

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
ADJOURNED MEETING  
FEBRUARY 22, 2010**

At an adjourned meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Floyd County, Virginia, held on Monday, February 22, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the County Administration Building, thereof;

PRESENT: David W. Ingram, Chairman (entered the meeting at 7:35 p.m.); J. Fred Gerald, Vice Chairman; Virgel H. Allen, Case C. Clinger, William R. Gardner, Jr., Board Members; Daniel J. Campbell, County Administrator; Terri W. Morris, Assistant County Administrator.

The Vice Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Vice Chairman called for the Public Comment Period.

Mr. Wendell Peters, Clerk of Circuit Court – I want you to look at my budget and tell me where I can cut it. The first line there, is an employee who has been here 38 years, an employee with 26 years and an employee with 10 years. One thing that I'm going to ask you to do and I've already gotten a call, as to why I asked for \$3800 for professional services, up from \$3500, that's \$300. Year before last my professional services was \$3850, there's not much odds of that going down. As far as I'm concerned I'd like to have the whole thing cut out. If I'm not in violation of such audit procedure, I think they shouldn't do so much daggone auditing. This is only the County portion, so you have to figure they're charging over \$10,000 to come up there and sit in my office for over a week. Sometimes two come and sit for a week. Lord knows what they're charging us for outside the office. But I don't know what I can do about it because it is mandated by the State. If they don't find anything wrong in an office for several years, they ought to keep their butts out of there and let us do our work. Excuse me, I shouldn't have said that. Every year, I have a problem that you want to cut my postage by \$100. You all are not doing anything but insulting me if you cut my postage \$100. Postage has gone up every year for 2-3 years and every year they want to cut our postage. It insults me and sets me on fire. I apologize. If we go on down to capital outlay, power supply. For a couple of years I've asked for \$4300 to put in a backup for my computers down there. Every time the power blinks, our computers go down, we have to call Richmond, it takes them 15-30 minutes to get them back up, if you can find anybody. I can't install them unless I have 220 current, which we don't have, so the question was why it was raised from \$917 to \$4300. Last year I could a budget cut in that line item from \$4300 down to \$917. This is what I'm getting at. Please don't nickel and dime me, all you're doing is insulting me and making me feel like I don't want to help you all. I hope every one of you realize that I've done all I know how to do to try to help with the budget cuts. I try to get money anywhere and everywhere that I can. If that's all we have to do is sit around and cut somebody's line items by \$100, somebody doesn't have enough to do or need something else to do. I've made every effort to get funds somewhere else. You go look at my equipment and then go through and look at everybody else's. I've got one desk that one of the ladies uses that is held together by two screws. I haven't asked for anything. Every time Ford or Shannon

goes to the surplus place, I think Shannon went last time, and he brought me two chairs. The wheels rolled off of one of them so it was a good thing he got me two. Go look at my files; I don't have any new files. As far as the ladies, I don't know how you feel about cutting someone who has been there ten years. If you've ever worked production, you would know that the highest cost is for employees. It takes forever to train an employee. You get them up where they can do the work and fill in other areas, you need to keep them. I have three ladies and myself. For example, one of the ladies had an accident a few weeks ago and broke her ankle, she's out. I'm in the courtroom, that's two of us. Joan's my backup for the court reporter when she's out, and she was a few weeks ago. So that's three of us. What are you going to do if somebody has a baby sick or nobody shows up? I guess we go to the courtroom and close the office, the public is not going to like that. You cut one of these people out and then what do we have? I hope you get my point. I have a fact sheet that I want to pass around about the cuts. We've already been cut by Mr. Wilder, Mr. Warner and Mr. Kaine. It also backs up to Mr. Gilmore. Best I remember, Mr. Gilmore started it all. This is just for your information, you can read it. The final paper came across the hotwire today. You can see that the Clerks are doing their best to try to find funding. It looks like the Senators and Delegates are doing their best to stop us. On page 2, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, it says that the House budget provides no additional funding for Clerks. Back up one paragraph. It says that the House appropriations eliminates the Comp Board funding entirely, but provides \$50 million for Sheriffs/Jails, restores 75% of the Commonwealth's Attorneys, Treasurers and Commissioners of Revenue are funded. See, they found a way to fund all of them, but where are the Clerks of Circuit Court? You don't see them anywhere on there. The Clerks try to fend for themselves. If you drop down to the next to last paragraph, we had Senate Bill 258. I asked Roscoe Reynolds to support it, he voted against me. That bill would have funded us, and I wouldn't be here talking. We couldn't get it through. I'm here to tell you that if you have ideas, please tell me. We work hard. We have backfiled or back scanned our deeds back to 1977. We started with 1996 so every spare minute we're doing something. Appreciate you listening to my thoughts. I'm elected by the County citizens to do my job and if I haven't gotten this budget as tight as I can, I don't deserve to be in office and you are insulting me by cutting things \$100.

Sheriff Shannon Zeman - I will thank you for taking a few minutes to listen to me. I know that I have a very large budget and I'm not going to get into the whole budget but I would like to defend my last year's budget since it has a lot to do with this year's budget. Today, I stopped to see Dan to let him know some good news I had gotten. Charles Poindexter, our Delegate, had contacted me by phone and let me know that the House, didn't get into exact numbers, but one issue that definitely been on my mind, is the ratio. As you know, currently, we have one officer per 1500 population. Governor Kaine's budget proposed 1:2000 which would give me 7.24 officers and they usually round. I have 10 patrolmen, 9 on the road and 1 supervisor so we would lose 3. The Governor's proposal was 1:1650, that brings us to 8.99, which I assume would be 9 positions so we'd only lose 1. Mr. Poindexter assured me that the House is going to keep it at 1:1500; I don't know what the Senate will do. This whole thing is awkward because we don't know what numbers we're working with yet. I feel like if I don't come down here and let you know how important this is now, it won't do me any good once the budget is done. That's the reason that I have presented a lot of things to you the way I have because if it does happen, we can address it during the budget process and not after. For what this is worth, I saw on the Channel 10 news tonight and they said that the House and Senate has

proposed \$50 million according to Wendell's number, but the news said \$180 million the House was going to restore and over \$200 million proposed by the Senate. It seems like all three of them are on the same page as far as public safety but we don't know how it will turn. I've been coming down here seven years as Sheriff and even before that when I was Chief Deputy. I'm like Wendell; I want to let you how hard, not only me, but my department, to save this County money. I'm not down here tonight speaking about the budget just from my standpoint, but my employees have encouraged me to come talk to you. I'll be honest with you, my employees sometimes feel that the Board doesn't take this situation serious and it bothers them. I've always told them that the Board has done a lot for us. This is a really critical time. Virgel asked me when I came in, how things were going. When I walked in this morning, we'd had a B&E this weekend that the victims allege over \$50,000 worth were stolen. The Chief Investigator is working one of the worst rape cases that I've seen in the 23 years I've been here. He worked on it all last week. Anyway, to tell you about some numbers. I want you to know that the 08-09 budget, the County's part, was \$725,000. The 09-10 budget that we're currently working in, the County's part is \$650,266 that is an 11.5% reduction. This budget that we're working under, I had a 7% cut from the Comp Board that was \$46,177. Any of these numbers I can give you more detail if you want it. The second cut, when the request from the County came out, I was asked to do a 10% cut, you all asked me, and I did it. It is 9.3%, \$56,694, which was the cars and Task Force; we cut them out for a year. The next cut was a State reduction in Aid to Localities for \$5463, I took that out of Asset Forfeiture money that we made and we tried to be thrifty and save it, but it has helped us through some hard times. The last cut was a State cut of 6.9% \$41,257. If you add all those up, that's \$153,718. If you take that from the \$650,266, that is a 31% cut that I'm working under. Two years is over 42% cut. If you take the \$153,718 out of the budget I'm working, I'm basically working under a budget of \$496,000. Why I bring that up? I feel like we're looking at what we used last year. I want you to know that 31% is a tremendous amount to cut, I don't know if the other departments cut the 10% that was asked of them or not. I did that and we talked about it and hoped it was a one year thing, because it backs me into the corner on this budget. I'll talk just a little about this budget that I proposed to you. It is over \$1 million vs. \$650,000. I know that the first issue that comes up is the request for four officers to add one per shift. I know you can't do that. I'll tell you why I asked. Those four officers, if we were to fix the public safety issue in Floyd County, these four would be justified and would meet the call demand. I hope you don't take this wrong, I feel like last year, I did what you asked me to do and you didn't help me, it hurt me and it makes it tough to be cooperative. That's why I asked for it, I know you'll deny it but I'll ask for it. With that said, if we don't include those four officers, it brings the budget back to \$842,000. If the State funds us and we don't lose any officers, my goal is to keep the number of people I have to try to maintain the amount of services. Today we're not providing the services that we did in the past, but we're maintaining with a minimum amount of overtime and this type of thing. If you take the four officers out of equation, if we're looking at people's budget and trying to do what we did last year, instead of looking at \$650,000, would you at least consider out of that cuts over the two years, would you restore some of those cuts? Really my budget is not that much of an increase. There are a couple of other options that I want you to work with. If I lose officers, I have some positions that I have no control over. The school currently funds the School Resource Officer. Don't get me wrong, the SRO program is 10-12 years old and has been very successful, we work well with the School Board and Dr. Arbogast. I have not discussed this with him, but I would like you to take that funding out of the school budget and put it in my budget so I would at least

have the ability if my budget is cut and I lose positions, that I could take that officer out of the school and back on the road. Another option depending on what happens. I feel it is more important to answer calls than to have an officer at the school even though this would be a tough decision. I mentioned last week about a County police department. I thought long and hard about this and I'm really serious about this situation. The Code is very clear on who can enforce the law in this community. If there is no County police, I can enforce it. The Code is clear on what it takes. If I don't have the personnel, I want you to know that I'm serious about the County overseeing that function. I guess I want to ask you, do you want this? You would have full control over it if that was the case. I don't see what you would have to gain and why you would want to do it. I've always tried to do anything that you've asked me to do, whether it was working the school zone in Indian Valley or having a trustee pull weeds around this building, I've always tried to do what you asked. But I can't answer 12,000 calls a year without the manpower. As I stated when we first started, maybe we're beating a dead horse; maybe they're going to fund these positions. But if they don't, something has got to give. I'll push to handle the civil, courts and jail and if I lose officers, I won't be able to answer 12,000 calls a year. My ultimate goal tonight was to stress to you the severity of this thing and I want you to know that we've taken a lot of cuts, going down to \$650,000 and I've worked with you. I would hope that you would at least put back what I cut to work with you to come up with those numbers. We have a way to go yet and I'll probably come talk to you again.

Mr. Douglas Phillips, School Board Chairman – I have had the opportunity to be in Richmond the last month on private business in January and the last week School Board business, along with other School Board members. I've talked to an awful lot of legislators in that two month period. It doesn't look good at all in Richmond for public schools. We continue to get more information and an e-mail I just got an hour ago, may show some changes in our favor. Any way that we look at it, there will be tremendous cuts for the students of Floyd County. What we have to do to address this situation is going to be something that I haven't seen in 22 years of serving on the School Board, neither did I see it when I sat on the Board of Supervisors years ago. We had trying times down through the years but I've never seen it like it is now. The School Board and my ultimate goal is to teach all of our students, cross section of life and subjects where we're in such a global economy, when they leave the high school and go to the work place or college, they'll be able to fit in with other students all over the world. It is very much a global economy now and we have to continue prepare them to the best of our ability. It is just not good out of Richmond this year, at all. March 13 is the day that everything should be final. To try to work on a budget and what we might have to cut before that, would be premature on our part. It would get parents, employees, other people upset. We chose not to address the situation until we know exactly what we're going to get from Richmond and then we would like to ask this Board to help us when we get that figure to make up the difference. We won't know until March 13 the final number; we just keep getting bits and pieces of information. At that time, we would want to sit down with you and talk and see what you can do. We certainly appreciate what all of you do for Floyd County. It is a very tiring job especially with the economy like it is now; you have a lot of things to think about. We appreciate you.

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

The Vice Chairman turned the chair over to the Chairman.

A work session was held on the proposed FY11 budget. Mr. Campbell updated the Board on new information received since last week's meeting. Extensive discussion ensued on setting of tax rate, revenue projections, expenditure cuts to be made, building up the fund balance, etc.

On a motion of Supervisor Gardner, seconded by Supervisor Gerald, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn to Wednesday, February 24, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor Clinger – aye

Supervisor Gardner – aye

Supervisor Allen – aye

Supervisor Gerald – aye

Supervisor Ingram - aye