

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 22, 2017**

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Floyd County, Virginia, held on Tuesday, August 22, 2017 at 7:00 p.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 7:00 p.m. with the reading of the handicapping statement.

Agenda Item 2. – Opening Prayer.

The Opening Prayer was led by Supervisor Gerald.

Agenda Item 3. – Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Linda Kuchenbuch led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item 4. – Public Comment Period.

Chairman Clinger called for the Public Comment Period.

Ms. Susan Robertson, Burks Fork – I am asking the Board to do whatever they can to replace coal with solar energy as soon as possible. Floyd is a great place to live and we want to keep our water, air, land, and food free from toxic contaminants – not only for us, but for future generations.

Since the current administration in the White House is ignoring the scientific truth about climate change which threatens all life on the planet, it is especially important for local and state governments to try to slow – and hopefully, halt – the accelerating climate chaos that is currently underway. We are lucky that Floyd has not suffered the extent of extreme disasters happening elsewhere.

But even Floyd has gotten a preview of things to come if we don't take steps now to address climate change. We had an exceptional drought in 2009 and many wells ran dry. There was an electrical storm a few years ago with a scary intensity that I never experienced before. And who can forget the incredible rainstorm that produced a waterfall from Food Lion parking lot a few years ago? We've had derechos that snapped off tree tops. None of us want these things to become frequent events.

The continued burning of fossil fuels threatens our supply of food, potable water, breathable air and a livable climate for ourselves and generations to come. Coal is one of the

dirtier fuel sources. Emissions add to respiratory distress and even contributes to increased heart disease, stroke, and cancer.

I think that one fact that is not widely known is that we are losing oxygen in our atmosphere. Every unit of carbon that's burned takes two units of oxygen when you produce carbon dioxide. For many thousands of years, forests and ocean organisms each replaced half the oxygen when they took up carbon dioxide and produced oxygen in the process known as photosynthesis in the carbon/oxygen cycle. But this balance has been destroyed. We are losing forests everywhere throughout the world by drought, fire, development, logging, and the spread of pests facilitated by global warming. And ocean life is under assault from warming, acidification, oil spills, plastic garbage, run-off from mining and agriculture – and even now radioactivity from the Fukushima disaster which continues to pour tons of radioactive waste into the ocean. Humans evolved at a time when the air contained around 20% to 21% of oxygen. But now some cities have as little as 12%. When we don't get an optimal amount of oxygen, our immune systems are less able to fight diseases, and our neurological and circulatory systems are also compromised.

I am begging you please act now, we all have to do what we can to avert disaster and base our choices on scientific facts – not propaganda from big oil. I put my contact number and phone at the top. Anyone who does not believe that climate change is a current and pressing threat, please contact me. I have DVDs that I will lend you. I will direct you to free videos that you can watch online. I have a ton of resources. Give me half an hour and I will convince anybody who is not a believer. Thank you for listening.

Mr. Bruce Koppel, Falling Branch Road – I wasn't aware that I am not allowed to ask questions – that it was one-way. I want to find out what the County is doing about Lyme disease. Since it is a one-way thing, I will assume that the answer is basically nothing because I have been unaware of anything other than contacting the epidemiologist in Christiansburg. He indicated to me a couple of very radical facts. One is that the only thing they do is call the person who has tested positive for Lyme and ask them if there are any questions they have or anything that they can do for them. Many people don't get reported as having it. Some doctors don't make the reports to him. A lot of people who have confirmed tests, like myself, never even get a call. He took the job in May. Since then, he said, on average he gets 5 positive Lyme confirmations a day in the four county district of which Floyd is one – Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, and Pulaski. Out of the five, he said, on average three of those are from Floyd County. That number, if it is to be believed, is just over the top. It means that somewhere around 8%-9% of the people in our county every year are getting Lyme disease and yet we can't see anything that is being done to control or bring awareness. No one goes to the schools and talks to the kids there about it. There is nothing more than a few signs up in a couple of the public places that address it. To give you some idea of the magnitude, the amount of cases in Floyd if you compared it to the United States...suppose you went home tonight and listened to the news and someone on the news said that in the United States last year 15 million people got one of the worst diseases in the world, currently incurable for most people. To quote the lady from Charlottesville, if that doesn't outrage you, you are not paying attention. I'm sorry this had to be a one-way conversation. I guess I will end it now and if there is some other way where I can make it so I can find out what is being done and how we can do more and how we can educate our kids and people in the county...it is out of control. Thank you.

Mr. Billy Weitzenfeld, Courthouse District – I am representing SustainFloyd this evening. I will be very brief. I want to reiterate SustainFloyd's support for Preserve Floyd in their efforts to come up with a document that may be signed on Climate Science and other issues. We are still in full support and I want to make that clear. The other thing I want to say is I think this process of engagement is a little bit flawed because we are not talking to each other. You are just getting presentations. You are getting documents to sign. I think the next step is we need some face-to-face conversations with someone from the Board, someone from Town Council, School Board, members of the community, and non-profits working on these issues. I made a recommendation that we form a kind of task force or working group or something where we could begin that process of talking to each other about these issues. I think that is very, very important. I think it is the next step. I hope the Board will consider that and maybe make a movement in that direction. Thank you very much.

Mr. Jack Wall, Little River District – One of my sons runs a solar energy company so I know a little bit about it. He actually has installed about 130 kilowatts of solar energy in Floyd County. Solar has just taken off. It is huge in this country. Most of the new energy production is coming from solar. My son, right now, is putting in solar energy in all of the schools in Bath County. It is a good model because Bath is a pretty similar size county to Floyd. The idea is solar is the cheapest source of energy we've got right now. I have a few handouts here that talks about the ability to get solar energy installed by a contractor with it financed so that the company does all of the work on getting...it is a private company so they are able to get the solar tax credit for that system. There is a contract with Bath County that I am familiar with where they are going to save money by putting in solar. The amount of energy produced from the solar panels is lower than the cost of the electricity it saves. It is saving the school system money. That is an automatic thing that looks pretty good. There are guarantees. This is a very brief piece of paper we just put together. It does save money and with our Floyd system we could possibly do away with the coal-fired plant and put in a heat pump system. The heat pump systems these days are extremely efficient. They are more than twice as efficient as they were ten years ago. They can get heat out of the air down to zero degrees and with the efficiency of the system you can put solar on the roof and you have a very energy efficient and very environmentally valuable system. There are a lot of good opportunities out there. This is the time to do it. Solar energy is the cheapest it has ever been. The whole world is turning to solar. I just wanted to make you aware there are those systems out there, companies are out there that do free estimates and propose things for no charge and look at the alternatives and look at the guarantees in there for making this stuff work.

Ms. Patricia Woodruff – I represent my husband as well as my son. We are business owners in the town. I helped start the Floyd Artists Association. We run the Green Man Inn. My son does the Floyd ghost tours. We think ahead. We still live up in Pennsylvania and our house up there has been run off of solar for the past 30 years. We have started to convert our house here to solar. Like Mr. Wall, we are putting our money where our mouth is and seeing that is the future. I would like to solarize my business as soon as I can. I would definitely like to urge you to please look into this. This is the future. Since we have spoken on Lyme disease, 2 out of 3 in our family have Lyme disease so I will add that in there. Thank you.

Ms. Blake Loftus, Little River District – Good evening, thank you for your time. I have called Floyd County home for the past 4 years. During which time our family has been

blessed to experience our tight-knit community and incomparable natural beauty of this very, very special place. Growing up in Florida, I was a passionate environmental activist. Throughout my teen years – currently my daughter’s age, she is fourteen – I spoke before county administrators, boards of supervisors, mayors, and even the governor on a regular basis, urging our politicians and representatives to support our communities and State to preserve the fragile ecosystems that I was witnessing the disappearance of.

I fought long and I fought hard. At one point my local youth environmental and 4-H clubs, at the age of fourteen, along with a small but determined handful of activist groups came up with just over 13 million dollars in local, state, and federal grants in order to preserve the last undeveloped 111 acre tract of ocean front property on the east coast of Florida. When that attempt failed due to the developer’s greed over a one million dollar difference, I was devastated. However, the preservation of another large tract and establishment of a National Estuarine Research Reserve was a victory.

I bring this up in context to this evening’s proposal regarding solar panels in the schools because I fully understand the bureaucratic, regulatory, and financial challenges that are a part of every major change in the status quo when it comes to environmental protection. I also know that massive global climate change initiatives, specifically grassroots community proposals such as the one being presented tonight, are vital for escaping the ecological disaster that we are already well on the path of. The most important part of my personal intro is that I know that the citizens and leaders of Floyd are fully capable of meeting the county-wide transition to 80% renewable energy by 2030 precisely because of the determination and resourcefulness of this community.

With that being said, my generation’s fight is not over yet. I’m standing here publicly speaking for the first time in nearly two decades because my job is not over yet. It is not simply enough for me to somewhat literally “run for the hills” with my own children. What will our great-grandchildren’s future going to look like? The effects of global warming and changing climate patterns cannot be escaped from, for humans or any other species on the planet. Action must be taken to protect our own community as well as the rest of the world.

I feel that focusing on and allowing Floyd’s students to be a pivotal part of this change is one of the single most empowering and motivational actions we can include them in, as they grow up in a rapid technologically advancing world. The science of solar is here; it just needs to be implemented. Let’s give our amazing town one more reason to be a model for other communities.

This opportunity is also an excellent way to expand county STEM educational programs. The Solar Energy Industry Association Brighter Future Study found that: “Communities are recognizing the value of solar energy in providing a long-term hedge against increases in utility rates while school boards and administrators are attracted to the technology’s ability to deliver cost savings. Solar also presents teachers with a number of educational opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) subjects.” Thank you very much.

Ms. Ellie Loftus, Little River District – I am 14 years old and a 9th grader at Floyd County High School. Floyd is magical. I feel like we’ve all been here long enough to agree at

least somewhat on that. Our town is on a quartz rock, surrounded by forests and farms. It's so community based and homely. I'd hate seeing something happen to our forests, wildlife and farms, but sadly I do fear that. We humans, as a whole, have already hurt our planet so much, through pipelines, harvesting fossil fuels, and cutting down entire forests. I want to protect our town as much as possible from these events. Transferring the schools from coal energy to solar panels may seem like a small thing to do, especially with how expensive it'll be, but it will help so much.

Even if we start now with just Floyd Elementary and Floyd County High School, if we start now, by 2050 our schools will fare so much better. We won't be using coal in the winter to warm the school, reducing the pollution rate our town has. It'll also reduce how much the school spends on just that. That means the schools will have more money saved to go into other needs. We can give our teachers and staff higher wages. We can start building onto our less favored extracurricular activities like art and music. We can also build better lunches. And that's just our school!

If this does get signed and started, the school system is going to be so much better for everyone still going in the next few years. It'll also stand as a role model to our town, and it might be possible that most of our town will slowly revert to solar energy because of this. And then the next. And then the next. It might become a domino effect, albeit a slow one. Nevertheless, it is one, and that's important. Floyd is our safe place, and I want it to remain that way for a very long time. Thank you.

Ms. Becky Howell, Burk's Fork District – I've just got a couple of things to say – one thing to say and one thing to ask. I think that it is really important that individuals do their part as much as it is for the government to do their part. The last time I was here I mentioned that there were some workshops on solar energy down in Rocky Mount. I would like to say that there is another one coming up in October, it will probably be in Danville on the cost of converting to solar in your home. If anybody is interested in going to that, you can contact the Extension Office and they can put you on the mailing list and let you know when it is going to be. The other question I have if someone can address it, "What exactly is renewable energy?" I know what solar is and I know what wind is, but what does it include? If someone is here you can explain that to us. Thank you.

Mr. Billy Weitzenfeld, Courthouse District – Renewable energy is energy that is renewable. It is the sun; it is wind; it is geothermal versus fossil fuels which can be used up and not renewed. I can go on and get into more depth, but that is basically it. It is a pretty simple concept. Renewable energy also by definition is clean. Fossil fuel by definition is not. Is that good enough?

Ms. Howell asked, "What about wood?"

Mr. Weitzenfeld answered "Sort of."

Ms. Susan Robertson, Burks Fork – As a quick addendum I would like to say the spread of ticks has been facilitated by climate change as have many other pests. One possum can

eat 5,000 ticks in one season. We shouldn't be killing foxes and coyotes because they eat mice and mice are a major vector, more so than deer. Thank you.

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

Agenda Item 7. – Ms. Becky Howell, Education Subcommittee for Rental of Low-Income Housing.

Ms. Becky Howell, Burk's Fork District – Since I'm on the Planning Commission I thought it would be good to take part in this low-income housing program that has been started. It is very interesting. I am very interested in education. I know there are a lot of studies that say if you want to stay out of poverty the best thing you can do is finish high school. Today the education group which I am representing met and talked about some of the low-income housing. I said I haven't really seen any of these. I don't know where they are. A trailer park was mentioned and since I had time today I drove by there to see it. I wonder if that was smart because it looked like a pretty dangerous place to be. I understand that a child lives in that trailer park who goes to school. I can't imagine a child who lived in that environment could come out in the morning and get on the bus, go to school, and be ready to learn. I do think this is a very worthy project. Since I am new to this, I am going to let Kamala [Bauers] talk to you and give you the information. She has been learning a lot more about this and for a lot longer than I have.

Ms. Kamala Bauers, Little River District – I hate to speak in public but I am going to try to get used to it because this isn't about me. This is really important work that we are trying to do together. Again, this is the Floyd County Low-Income Housing Consortium. We are actually working on forming – Linda Devito [Supervisor Kuchenbuch] is part of our group, which we appreciate very much – and we are just getting started. We will be forming a nonprofit and become very official. For right now we are just a group of citizens, business people, clergy people, and leaders in our community, and anyone who wishes to join us. We won't turn away any help. We hope to have as much help as we can get to work on this very serious project of not having enough affordable housing in Floyd County to meet the need.

The Low-Income Housing Consortium has subcommittees, the education committee being one that has come to talk to you about what we are doing. There is a rehab committee that actually finished their first project this past weekend. We will be speaking to you about that soon. There was very exciting work that got done. We replaced a roof this weekend. We are doing important work and quickly. There is a future housing group getting together to talk about how can we work with public-private partnerships to bring in affordable housing, new stock of affordable housing including possibly an assisted living facility for our elders who don't want to leave the county. We need to make age in place housing available to them. We have a group working on policies and developing a new nonprofit, which is all kinds of fun.

Here I should tell you an amazing story because there are tons of them. I so appreciate Becky [Howell] taking her time tonight to go and visit one of the trailer parks that I have been telling her about. Because really if you don't see it, it is hard to describe what you will see. These trailer parks are all over the county. Most of the ones that are substandard are owned by owners who do not live in our county. We have done some research on that. It is harder to

influence them. Some of the problems that our committee is working on is families with young children living in unsafe conditions. The elderly live in substandard conditions, often without the ability to get into their home because of steps that they no longer have the ability to climb.

There is a new scam in town, rent to own trailers, where the living situation is so bad that you can't rent it legally because you don't have potable water, heat, basic things. If you want to get around that you just sell the trailer in a rent to own scam. Then the person doesn't pay the rent and the substandard landlord gets the trailer back and does it again. These places are so bad that they are attracting other problems such as drug problems and other things that are clustering in these conditions. It is not good. We need to rent healthy places for our kids.

On the last page of the printout I provided there is a bunch of data that came from you. Lydeana [Martin] was quite helpful in getting this together. How many housing units are available in Floyd? What can we do to solve the problem? There are a couple of different things we are going to do. One thing is identifying what housing is available right now in Floyd that is not being utilized because people don't want to rent. A lot of folks who have tried to rent property in Floyd have had bad experiences. How do we solve that problem? We are talking about possible solutions. Do we work with property managers or with lower cost property management systems so someone might be willing to rent if screening were done on the potential renter and monitoring was done to make sure the house was kept in good condition. But there are 420 housing units that are vacant but are not listed for rent or sale or rented but not occupied. That is 5.4% of the housing stock in Floyd County.

The other thing we noticed is that 380 households in Floyd County have no vehicle for transportation. If we are looking at building new stock of housing, then we need to look around town. A lot of folks are paying more than 30% of their income for housing in Floyd which is why affordability is so important. We are going to work on solutions, increase public affordable housing, increase education with both landlords and tenants, and repair housing with our rehabilitation work. We're looking to encourage development of cluster housing in Floyd. I know you are working on that. I am so happy to be working with Becky [Howell] on this project because the Planning Commission will be really important on this. They want to make sure it is vetted and makes sense for our community. Being able to house people in smaller spaces makes sense when you are talking about public water and sewer and can create nice communities.

There are some pictures here of a house that is being renovated by the repair group. If you look underneath you can see in the bathtub there are rodents getting into that house. That is rented by a single mom with two young kids. There are wires hanging down. That is just one of many. I keep talking to you because I need your help because you are leaders in our community and as a group, very powerful. We need help to get the word out. We need community support to do this important work. We need your help to assure that minimum housing standards are kept. I'm not sure how to do this exactly. But there is a list that you have to have as a landlord. You have to provide appropriate paint, smoke detectors, basic stuff. Not all of the landlords in Floyd County are doing this and I realize there is some hesitation about regulatory and how much do we want to step on business. We need to educate people to operate according to the regulations in my opinion. We need cluster development and to support public-private partnerships. Floyd County is eligible for some home consortium funds. We hope that Floyd

County will get those funds for one project or another, perhaps assisted living or some cluster development. But let's get that money in Floyd.

Chairman Clinger said he liked her presentation. That is why we are looking into cluster development. We realize that land is at a premium. That is the holdup right now. People can't build because they can't find the right land. We should be through this sometime next year. You said the unoccupied homes, does that include the snow birds who live here part time?

Ms. Bauers replied that does not include the snow birds. The actual number for the snow birds is listed on the paper too, so that is not included in this number. There are 420 houses out there. If we can find the owners and convince them to rent. I've been trying that today and not getting too positive a response. People want some help to make sure that folks are screened well and monitored.

Supervisor Yoder said he knows a number of people who have had bad situations. They just decided they are not going to rent anymore.

Chairman Clinger said he knew someone who built a new house, but could not sell their old one so they rented it. After six months it was a nightmare.

Ms. Bauers said those bad apples are preventing really good people...one of the trailers we went to is a dump of a place, but it was spotless. You could eat off of the floor, but the place was a dump. Those are the kind of renters we all want. Thank you so much for your time.

Agenda Item 8. – Ms. Mary Freeday, Preserve Floyd.

Ms. Mary Freeday, Little River District – I am here today to make the case as strongly as I possibly can to remove that coal-fired furnace from the high school and replace it with solar and to install solar panels on all of the schools in our county by 2030. I had planned to come in here today and say a bunch of scary things about coal and the dangers of having such an antiquated system in our schools. But I have really gotten the impression that you want to see that particular change take place here in Floyd County. So the most important thing I can do with my time tonight is to explain how very possible this is. However, I do want to impress upon you the urgency with which we need to act. When you are considering budgets, timelines, potential grants and other forms of funding, I would really like for each of you in the backs of your minds to remember that you are really not debating the option to transition to renewables, you will be figuring out how and when and where, but not if. Because if we don't make this transition, we as a planet are projected to hit 500 parts of carbon per million in the atmosphere in the next 50 years. This would likely raise global temperatures as much as 5.4 degrees Celsius. That is 42 degrees Fahrenheit. Those are temperatures that are literally hotter than a human body can survive. [Ms. Freeday contacted the Board on September 5, 2017 to correct her statement to between 8 and 12.6 degree increase in Fahrenheit temperature].

We have to transition and the easiest place to start may well be in our schools. As I mentioned previously, all six schools in Albemarle County now generate 1.1 megawatts of energy from the solar panels on their roofs. Also, the Lylburn Downing School in Lexington has a 9.1 kilowatt solar installation. In Arlington County, Wakefield High School's panels generate

90 kilowatts and their Discovery Elementary School generates 497. Finally Harrisonburg is currently planning zero energy in their new high school. So how are they doing it? In 2013 the Virginia General Assembly passed a law allowing local governments to buy solar using a tax advantaged financing method called a third party power purchase agreement or PPA. The beauty of this is that the school systems are able to install the panels at no additional cost. According to Governor Terry McAuliffe, "Power purchase agreements are valuable tools for public and nonprofit institutions to utilize zero-emitting solar power to supplement their energy usage with little to no upfront capital costs." Little to no upfront capital costs. We need to remember that solar panels save money in the long run. Albemarle is projected to save \$80,000.00 over the life of the PPA and that is based on an expected annual increase of 2% for Dominion's brown power. Lexington expects to save between \$3,000.00 and \$5,000.00 a year with the panels on Lyburn Downing School. Also, Albemarle has applied for and received six Rural Energy for American Program (REAP) grants from the USDA's Rural Development Program for a total of \$613,414.00. These grants could help with the hidden costs of installing solar such as replacing rooftops. It is not recommended to do a rooftop installation unless your roof is expected to last 20 additional years.

I do need to tell you that the power purchase agreement is still considered a pilot program and it only applies to customers in Dominion's territory. But Secure Futures LLC, the company that installed the panels in Albemarle, has developed its own third party ownership business model called a customer self-generation agreement (CSGA). It works like a PPA and it allows the company to install large projects in various locations outside Dominion's territory. They've already used it to install 104 kilowatts at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg. I also need to tell you that the price for installed commercial solar dropped 20% last year. If you looked into solar 3 years ago or more, you definitely need to look again because the technology has improved and costs have come down.

Furthermore, in school systems with solar arrays students get interested in renewables and schools can develop vocational programs. For example, in Boulder, CO students can track how much power their solar system generates in real time and how much power their school is using, allowing them to understand the relationship between production and consumption. In Scottsdale, AZ panels were installed while school was in session and flat screen displays showed the system's electricity output as well as how much pollution and carbon emissions are avoided. In St. Augustine, FL solar panels are part of the schools' construction academy. This focuses on providing skills and experience necessary to obtain entry level jobs in architectural drafting or building construction technology. There is also a technical path leading to apprenticeships and a professional path leading to college degrees. In Lexington, VA they've installed a 20' tall solar spotlight with USB ports for charging electronic devices and LCD screens showing the benefits of solar. Kids can sit underneath it and have a snack in the shade. They hope to use this spotlight in various science experiments like measuring how long it takes to charge various devices and how much energy different devices use. The bottom line is there are complications and a lot to consider, but there are also solutions available.

The tide has already turned. Renewable energy is not only the future, it is the present. The time to take action is now. And we're here to help you. Please let us know how we can support you...research, grant writing, outreach, community education. The Floyd County nonprofits can work with you to accomplish all of these objectives. But we can't take the first

step for you. You have to do that. Preserve Floyd has taken the liberty of putting this school solar resolution together. Please review it carefully during the closed session and think about what you would like to add or alter. Please sign it today. We need your backing to move forward. There is really no time to wait. I'm here tonight instead of in my kitchen cooking a nice big dinner because this is so crucial and so urgent. I hope you too feel that fire and will sign something this evening. And in so doing take the first steps toward making the transition to the clean energy future that will not only save the school some money, but also provide vocational education opportunities for our kids and also help save the planet for them. Let's show our kids that we care and solarize their schools.

Ms. Mara Robbins, Locust Grove District – I am really glad to be here with you tonight. I'm also really tired. Over the past two weeks I have crisscrossed our region attending and speaking at three different DEQ public hearings on the proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline 401 water permitting. I helped organize a "people's hearing" in Franklin County when they were denied a public hearing or even a town hall meeting. I even traveled to Richmond back in July to attend a meeting of the State Water Control Board. You may have noticed that I am really committed to protecting and preserving our natural resources here in Virginia. And although I am tired, I am satisfied because tonight I get to work toward solutions.

Here's what gives me hope and strength – You – the fact that you're listening and educating yourself about the enormous task that is facing us. The fact that Lauren [Supervisor Yoder] went to the VACO Environmental and Agricultural Committee meeting yesterday, during a solar eclipse no less, to learn more about commercial solar farms and their role in a community. Your review of our draft resolutions and the DEQ water comments, which I hope to talk to you more about in the future. Your positive response to Archer Berzin's valid, reasonable, and clearly articulated request.

The work of Preserve Floyd over the summer has been absolutely outstanding. Mary Friday, in particular, devoted most of her free time while she was not teaching to the daunting task ahead of us regarding our response to the climate crisis. I am also gratified and encouraged by the collaborative efforts underway with other groups in Floyd such as SustainFloyd and The Partnership for Floyd. Whenever I get discouraged during some of the work I do in communities struggling to support landowners traumatized by three years under siege by pipeline corporations, I remember how blessed I am to live in a community that is pursuing solutions and has the strength, will and expertise to undertake this work together. And we really are in this together.

I stand before you tonight to ask for your demonstrated support. Perhaps you need more time to review the proposed resolutions; that is understandable. We want to make sure that we create official documents that are appropriate for and applicable to Floyd. We also want to do that soon. We are willing and eager to work with you.

Fortunately having the solutions project model as a guideline will help with that a lot. The agreement you received is not a resolution. It is based on some steps from the solutions project in terms of the commitments we will need to undertake as a community to achieve our goals. Your approval of this agreement will help bolster the spirits of those who are working tirelessly on this crucial issue and encourage other citizens to plug into this vital work. Knowing

that our local government is behind us and understands the effort it will take and the steps that must be taken will help greatly to achieve agreement #7: “Mobilize and activate as many citizens as possible so they adopt this process as their own.”

Please consider signing this tonight. We have no time to waste. And the sooner we get started, the sooner we can bring viable solutions into the dialogue and strategize about ways to mitigate climate catastrophe and truly pursue climate justice. Thank you so much for your time and attention to this, and we look forward to your decision.

Chairman Clinger said you stated discussing these resolutions in our closed session and we can't discuss anything like that in closed session. There are only seven things we are allowed to discuss and this isn't one of them. This will be discussed in open session. You brought up the point that the solar panels need to be installed on a roof that has 20 or more years. That is one of the things we heard from the schools' past Superintendent – that the roof needed to be replaced. This is something that the schools will have to investigate – to find out if the schools even have enough carrying capacity to hold that up.

Ms. Freday replied if you are going to put solar panels on, you might be able to get a grant that covers the cost of roof replacement.

Chairman Clinger said this is one of the things that needs to be looked at. You know we all want to do it. It is just how to get there from here. It is the same goal we all have.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch said I want you all to know that it is gratifying that two of our School Board members are sitting in our audience this evening.

School Board member Faye Nichols pointed out that Superintendent Dr. John Wheeler was present earlier in the meeting.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch said I want you to know that the School Board is listening as well. Thank you for coming.

Chairman Clinger said the next thing to do is find out if the school buildings can handle the solar panels. There has been talk before about redistricting and things like that. You hate to put something on a school and find out you are not going to have that school for another 10 or 15 years. The idea, we all support it. Getting it into actual application, there are a lot of moving parts in there; the schools, us, grants.

Ms. Freday said there are a lot of interesting opportunities if you are building a new school. It shoots right past solar panels and into net zero energy. I mean it is a whole different discussion.

Chairman Clinger said you talked about the Governor. He has some stuff out there for STEMs. The school is looking into that. If there does need to be a new school building, that is something we would definitely incorporate into a new building I am sure.

Supervisor Yoder said there is a committee working on that for technical education. It would be perfect to tie this into that. That committee meets once a month right now. We are trying to decide in what direction to go in the future.

Chairman Clinger said we talked to our attorney about drafting something that matched your presentation last time. One of the items had us telling the State what to do and with the Dillon Rule there are a lot of things we can't do unless the Commonwealth has granted us the ability. Before we do something that gets kicked back, we would rather have our attorney draft something that takes into account what we are all looking for in this. It will be brought forward again. It is not forgotten. As you realize from the days with the pipeline, it moves slow but sure, but when we do it we make sure we do it well.

Ms. Blake Loftus asked if the roofs are an issue or if the schools themselves may be rebuilt at some point, is it a good enough start in some way to use the green space?

Chairman Clinger said if we build a new school there is limited green space around the schools so we would hate to tie it up until we were sure what the plan is for long term development. You hate to invest all of that money and then have to tear it up because you need that spot.

Ms. Loftus suggested how about if the panels can be moved?

Mr. Weitzenfeld said the panels don't have to be put on the roof. They could be ground mounted.

Chairman Clinger replied until we're sure whether we can build higher or go out into the green space for future building which is something that has to be incorporated into a long term plan for the schools. They [the School Board] are working on a 5-year and 10-year plan anyway. They might have to take up the hillside, which is a perfect place for solar now, but it is the only hillside we have to build an additional school.

Mr. Weitzenfeld said Mary [Friday] is exactly right if you build a new school there are opportunities. For existing schools the first thing they do, Jack [Wall] mentioned that, they make the school as energy efficient as possible. That is looking at the lighting, the heating/cooling, before you even consider solar. That is another step that has to be considered.

Chairman Clinger said we got a grant several years ago to change the lighting in the County offices and buildings. We used some grant money there that we leveraged into super high efficient LEDs.

Ms. Tara Orlando suggested we could get really creative. If you can't do it on the roofs and there isn't enough green space you could create solar panels in the parking area and vehicles would park in shaded spots beneath solar panels. There are many other ways to look at this.

Chairman Clinger agreed that is why we need a plan to know where to go. There is no point in calling a professional to find out where is the best place to put these but we're not sure we need that or not. I think the best part is to get the plan on what the schools' growth potential

is, where they are planning on going, or if they are keeping a building. You hate to do something to a school they are not going to keep.

Mr. Jack Wall stated I think you are right that the school has to get their plan together, but once you get a basic plan you can bring in these engineering companies that will evaluate and make engineering recommendations.

Chairman Clinger said we had one come through about three years ago and look at the schools, the electrical services. They did the upgrades several years back. That was one thing Dr. Harris brought.

Ms. Friday said the new high school they are building in Harrisonburg, all the plans are online. It has a lot of interesting information there on how they plan to make it net zero.

Supervisor Yoder said we are entering an interesting stage for our school buildings because a lot of debt comes off in the next 5 to 6 years. There will be a lot of opportunity for us to do some things in our school system.

Chairman Clinger agreed that we have been structuring for that for a while. We have been building our savings up so we could do that.

Supervisor Yoder said I would be interested in hearing from the School Board on what their thoughts are. I don't know that it is really our role to dictate to the School Board what they should be doing. The School Board are elected officials to run the schools. I definitely don't want to step on any toes.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch added we have a very good, cooperative arrangement now, much better than it has been in years between the Board of Supervisors and the School Board. That in itself is a major step in the right direction. I think the adage of not putting the cart before the horse is really important right here because as we are looking at our schools, as Lauren [Supervisor Yoder] said, the School Board is driving how we do things. They are going to come to us and say this is what we would like to do, then we have to grapple with it all. And do know that all of what is being said here, and the meetings before, the School Board has been listening. I urge you if you want to appear before the School Board too and let all of their members know. This is what participatory democracy looks like.

Supervisor Yoder said you have come at the right time because the conversation has started on what our school system will look like in the next 30 years. It is an appropriate time to start thinking about these types of things so we can incorporate it into education and cost savings and clean energy. You can be part of the conversation.

Mr. Jack Wall said I think I am right that the coal furnace at the high school is 35 years old, which is its lifespan. It might be an issue if there aren't plans in place in case that thing breaks down.

Chairman Clinger said there are two there – a primary and a backup.

Ms. Faye Nichols said the year before last an auger had to be replaced in one of the schools and the company was no longer around. We had to have it designed and it was expensive to do.

Chairman Clinger said back when that happened we started looking at the options. We are going to look at what is the most cost efficient in the long term when it has to be replaced. If that happens to be solar or whatever else is available at the time, that is what we will go with.

Mr. Billy Weitzenfeld said SustainFloyd did an energy inventory in the County in 2011. We don't have a lot of industry so we were a fairly low carbon producing County. Transportation was pretty big. The big user, and we have data on it, was the high school. We have a benchmark that has been established. As we move forward with this, that may be very helpful. I just wanted to remind you of that.

Ms. Mara Robbins said this is a really big part of the bigger picture in terms of a transition to renewables. As I mentioned in my presentation, the agreement doesn't have anything to do with the Dillon Rule. It is basically a list of things that you will need to consider.

Chairman Clinger said if it were worded more like a proclamation, rather than a resolution.

Ms. Robbins said it is not a resolution. I'm talking about the agreement that I just handed to you.

Chairman Clinger said an agreement gives that connotation of binding. You said it is non-binding but when you put an agreement in it is like we are giving our word. A proclamation is a little bit different.

Ms. Robbins stated so you want to proclaim it, but not agree to it.

Chairman Clinger said the first one when you came before us we agreed that something should be done and we've put it through to our county attorneys so they can put in the language we can all live with. An ordinance is a law. When we pass an ordinance, it is on the books and it is a law. A resolution says we agree with this; whereas a proclamation is a little bit different. They both carry the same weight, but one has a different mental note to it. A resolution is let it be resolved from this day forward, it will be that. A proclamation is more like we support this.

Ms. Freday said we can work on the wording. As soon as we get something signed it will go in all the newspapers.

Chairman Clinger said keep an eye on the agendas because we publish those in the newspaper.

Supervisor Yoder said on this particular resolution about the schools and the coal-fired furnace, my biggest concern would be that it says we are resolved that the school system will set its goal for renewable energy by 2030. That should come from the School Board. That is my

personal opinion. Before we say this is what you are going to do, because we don't have the power to tell the School Board what they are going to do.

Ms. Freday asked so you are not the decision makers and we should take it to them and then you?

Supervisor Kuchenbuch said that is not what we are trying to say. It is the idea that these are two autonomous bodies. The idea is they have been elected by you and they are representing you in your schools. And that is how this form of government works in Floyd County. It is not saying, "Oh, now you've got to go to them." It is not it at all. It is what it is. We don't want to be sitting here telling them what to do. We want them to listen to you. That is what is so gratifying about Gene [Bishop] and Faye [Nichols] being here tonight to hear you. But you need to present to them as well.

Supervisor Yoder said part of the issue that happened in the past was where one Board stepped on the other's toes a little bit instead of each one driving in their lane so to speak. Some of the good relationship we've built up is because each Board takes its role seriously. We appropriate money, but the School Board actually decides if it will be rooftop solar. That is their decision to make and then they would request money from us. Not to nitpick, but that is a little bit of the way it works.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch said and it's not about being in the paper. It's not necessary. It's not important. What is important is what we do for the citizens here in Floyd County. The reason we are doing this is not for the publicity. It will be because it will be the right thing to do and that's why we want to do it.

Chairman Clinger said you gave us three different ones to look at in our packet. The We the People one, item 12 says "Set official, binding targets, policies and legislation; write them into law..." We can't do that so I can't sign that one. The other one says, "Further, the States shall achieve 80% clean renewable energy..." We can't tell the State what to do. Once we get one that is tailored to what Floyd can and can't do, we'll be glad to sign it.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch said that is what our attorneys are doing.

Ms. Nichols said going back to the 5-year plan, Dr. Wheeler is so energetic and has so many great ideas about what we want to do. It would be good if you presented to the School Board and then we can ask questions. Whatever design the Board decided to go with, new buildings or whatever then we would have that information. Then we would ask the Board of Supervisors for the money.

Chairman Clinger said they might be eligible for grants.

Ms. Nichols said please give us information on any grants that are available.

Ms. Freday said I had a chance to talk to Dr. Wheeler for a few minutes before he left.

Mr. Karl Berzins asked are new school buildings on your mind?

Supervisor Kuchenbuch responded absolutely.

Mr. Berzins asked what is going on with the roof on this building?

Chairman Clinger said the other thing is how long are we going to be in this building? We are pushing the edges now. In the near future you will see that we will be doing some solar things that I think will surprise a lot of people.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch and Yoder confirmed that the Board was looking at a few things.

Mr. Berzins asked about the flat, open space at the landfill, could you put a farm there?

Chairman Clinger said DEQ is so picky. We have methane vents there. We thought about open space or green fields for other uses. DEQ won't let us plant trees on it.

Supervisor Yoder added it can't be used for recreation.

Mr. Berzins replied his junior high/high school compound was built on top of a landfill.

Supervisor Yoder said we looked at that at one point for soccer fields. But with the way it is capped we can't do anything. It's unfortunate.

Chairman Clinger said we discuss a lot of these things. It is the smaller, mundane details that never make it into the newspaper.

Mr. Weitzenfeld said maybe I'm old school, but this is great. We are all talking to each other.

Chairman Clinger said I hated to do that to Mr. Koppel before, but being on the agenda allows open dialogue. We know how long to devote to it and it can go a little longer if we have time. But if we have someone scheduled for 8:15 p.m., then we stop the dialogue and resume it at a later date.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch pointed out that they didn't stop Ms. Robbins when you took some of Mary's [Friday] time.

Chairman Clinger said that was because it was on the agenda. That is part of it.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch said Mary [Friday] was on the agenda and you piggybacked which was great. Other Boards might have said, "Sorry." But we want you to know that isn't what we did.

Supervisor Yoder said he didn't know if he understood solar very well. I've talked to Rick Brown and tried to meet, but haven't been able to yet. I almost wonder if some type of presentation to the Board just explaining some basic facts. You talk about a megawatt. What

does that actually produce as far as a solar array? What could you power with that? What kind of price ranges are we looking at? Those are things I would like to know.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch said if Jack Wall's son wants to come in and talk to us about what is going on in Bath County as far as putting it on schools. Or even go and talk to the School Board about it.

Mr. Weitzenfeld asked how much time do you have? We could do a little workshop for the Board. We could have David [Wall] come in since he has expertise in the area.

Supervisor Yoder said that would help a lot.

Chairman Clinger said we could schedule that for a day meeting rather than at night. In the day meetings we do more of the business type stuff with longer presentations. We try to do the night meetings for people who have jobs so they can come and talk.

Mr. Weitzenfeld replied let me know and I will be happy to help set that up.

Supervisor Yoder said that would help me a lot. Sometimes you talk about replacing the coal-fired boiler and I don't know if you are talking \$10,000.00 or \$1 million. I have no idea what we're talking about. If you are going to vote on a resolution, it would help me to understand the commitment.

Agenda Item 5. – Approval of month-end disbursements.

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

Supervisor Gerald – yes
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Yoder – yes
Supervisor Turman – yes
Supervisor Clinger – yes

Agenda Item 6.a. – Authorization to accept contract with Southern Software, Inc. for CAD & Records Management System.

Ms. Morris stated this contract with Southern Software, Inc. is for the CAD and records management system in the Sheriff's Office. Southampton County had in their RFP that others could do a cooperative procurement. We are legally allowed to do that – go under another county's RFP and we don't have to put it out for bid. The Sheriff and his staff have reviewed it and this is exactly what they wanted. The county attorney has reviewed the contract several times, the Sheriff's Office, and I have. We have provided changes and the company has made all those changes we requested. At this time the Sheriff and I are requesting approval for execution of this contract. If you remember this will be paid for with the grant Mr. Sowers obtained for the majority of the cost. The rest of the cost you approved in the Sheriff's budget.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch asked if she felt good about the software support?

Ms. Morris replied, yes.

On a motion of Supervisor Gerald, seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to authorize the County Administrator to execute the contract with Southern Software, Inc. for \$163,846.00 for the purchase of a CAD and records management system. (Document File Number 935).

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Yoder – yes
Supervisor Gerald – yes
Supervisor Turman – yes
Supervisor Clinger – yes

Agenda Item 6.b. – Contract between Floyd County and Department for Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for Blue Ridge Center for Chinese Medicine.

Agenda Item 6.c. – Floyd County/BRCCM Agreement to May 9, 2017 Agreement.

Agenda Item 6.d. – Resolution for appropriation of funds for Blue Ridge Center for Chinese Medicine.

Chairman Clinger stated that these three items on the agenda will be tabled to a later time because Lydeana [Martin] has some questions. If the Board has any other questions on this document that you like her to take back to DHCD, please let her know.

Ms. Martin said we wanted to provide these documents to you in case you had any additional questions or concerns. Terri [Morris] and I will be requesting to meet with the DHCD and we would be happy to carry any other questions you might have.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch requested that when DHCD gets copies of the monthly progress reports that the Board get those reports too. I did like the fact that you had the equipment would have a lien on it. That is very important. Otherwise I thought it was a good agreement. On page 3 is that a typo?

Ms. Martin replied yes, thank you.

Agenda Item 6.e. – Proclamation for Constitution Week.

On a motion of Supervisor Yoder, seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt a Proclamation Recognizing Constitution Week. (Document File Number 936).

Supervisor Yoder – yes
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Gerald – yes
Supervisor Turman – yes
Supervisor Clinger – yes

Agenda Item 10. – Old/New Business.

Nobody had any old or new business to discuss.

Agenda Item 9. – Closed Session – Real Property §2.2-3711 A.3. and Consultation with Legal Counsel §2.-3711 A.7.

On a motion made by Supervisor Gerald and seconded by Supervisor Turman, and unanimously 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; and under Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph A.7., Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultations or briefings in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body; and consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

Supervisor Yoder – yes
Supervisor Gerald – yes
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Turman – yes
Supervisor Clinger – yes

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

Supervisor Gerald – yes
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Yoder – yes
Supervisor Turman – yes
Supervisor Clinger – yes

On a motion of Supervisor Yoder, seconded by Supervisor Turman, 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 Real Property in accordance with Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph A.3 and Consultation with Legal Counsel in accordance with Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph A.7 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 – yes

Supervisor Yoder – yes

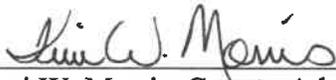
Supervisor Gerald – yes

Supervisor Turman – yes

Supervisor Clinger – yes

Agenda Item 12. – Adjournment.

On a motion of Supervisor Yoder, seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn to Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at 8:30 a.m.



Terri W. Morris, County Administrator



Case C. Clinger, Chairman, Board of Supervisors