

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 23, 2012**

At the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Floyd County, Virginia, held on Tuesday, October 23, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the County Administration Building, thereof;

PRESENT: Case C. Clinger, Chairman; Virgel H. Allen, Vice Chairman; Joe D. Turman, Lauren D. Yoder, Board Members; Daniel J. Campbell, County Administrator; Terri W. Morris, Assistant County Administrator.

ABSENT: J. Fred Gerald, Board Member.

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

At 7:00 p.m., the Chairman called for the Public Comment Period.

Mr. Justin Coleman – Most of you I know personally but I will start out by introducing myself. I am Justin Coleman, a resident of the Indian Valley District. You will have already heard a lot of what I have to say from a couple of weeks ago by David Cook. But tonight I come before you as a former full-time employee at the Floyd County Sheriff's office for five years, but more importantly, I come before you as a concerned citizen. During my past five years at the Sheriff's office, 6 months of that time I was a Dispatcher. The remainder of the time I was assigned to patrol after completing my basic academy. During that time at the Sheriff's Office, I have seen a lot of changes in county employee benefits. Tonight, the focus of my conversation would be about those benefits. My decision in leaving after my five year career at the Sheriff's Office was based largely in part on the benefits offered by the county and the personal needs of my family. There have been many people before me that have left the Sheriff's office due to the lack of benefits offered by the County. As of July of this year, the current cost for a County employee family plan is \$1028 per month for the best plan and \$834 per month for the cheaper plan. Those figures are what have influenced my decision and former Deputy David Cook's decision, which you heard from earlier, to leave the Sheriff's Office for other employment. With these figures and the salary offered, it is hard to close the financial gaps that are necessary to meet the needs of my family. No one should be limited in having a family because of insurance needs. It is my position that this is one of the greatest downfalls in the County of Floyd. We have lost numerous Floyd County people who were employees in this community for this very reason. It is time for you as Board members to take this into consideration and take action. Currently, there are two employees at the Sheriff's Office with expanding families. One of which just had a child and the other that is expecting within a few weeks. There still remains other young officers who have hope of having a family one day. With the current insurance costs and the salary offered by the County, this presents an immediate threat to our community of losing more officers. In addition to the threat we have now, we must also look to the future. At the end of Sheriff Zeman's term, there will be approximately six employees who are there currently who are eligible to retire if they choose, not including the Sheriff. If the County

doesn't have quality benefits to retain employees now, how do you expect to not only retain the current employees, but attract new employees as those who have served their time begin to retire? I say this as a threat because if we do not have quality, local personnel to serve our community, what will become of our law enforcement in Floyd? Everyone knows that we all want to seek the best for our families. That's why we must have quality benefits to retain and to attract future employees as needed. This problem was greater for my family, because my wife is an employee of the School Board, whose insurance is a little bit cheaper, but still not feasible for our family. With no disrespect intended to any other department or any other entity in the County, I believe the Sheriff's Office is of the most importance if not the number one most important consideration that needs to be made in the yearly budget. I say that because if we can't protect what we're investing in yearly and grow in our schools and industry, if we cannot protect anything that this County has under its name that we're investing in, what good is the investment? And protecting the investments that we make means that we must have quality employees to serve our community for the safety of my family and your family. It is no secret that we're not going to receive funding from the Federal level any longer like we used to. It is no secret that we're not going to receive State funding like we used to. That's why it is time for this Board and the leaders of this community that I ask you to take the position, to take the stand, to find a way to protect our investments, to protect my family, to protect your family and protect this community by retaining quality employees. By retaining the employees we have that have the heart and the desire to serve this community. If you don't have a heart in your community, what good is it? I feel like I could have gone somewhere else and got a job in law enforcement as others have and I don't begrudge them and have no animosity toward them. I understand that they had to do what they had to do. But if I can't serve my community where I live, what gain would I have? I understand that this is a great task that you have but it is something that needs to be addressed, it is an immediate threat. I hope that my time tonight has shed some light on the situation and I hope that we find a quick resolution for the sake of our community. I thank each of you tonight for your service to the community and the hard decisions that you have to make. I ask tonight that you would take great diligence with these problems and that we would find resolution. Thank you for your service and thank you for what you did for me while I was an employee of the Sheriff's office. God bless each one of you.

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

The end-of-month disbursements were presented to the Board for consideration and approval. Mr. Campbell noted that the contractor performing the Courthouse parking lot repairs is set to begin November 3. There is a bill in the list for materials for that project. Will explain more about it later in the meeting.

On a motion of Supervisor Allen, seconded by Supervisor Turman, and carried, it was resolved to approve the end of month disbursements as presented.

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

Agenda Item 5 – Discussion of generator purchase for Administration Building. Mr. Campbell reported that the current generator was not repairable, has been in service for over 30 years. The unit provides backup power for the emergency operations center in the building and computer backup. Have researched the matter and recommend a smaller size unit based on the load assessment performed. Recommend going from a 125 kV unit to a 100 kV unit, which will save around \$10,000. The price is all inclusive except for installation which would require a certified contractor. We may look at reconfiguration of unit placement to get it away from the building. Funds were not budgeted for the purchase of the unit since failure occurred after the new budget year. Standard two year warranty is included, with extra years optional.

On a motion of Supervisor Yoder, seconded by Supervisor Allen, and carried, it was resolved to approve the purchase contract with Carter Machinery Company in the amount of \$26,327 for a generator purchase for the Administration Building; transfer \$26,327 from Contingency to line item 4-001-043020-3310.

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

Agenda Item 6 – Gypsy Moth Suppression Program. Mr. Campbell provided copy of a letter from the State indicating that no treatments will be necessary in 2013. Extensive work had been done over the last year along the Parkway corridor.

Agenda Item 7 – Floyd County Volunteer Fire Department audit. Mr. Campbell presented a copy of the Department’s audit ending June 30, 2012, for the Board’s information. Note that on page 4, relevant information is provided concerning the County’s appropriation.

Agenda Item 8 – New River Valley Livability Initiative Interim Report. Mr. Campbell provided a copy of the report for the Board’s information.

Agenda Item 9 – EMS coverage/initiate discussion. Mr. Campbell presented a report from Mr. John Steely, EMS Operations Manager, outlining the existing concerns with staffing and recommendations for future consideration.

Mr. Steely appeared before the Board and commented: it seems that the coverage that is provided by the volunteers has gotten more and more difficult over the last couple of years. The reason, I think, probably has to do with attrition of older members and the fact that there have not been a lot of new members added to the Squad. I think the reason for that is that in the past two years, there has not been a local EMT class. In previous years, classes produced a number of EMTs. Without that steady supply of new EMTs, the numbers will continue to go down further and further. As I said, the last class was two years ago. I looked at the roster and the June roster (most recent I could find) shows 72 members. Of that number, 30 by my count, are really inactive either due to medical issues or being lifetime members and don’t have the obligation to

turn out for call. That leaves 42 people that are really considered active. Of that 42, I really only count about 28 that regularly sign up for shifts. The volunteers are responsible for the hours of 6-12 pm during the week, 24 hours on Saturday and Sunday both, a total of 78 hours/week that the volunteers are responsible for. That is really multiplied by four, because a crew is two people, both Station #4 and Station #1/3 combination. So the cost to the volunteers is about 312 hours/week. The number of people that are trying to cover those calls is just not enough. A disproportionate number of people are having to cover night after night. They burn out and it puts a stress on them and their families. The result for us is because we don't have the coverage and can't always be sure of having somebody at night or weekends come out and help, I'm having fewer and fewer flex-time employees volunteer to cover those shifts. I had one lady Saturday have to call for Riner or Carilion to help her three times during a 24-hour shift because no volunteers came out. What we're proposing for you to consider is that we help subsidize the EMT class. It is not a quick solution because realistically, if we were to advertise the class today, class probably wouldn't start for 4-5 months, it is a 3 month class, then the students have to test and go through a precept program. So I think realistically, if we were to decide tonight to advertise for a class, it would be a year from now before we would get trained EMTs. But better to start soon than not at all. It is an expensive thing to conduct a class. The State pays a teacher some amount, but most teachers charge in addition to that for books and instruction. So they end up making a reasonable rate. If we were able to help subsidize a class financially, that it would possibly enable having two classes. A class can have as many as 30 people, you usually lose 10-15 along the way, some don't test, some test and decide it is not for them. So if we have a class that starts out with 30, we may end up with 10 EMTs. Strengthening the volunteers helps us because we're never going to be able to crew two trucks, 24/7, with the kind of tax base and population that we have. We really have to depend on the volunteers. If we can help with education and training, that would take some of the burden off the volunteers. But this is a long-term solution.

Mr. Campbell noted that they had brainstormed a winter and summer session. The \$2500 seems to be comparable to what the State is providing for an instructor.

Mr. Steely – I have a lady who teaches at Radford University who is interested in providing the class. The second point is a more immediate solution that unfortunately has a price tag. One possibility to help with the hours between 6-12 pm when the volunteers are having trouble getting members together is have another BLS provider available from Floyd County EMS. This would enable the possibility of having another truck independent of the volunteers. This would also be the case on the weekends. The hardest times to cover are the daylight hours. This could easily be a BLS provider since we already have an ALS provider staffing the weekend. That would add 64 hours at a minimum to my payroll. It might be beneficial to consider adding two full-time BLS people because we do have other times during the week when my full-time folks need off and we have trouble staffing. The details could be worked out where Floyd County EMS would handle all first-team calls and the volunteers the second team calls. Right now, Floyd County citizens are suffering delays in getting a fully staffed truck where it needs to be. We are already at a disadvantage because of the distance from the hospitals. But add the factor of waiting for somebody to come from the far side of the County really puts people that need our help at a disadvantage. I am just asking your consideration for a few items that may help in the long-term of Floyd County EMS.

Mr. Campbell commented that an answer from the Board is not needed tonight, just wanted the Board to consider the recommendations and discuss further at a later time.

On a motion of Supervisor Yoder, seconded by Supervisor Allen, and carried, it was resolved to transfer up to \$5000 from Contingency to 4-001-403230-6017 for two EMT classes – training and instructor fees.

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

The Board deferred discussion of adding additional staff for further review and consideration. Staff will gather information on solid costs of classes, personnel, etc.

Agenda Item 10 – Veterans Day parade – Mr. Campbell presented an invitation for the Board to participate in the parade on November 11, 2012. Also provided an invitation to Willis Elementary School for their Veterans Day breakfast.

Agenda Item 11 – ARC presentation to EDA – Innovation Center funding – Thursday, October 25, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. For the Board’s information if interested in attending the ceremony.

On a motion of Supervisor Turman, seconded by Supervisor Allen, and carried, it was resolved to amend the agenda to include discussion on a Sheriff’s Department issue.

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

Supervisor Turman commented that in speaking with several deputies about their equipment and vehicles and what they need, he heard a lot of comments about the bullet proof vests not having carrying cases. The vests themselves were purchased with grant funds but the Sheriff has said the employees would have to buy their own carrying cases. The vests are very bulky and hot and the officers do not wear them all the time. They are very hard to keep clean and protected and professional looking after they have been stored in the trunks of their cars. Have been told the cases cost about \$130/each. Feel the County should protect their investment and not have these officers purchase them from their personal funds.

On a motion of Supervisor Turman, seconded by Supervisor Yoder, it was resolved to approve transfer of up to \$1000 from Contingency to the Sheriff’s Department for purchase of carrying cases for the bullet proof vests.

After further discussion, since costs and number needed are unknown, Supervisors Turman and Yoder withdrew their motion for further information. Will place the matter on the November agenda.

On a motion of Supervisor Yoder, it was resolved to amend the agenda for discussion on the Courthouse parking lot repairs.

After no second, Supervisor Yoder called for the vote.

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

Mr. Campbell presented a copy of the proposed contract with J. C. Hylton Excavating for the Courthouse parking lot repairs. Project was bid out with two responses. The amount was budgeted in the current fiscal year for the repairs in the amount of \$27,300. I have also met with VDoT on site and have notified folks in the Courthouse about the repairs. The work will be done November 3-12, with the contract allowing for three weeks of work if needed. He will close half of the parking lot at a time to do the work. He plans to excavate down to 6' and we've quantified the areas as shown on the plan sheet. He's estimated his material quantities, using stone and crushed run, compact it at every 12" as he refills. If we run into something beyond 6' we may have to issue a change order. If one turns out to be 3' and one 12', we've agreed to work through that. If you approve this contract, we'll get started soon. He has provided his certificate of insurance and contacted Miss Utility. In the spring, if we find that the refill is holding up as planned, we'll bid out the paving. Asphalt will be put over the disturbed areas for winter.

On a motion of Supervisor Allen, seconded by Supervisor Yoder, and carried, it was resolved to approve the contract with J. C. Hylton Excavating for Courthouse parking lot repairs, as presented (Document File Number \_\_\_\_\_).

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

On a motion of Supervisor Allen, seconded by Supervisor Turman, and carried, it was resolved to go into closed session under Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph A.3, discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body; Paragraph 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 Yoder – aye

Supervisor Turman – aye  
Supervisor Gerald – absent  
Supervisor Allen – aye  
Supervisor Clinger – aye

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

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

On a motion of Supervisor Turman, seconded by Supervisor Yoder, and 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 and prospective businesses in accordance with Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph A.3 and Paragraph A.5 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act;

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

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

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

Hearing no statement, I call the question.

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

This Certification Resolution was adopted.

On a motion of Supervisor Yoder, seconded by Supervisor Turman, and carried, it was resolved to adjourn to Thursday, November 15, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.

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

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Daniel J. Campbell, County Administrator

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Case C. Clinger, Chairman, Board of  
Supervisors