, Kevin is talking about. Again, rain gauges, as I mentioned, there are three in Floyd County that is connected. Well, there are many rain gauges in Floyd County, a lot of people have rain gauges, but what I'm talking about is rain gauges that are electronically connected to the National Weather Service to get real-time feedback on where it's raining and what the intensity level is. So, the only one that's in the Little River watershed in the county is the one set at the fire station. It's a USGS rain gauge. So again, in the long run, it would be great if you know if we got had more rain gauges around the county, especially in that, you know in well, if you advance the slide, I think I have one on this. This is the one in Willis as I mentioned, okay.

Kevin Sowers added that the stream gauges discussed are designed to have the rain gauges added to them. A cost estimate has been requested but not received yet.

Lydeana Martin continued to discuss and refer that this is a review for most of you but new to some. Lydeana stated that drought is another water disaster that we are very vulnerable to. Twenty years ago, many of you all remember 1998 to 2002 how bad that got and hundreds of households here lost their springs and wells and ended up having to do replacement wells. Some had to do more replacement wells because they had to go down 1000 feet. We have very complex geology in Floyd County. Our groundwater is not in a big pool underground like it is in some places, our water exists in fracks and it is different everywhere. Plus, the fact that all of you know that no rivers flow in here and our only water is groundwater and what comes from the sky. So, our water on average is only about 20 years old. In eastern Virginia, it's measured in the 1000's years. So, we are very vulnerable, and we have a thin margin when it comes to ours.

Kevin Sowers interjected, everybody referred to aquifers. They figured out we only have a few and they were not massive like we thought they were at the time, back in the 90s. It goes back to these fissures as you can drill a well right here and go 60 feet and hit 50 gallons a minute. You move over 20 feet, and you go 1000 feet and not half a gallon a minute. We have recently been in a drought. Most people are taken in with the snow and water we've had, but when PSA runs a certain well in town, during drought season and I hear from people I have no water to the house. That is my gauge. So, we have to schedule stuff around when the pumps are running. It only happens when we're down to a certain drought.

Further discussion ensued with Mr. Sowers, Mrs. Martin and the board ensued regarding the possible placement of the gauges around the County to optimize results.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch asked if the grant received specifically had the county for six gauges per the grant. Mr. Sowers informed the board it was two, to begin with, but was able to acquire four more for a total of six. Supervisor Kuchenbuch then asked if the gauges will be connected to the National Weather Service? Mr. Sowers stated that VDEM to start with the rapid flows and believes since it is a federal project will most likely be connected to the National Weather Service as well.

On a motion by Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch and unanimously carried out, it was approved to move forward with the grand and the Memorandum of Understanding of the six stream gauges through VDEM.

Supervisor Boothe – yes
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Bechtold – yes
Supervisor Cox – yes
Supervisor Turman – yes

Supervisor Kuchenbuch stated I would like to thank Kevin Sowers and Lydeana Martin and Dr. Millsaps as well for the commitment to the safety of our citizens and property. And just as you've said, Lydeana you've been doing this for 20 years trying to figure out how to gather data on water and it's just so very important to the county's future. So, I want to that all of you.

Closed Session under §2.2-3711 A.6

On a motion by Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch and unanimously carried it was resolved to go into closed session under § 2.2-3711 A.6 discussion or consideration of the investment of public funds, or competition or board bargaining is involved where it may public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be adversely affected, and that's particularly related to one contract.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Bechtold – yes
Supervisor Boothe – yes
Supervisor Cox – yes
Supervisor Turman – yes

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

Supervisor Boothe – yes
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Bechtold – yes

Supervisor Cox – yes
Supervisor Turman – yes

Supervisor Turman - At this time I'd entertain a certification motion as we discussed only the matters that we entered closed session to discuss.

On a motion by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, seconded by Supervisor Bechtold and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt the following certification.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Cox – yes
Supervisor Bechtold – yes
Supervisor Boothe – yes
Supervisor Turman – yes

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 under § 2.2-3711 A.6 discussion or consideration of the investment of public funds, or competition or board bargaining is involved where it may public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be adversely affected, and that's particularly related to one contract.

WHEREAS Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Board that such a 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.

This certification resolution was adopted.

On a motion by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, seconded by Supervisor Bechtold and unanimously carried it was resolved to certify that the Board only discussed the things in closed session that they entered into.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Bechtold – yes

Supervisor Cox – yes
Supervisor Boothe – yes
Supervisor Turman - yes

Continued Presentations: Eric Branscom, Commonwealth Attorney:

I guess I could bring you up to speed on one that just happened today. Do you remember the situation with Ms. Beaver, you got an ongoing case with one of the issues that are the psychological evaluation done by the defense, and when that happens, we can do one on our side. So, we're in the process of trying to get that done. The problem is with the pandemic and otherwise, the state cutting back on funding for those positions and the people available. We couldn't find anyone in the western half of Virginia that was willing to do it. The state hospitals wouldn't do someone on an outpatient basis. The judge didn't want to have her locked up. Because she'd been doing fine not being locked up. So, we're we finally found someone today that has popped up in Blacksburg. So that's a possibility, as well as we talked with defense counsel, which is Fred Kellerman. And we agreed that, if that doesn't work out, then we tried issuing an order to force one of the state hospitals to see her on an outpatient basis. Well, it's the I had some other things I was going to talk about. But I was wondering if y'all had any questions before we get in further with working on the cows. Fortunately, though, it's an ongoing case, I can tell you that that's it's the first time we've had to deal with something of that magnitude. One of the issues we find what we have is you put cattle in a cruel situation is that we've had large numbers of dogs we had to deal with, and we've had a large number of horses that we've had to deal with. But in both of those situations, you find rescue organizations that are willing to step up and not so much with cows. So, logistically, it's a little bit more of an issue. I predicted it would take probably at least six weeks to go through. And we are about two weeks in. We're due to be in court on March 17th. And then see where we go from there. The gentleman in question has already made indications that he intends to appeal if things don't go his way. So, we'll just do that one as it goes along. But fortunately, the weather's getting better. So, it's easier to take care of them this week. And they're in big fields where there hadn't been cattle before. So, I think that's helping with the overall situation.

Supervisor Boothe questioned if we were able to work out and find feed for the cows? Mr. Branscom replied, yes, we were able to find a gentleman up just over the line in Rock County, they had plenty of hay that he had been selling. So, he had fields that were available for us to use and fenced in. I was able to provide the trailers and some other people to help us gather the animals and get them fed. So, they're being taken care of now. We are just working our way through the system with that. We got more action going on today, there's another visit out there today because we try to do a document everything as we go along.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch asked, are you concerned about the farmer trying to do something with his cows that are now in the custody of the state? Or since it is so wide open. Mr. Branscom replied, one of the issues, that's a concern for us in any situation like this, where people are kind of unstable. There's no indication that he knows where they are now. They're kind of distinctive. So, I imagine if he saw them, he would be able

to figure out where they were, because of their condition, but other than that, I think that we're so far, we are doing okay. Of course, the people that have them are feeding them twice a day. Supervisor Boothe asked if the vet is still checking on them? Mr. Branscom stated that she is slated to go out there periodically and believes she has been there at least four trips now.

Mr. Branscom continued by asking, as he stated not being sure if there were a couple of people in his office who would qualify for hazard pay? I wasn't sure if they were included in that process. I just wanted to check with that. And there was one other thing I wanted to bring you all the attention about that in the courthouse. In general district court. I know that and I agree with the approach to have the department heads excluded from that. I think that makes perfect sense. The one thing I was going to say is that with the general district court, I think that if Mrs. King who's the general district court clerk was excluded on those grounds. If you might want to take another look at that. I wouldn't say absolutely one way or the other. But her situation is a little bit different from say, Ronda, as the clerk of the circuit court. Because she's more pointed, she's appointed by the judges. And she works under the judges, she doesn't have the freedom of running her office as the rest of the department heads would over their being elected officials. She's more at the whim of the general district court judge, Judge Duncan in this circumstance. So, depending on how you apply that definition, he might be more considered the person that would be the department head of that. That just might be worth a second look. Because I know that she doesn't have that kind of freedom that Rhonda has in running for office. So, I just wanted to bring that to your attention. that is the one bit of good news that I had. And you may already have seen this some of the records came through that court cost collection program last year, picked up quite a bit, and we were able to provide another \$13,000 to the county. I think the amount is \$13,436. doesn't solve all your problems, but maybe it'll help

Supervisor Boothe asked Mr. Branscom if he had heard any movement on the mental health part?

Mr. Branscom replied I would love to see that over here. And I know that Judge Williams is taking the lead on that, when I've seen him, told him to make sure to include us in that and we'll jump on board. I think ultimately, that would come to see whether it would be done at the general district court level with Judge Duncan. And so, it depends on what his schedule would be like for taking other things on here. But we desperately need that sort of approach. Because like we're seeing, even with this situation, we're dealing with cattle that I've seen in the past with animals, a lot of these situations involving animal hoarding are mental health situations. And all we have to deal with them is the criminal process. And it's very clumsy. We have so many of these things pop up that are more mental health than anything else. And the state has dismantled its mental health program ages ago, there's just not very much available for us. So, when we try to deal with things that way, it's haphazard, we have inconsistent results. We don't know most of the time whether we're going to like what we're dealing with. In the beaver case. We don't know if we can get someone to do an evaluation. I mean, an outpatient evaluation, which would be under the circumstances more appropriate because you're talking about somebody? Well, we haven't reached the final decision in the case. But in perfect fairness, she has

been out on bond from early on. And I know the judge's situation. So, I think to do the evaluation, we'd have to take her into custody. There's a fairness issue that we have to address. And I think that's an obvious free concern for the judge. And it's because we don't have resources, it's not a priority with the state. And so even though we have several different programs, we need to have a drug court, and use the court to kind of bring them together under one umbrella. And hopefully, we can get that going. But you're dealing with a different level with things, and you don't have a clear mandate from the state. That's why it's harder to get going. And I guess we're Judge Williams is facing a lot of his challenges.

Supervisor asked Mr. Branscom to keep Dr. Millsaps in the loop of information and noted there is such a need for mental health assistance and the jail system is not equipped nor qualified to address these individuals. Supervisor Turman agreed and reflected on his past experiences in law enforcement and the struggle the Sheriff's office has and still has in trying to help.

Supervisor Boothe shared that it may be advantageous to partner with New River Valley and build a facility here in Floyd. Supervisor Boothe continued and noted with his associations with community service he sees no issues with filling the beds and if the state will not do it a region needs to start looking at it. Something needs to be done. Supervisor Turman added that Fairview Homes is a perfect example of this and shared a success story of a gentleman who continues to live there and has the support therefore no longer has any legal issues and is doing well all around. The Board of Supervisors then thanked Mr. Branscom for his time.

8. Board Time

Supervisor Turman asked if any Board member has anything to share.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch stated that she wanted to report on the meeting she attended with the New River Valley Regional Commission with regards to an update on a regional discussion having to do with the shooting in Blacksburg and how managers and chief law enforcement will be getting together to talk about what can be done. And they felt that a regional approach should be taken to ensure Dr. Millsaps, and Sheriff Craig will be participating. Dr. Millsaps replied that she would be involved and noted that the first sit down is actually at the next manager's lunch and also shared this information with the Sheriff.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch continued, stating that every March we proclaim multiple sclerosis education and awareness month. As it is near to her heart as well as many folks that are suffering from MS in Floyd County and they appreciate that we do this.

On a motion of Supervisor Bechtold, seconded by Supervisor Kuchen Buch and unanimously carried, it was resolved to accept the Proclamation of March 2022 as Multiple Sclerosis Awareness and Education Month.

Supervisor Bechtold – yes
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Cox – yes
Supervisor Boothe – yes
Supervisor Turman – yes

Supervisor Bechtold - I'd like to spend a little bit of time discussing COVID updates and stuff. The New River Valley Health Department is declaring that the number of COVID cases in the New River Valley is continuing to plummet and the CDC is revising its mask guidelines to eliminate mandatory mask wearing in most facilities for most people. I would like to recognize the freedoms of our country and make masks optional, without any distinction between those who wear masks and those who choose not to that we all are free to choose what to do.

A continued conversation ensued among the Board Members with overall concern for those who may have compromised immune systems. As well as respecting those to choose how they would like to respond to mask mandates. The board asked for Dr. Millsaps to expound on any information she may have regarding this.

Dr. Millsaps – Reminded the Board that since we have more than 100 employees, we are still required to follow certain state mandates which are set by the Department of Labor and Industry. They had a meeting on February 16th to put out new guidance but with that, they also put it out for a 30-day comment period. Dr. Millsaps stated her preference would be to not change anything at this time and wait out the 30 days and proceed with guidance from the Department of Labor at that time.

6. d. Chris McNabb IT Manager update

Mr. McNabb updated the board on the ongoing meetings with Tech Square and the transitioning of software and especially about protection, mal-ware, and anti-virus applications and platforms. Mr. McNabb requested if he could seek the approval of Dr. Millsaps and Ms. Chiddo to make sure our security posture does not falter in between this long gap of meetings. Dr. Millsaps added, that in the past if the Board could give us a consensus to move forward today. Once the information is obtained by Chris, we will get an email out to the board and get an unofficial approval, and then when we have our next meeting, we will bring it back for a formal vote. But this will allow us to move forward.

12. County Administrator Report – Dr. Linda Millsaps

a. Tourism Summit –

Dr. Millsaps updated the Board of Supervisors on the recent Tourism Summit facilitated by the Virginia Tourism Corporation. Dr. Millsaps stated that it was a positive meeting and a pretty good consensus on the direction they want it to go. In addition, there will be a survey of about 3-40 community members and with the outcome of the survey be able to put together a five-year plan for tourism for the community.

b. Bear Meeting –

The first meeting via zoom, with regards to revision of the five-year bear management plan. Dr. Millsaps made sure to include on the call, was extending the season, and received some anecdotal information about people seeing larger packs, more breeding, and those kinds of things. Also, asked for some additional guidance about how to help people understand what you're supposed to do if there is a bear on your property or near your house, or even in your house. With the \$8000.00 bear-wise grant money, we are excited we ordered the bear-proof trash cans.

c. Grant Update –

Lydeana and Dr. Millsaps have been conversating about doing something grant-wise with the land that is between the back of the EMS station and the nursing home. There are about 5 ½ acres that is owned by the county and could make a pretty good site for some fishing and some other kind of natural habitat. So, we have decided to apply in the fall or late summer. As we get more information and a little bit more solid, we will be that back to you, the Board, and keep you all updated.

d. Meeting with Art Center Director –

Met with the new Art Center Director and discussed what his plans are. He and Dr. Millsaps are working on jointly a submission for the state grants that go to local governments. Dr. Millsaps reminded the Board members that they previously decided that all that money goes to the Art Center and is not divided out. Dr. Millsaps noted the Director of the Art was very grateful.

Dr. Millsaps then acknowledged Tabitha Hodges for all her assistance and hard work in stepping up and filling in with the Board of Supervisors meeting IT needs and website. Dr. Millsaps presented Tabitha with a gift card for appreciation.

Supervisor Turman, Supervisor Boothe, and Supervisor Kuchenbuch all voiced their appreciation as well to Tabitha for her hard work and assistance.

e. Hazard Pay –

Dr. Millsaps reminded the board that they had asked Kim to look at hazard pay for any folks that hadn't been considered. Dr. Millsaps addressed the document included in the packet which noted the identified employees which included Social Services.

Ms. Chiddo added that Chad did an extensive risk analysis and an assessment that was developed by the Department of Industry and labor. And he looked at the risk for each employee. He noted and wanted to make aware that he knows that there was teleworking and that those were considered at low risk and that others had to make field visits and were considered at medium risk. However, he wanted it noted that social service workers rotated on call, and I should know that one as well but responsibilities throughout the

health emergency and they continue to do so. He noted that they were assessed at a medium risk through the division of the department of industry and labor. This request does not include anybody in a supervisory role. Only workers who were actively employed at this time. So, I just wanted to make sure that you had heard that. And he made special notes. The other two, as Eric mentioned when he was here speaking, he did come to the office while I was doing this. And he did ask that one full-time person and one part-time person who he mentioned early could also be considered. So again, that's clarification from earlier. So, I put it down as I did the last hazard pay, and I broke them down by this same medium and low-risk assessment or determination.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch asked how many fell in the medium category, 13? Ms. Chiddo replied yes 13 at the medium category and revisited the positions are the responsibility of more face-to-face contact of Social Services with the community. Also, the question came up regarding the Commonwealth Attorney employees. Ms. Chiddo noted that she did not have a conversation with Mr. Branscom, he requested this during a past Board of Supervisors meeting They would be considered if we were being consistent with the others as low risk or less. Supervisor Turman questioned how much public contact they have. A continued conversation ensued about the risk determination factor created in the past and needing recollection of how each department was ranked. Supervisor Cox asked how much money is left in this account? Dr. Millsaps updated the board that there is \$230,481.00 of ARPA funds remaining. Again, further discussion of the job duties of the social service workers which Ms. Chiddo and Supervisor Boothe were able to clarify.

On a motion by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, seconded by Supervisor Bechtold and unanimously resolved to approve 13 Social Services employees hazard pay with five Family Services Specialist category at the \$4.00 rate and the other eight employees at the \$2.00 rate for a total of \$46,500.00.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Bechtold – yes
Supervisor Cox – yes
Supervisor Boothe – yes
Supervisor Turman – yes

The further conversation continued regarding the request of the two employees of the Commonwealth Attorney's office and hazard pay. It was agreed that this issue would be tabled until further information regarding job duties and risk determination can be clarified.

e. Retreat –

Dr. Millsaps reminded the board of the Retreat scheduled for Friday in Pulaski County Innovation Center. Kevin Byrd will facilitate the meeting and you have the agenda to review. Dr. Millsaps asked the board to respond to an email Mr. Byrd sent which will be visited during the Retreat as part of the opener. Dr. Millsaps gave the board the overview of the Retreat, Management reports, Steve Durbin will present for FOIA and closed

sessions responsibility, and so on. Also, lunch will be provided, and you also have the menu and asked the board to let us know what they would like so we may order it prior.

Supervisor Turman – Asked if anyone had anything else, if not he accepts a motion to adjourn.

On a motion by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, seconded by Supervisor Bechtold and unanimously carried it was approved to adjourn the meeting with the next scheduled meeting for March 29, 2022, at 7 pm.

Supervisor Turman – yes
Supervisor Boothe – yes
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Bechtold – yes
Supervisor Cox - yes

11. Adjournment

By consensus, the Board adjourned the meeting to March 22, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

* Some items were considered out of agenda sequence due to time and speaker availability.


Linda S. Millsaps, County Administrator


Joe D. Turman, Chairman, Board of Supervisors