

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2018**

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Floyd County, Virginia, held on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. in the Board Room of the County Administration Building thereof;

PRESENT: Lauren D. Yoder, Chairman; Joe D. Turman, Vice Chairman; Jerry W. Boothe, W. Justin Coleman, Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch, , Board Members; Terri W. Morris, County Administrator; Cynthia Ryan, Assistant County Administrator.

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

Agenda Item 2. – Opening Prayer.

The Opening Prayer was led by Supervisor Coleman.

Agenda Item 3. – Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice Chairman Turman led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item 4. – Approval of minutes of December 12, 2017 and January 3, 2018.

On a motion of Supervisor Kuchenbuch, seconded by Supervisor Turman, and carried, it was resolved to approve the minutes of December 12, 2017 as presented.

Supervisor Boothe – abstain
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Coleman – abstain
Supervisor Turman – yes
Supervisor Yoder – yes

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the minutes of January 3, 2018 as presented.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Coleman – yes
Supervisor Boothe – yes
Supervisor Turman – yes
Supervisor Yoder – yes

Agenda Item 5. – Approval of January 2018 monthly disbursements.

Supervisor Boothe asked what services were provided by Safety & Compliance?

Ms. Morris replied that is the company that conducts employee drug testing. We are required to have that for our Solid Waste employees who are considered Department of Transportation employees. It is mandatory that they be drug tested.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch asked if travel reimbursement requests are being turned in within the 30-day requirement?

Ms. Ryan replied that while there are a few that are outside the timeframe, most reimbursement requests are being turned in promptly.

On a motion of Supervisor Kuchenbuch, seconded by Supervisor Coleman, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the January 2018 monthly disbursements and additional bills as presented.

Supervisor Coleman – yes
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Boothe – yes
Supervisor Turman – yes
Supervisor Yoder – yes

Agenda Item 7.a. – Subdivision plats as approved by Agent for December 2017.

Ms. Lydeana Martin stated that December was a fairly slow month, which is not unusual. The plat report shows the entire calendar year of 2017 as compared to the year before. There were a little bit fewer plats overall, but more than the previous year.

Ms. Martin said that Karla Turman started employment last week. I think she will be great. She is starting to have a look at plats. When she is comfortable we will ask that you name her the Subdivision Agent and make me the alternate. I appreciate your support with that position. I think it will help all of us.

Ms. Martin reported that the Planning Commission is continuing to work through the cluster provision to potentially add it to the subdivision ordinance. There was a Board committee with staff and a consultant who first drafted language. It has gone to the Planning Commission. They are continuing to work through that and we might have something by July. In a few months you should have something to consider.

Ms. Martin provided an update of items from the Economic Development Authority [EDA]:

- 1) The draft of the Economic Development Assessment prepared by the consultant which you helped fund is expected at the end of this month. We hope to share it with you by next month.
- 2) You know we received funding from Appalachian Regional Commission to extend the road into the 51 acres at the Commerce Park. Ms. Morris and I have talked to them a couple of times. VDOT administers or handles that money. It transfers to their account. Their estimate of a best-case scenario is that it will take

four years to complete the road. I thought two years was a generous timeline. We are looking at options to see if there is any way we can administer some of those ourselves or get the Regional Commission to do it in order to speed it along.

- 3) The Floyd Grown Project is the farm/food/wood project we have been working on with various sources of funding including some from the Board. It has many pieces to the project. We wrapped up the logo development with Eddy Communications last month. Ms. Sharkey, Director of Tourism, and I will be meeting over the next few weeks to figure out how to best roll that out. It will be a logo to represent both tourism and economic development. If any of you would like to see it, let me know.

Agenda Item 7.b. – Department 2017 Department of Inspections Report.

Ms. Morris reported that permits are ahead for the month of December compared to last year at this time, however year to date we are somewhat lower.

Agenda Item 7.c. – Appointments to the Fire/Rescue Equipment Committee.

Ms. Morris stated the next item is appointments to the Fire/Rescue Equipment Committee. Several years ago we asked members of Fire Departments and Rescue Squads if they would be interested in serving on this Committee. They chose a representative among their ranks. Supervisors Turman and Yoder currently serve on the Committee. We send each Chief a sheet on each piece of equipment and they rate the condition of the equipment. The sheets are returned to County Administration. The Committee meets and goes out to each station and looks at each piece of equipment and the buildings while we are on site. The Committee meets again and makes a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for consideration during budget deliberations.

Vice Chairman Turman said he would like to continue serving on that committee. Chairman Yoder said with his new duties he would step down from the Fire/Rescue Equipment Committee. Supervisor Coleman stated that he would be interested in being on the committee. By consensus Board members appointed Vice Chairman Joe Turman and Supervisor Justin Coleman as their representatives to the Fire/Rescue Equipment Committee.

Ms. Morris said Mr. Jeff Dalton served on the Committee representing the Fire Departments and Mr. Roger Hollandsworth served on the Committee representing Rescue Squads. We are waiting to hear if they will continue serving on the Committee this year. Right now the forms are out to the Chiefs. The Committee will be meeting soon.

Agenda Item 7.d. – Healthy Relationships Month Proclamation.

Ms. Morris stated the next item is a proclamation for Healthy Relationships month. Ms. Pat Brown from the Women's Resource Center was scheduled to be here but was not able to attend. She was going to explain that proclamation to you. We will put this item on the agenda again when Ms. Brown reschedules.

Chairman Yoder stated we will reschedule agenda items 6.f. and 7.d.

Agenda Item 6.a. – Constitutional Officers reports.

Sheriff Brian Craig reported on the status of work and positions at the Sheriff's Office:

- 1) We are about to hire a Deputy Sheriff for the Animal Control position, which will have all positions filled.
- 2) He and two other officers will be in the Academy starting January 22.
- 3) Circuit Court is going on this morning with Grand Jury.
- 4) Back in 2010 Floyd CAD dispatched 11,603 calls; by the end of 2017 we had 21,174 calls come into dispatch.
- 5) Since 2010, this past year was the highest number of arrests for DUIs at 25. This does not include State Police numbers. Their numbers usually come off of traffic wrecks. Our numbers are from Deputy arrests only. In 2015 there were only 10 DUIs. In 2016 we had five new officers in training and we had 18 DUIs that year.
- 6) Breaking and entering arrests have gone down.
- 7) Thefts from buildings have gone down in the last couple of years.
- 8) We are working on the budget.

Agenda Item 6.c. – Ms. Tracie Brewster, Social Services Director.

Ms. Brewster provided the Floyd County Department of Social Services caseload statistics for December 2017.

Family Services Programs:

Adult Protective Services (new):	6
Adult Protective Services (ongoing):	3
Adult Services Screenings (new):	2
Companion Cases:	3
Guardianship Reporting Cases:	35
<i>This number is high because of Wall Residences and nursing home in Floyd.</i>	
Child Protective Services Investigations are high/Family Assessments (new):	6
Family Assessments/Investigations (continued from previous months):	12
Child Protective Services Ongoing Cases:	6
Prevention Child Protection Services:	2
Foster Care:	17
Adoption:	7 subsidies
VIEW (drastic participation increase from prior years which is part of Strategic Plan):	31
<i>VIEW helps people who participate in the program get employed.</i>	

Child Care:

4

Benefit Programs:

SNAP: 820	SNAP (new): 36	SNAP (renewals): 64	SNAP (closed): 26
TANF: 50	TANF (new): 7	TANF (renewals): 4	
Medicaid: 1563 (cases)	Medicaid (new): 87	Medicaid (renewals): 68	
Total Medicaid Recipients: 2,420			

Supervisor Boothe asked what is the number of unrepeated clients? Supervisor Boothe explained knowing that would assist in knowing what percentage of the Floyd County population is receiving some type of aid.

Ms. Brewster said she would look at those numbers from out of Data Warehouse and would provide that information. Ms. Brewster said she is always watching to make sure workers are not carrying too much on their caseload and we are always shifting it around to make sure they are not too overloaded and looking at it from their specialty. We also want to make sure clients feel they are getting specialized treatment, especially on the Services side. On the Benefits side they are processing applications but not meeting with clients face-to-face anymore. We are moving to a more generalized treatment on the Benefits side. We have done such a great job building up the VIEW participation that caseworker now has too much on her plate to do Child Protective Services ongoing. We really need another worker to do Child Protective Services ongoing. In CSA we identified we need someone, because we've tripled our number in foster care this year, to recruit homes. But we need to talk about some stuff. It is always a fine balancing act.

Chairman Yoder pointed out the space issue downstairs is also a factor.

Agenda Item 6.b. – Public Comment Period.

Chairman Yoder called for the Public Comment Period.

Ms. Edna Whittier, Little River District – What I am concerned about...I have been following, I guess I would call it the new energy resolution that has been in the press. The way that I read it is that a lot of time was spent on the original resolution. I mean a lot, like a couple of meetings and outside meetings, perhaps. And then I believe it was Mr. Vest and Mr., Smith came and in the space of one meeting without any reading of the resolution in detail, the resolution was changed. I'm concerned if that is the case, if I got it right, I am concerned about Mr. Smith's and Mr. Vest's opinion carrying so much weight with the Board. Since we work on a majority rule my impression is that those two men were outweighing five to ten people. I might be wrong on that, but this is what I am getting from the press. My second question on that is why the new resolution was approved in such, I'll use the word, haste as compared to the original resolution? Again what I understand was that at least one Board member was reading the new resolution while the Board was conducting other business. That means that Board member had divided attention. It also kind of implies to me that the Board members hadn't really read the resolution in the same detail as the first resolution. The next question I have is why didn't the Board simply adapt or approve a simple statement that the old resolution, the original resolution did not apply to private citizens? If Mr. Vest and Mr. Smith were concerned

only about it applying to private citizens, then I don't think it would have needed more than that simple statement. Because the Board members were telling them, I believe, at least one Board member said that wasn't the intent of the original resolution. It was not intended to apply to private citizens. It was intended to apply to public buildings. If that was all they were seeking, Mr. Smith and Mr. Vest, that simple statement would have covered it. But that is not what I read in the new resolution. I believe that is it.

Ms. Jane Cundiff, Little River District – Welcome to 2018! May you lead with wisdom.

The world is changing fast and there will be much to do. Our future will be different from our past and so we must be flexible and make changes we have not even considered before. You have a sign on the wall behind you “To grow is to prosper”. This can be truly inspiring or totally destructive. A community can grow with wisdom towards a beautiful future or it can grow with cancer toward its own demise. How will Floyd grow? It is up to us.

Good leaders are not those who do what they are told. They have a responsibility to listen to those they represent, but they have an even bigger responsibility to go a few steps higher. To take the time to research the evidence, the facts and the figures that is pertinent to good decisions. They cannot be swayed by religions, personal belief or outdated rules. Belief can be a twisted thing. Did God give us fossil fuels to destroy the earth? Some people actually think so. Government policy must be based on a more thorough analysis.

Breathe, drink, eat. We depend on healthy ecosystems for the simple existence of life itself. Many of these things are being threatened in our ecosystems. Floyd County has a beautiful, mostly natural environment. But as our population grows and people and businesses move in, will it stay that way? How can we protect our forests that give us oxygen, filter our water, hold on to our soil and nurture our souls? How do we protect our water so that our neighbor doesn't poison or drain it? We will need to address zoning – the big Z word – and improve local environmental regulations so that we can all remain healthy and pursue happiness here in Floyd.

There are four organizations in Floyd who have offered to help you with the evidence and education you need to keep Floyd a beautiful, healthy place to live. Partnership for Floyd, Sustain Floyd, Preserve Floyd and even the Wild Garden Club. We will continue to come to County meetings. But please, call on us when you need evidence or ideas for issues that will affect our shared environment. We have highly qualified lawyers, scientists, business leaders and other professionals who have volunteered to help. Our community meeting last month about alternative energy was a fine example of everyone working together. We hope to continue the process. Call us often in 2018. Let us help Floyd to grow in wisdom. Thank you.

Mr. Leon Moore, Burks Fork District – Good morning ladies and gentlemen. I intended to listen this morning and not say anything, but instead I am going to say it. I communicate with you all on a lot of different things, on a lot of different levels. Before I get off my original thoughts here I want to say one thing, you gentlemen and ladies are elected to represent every citizen in this County. You are elected to do the best for this County and that is

what I hope to look for from each of you. Now my original thoughts and I have communicated with two or three of you already.

Again last week we had another individual lose their life on Route 8. I have talked to several friends of mine on the Transportation Safety Board of the Commonwealth. We need to get a concentrated effort with Montgomery County, Blacksburg, and Christiansburg and do something about this. I worked a long time, and served a long time on the EDA. I can tell you now that the way the circumstances are with the traffic we have on Route 8, it is hampering you in getting businesses in this community. So we need to work on it. I'm like Jerry Boothe, I'm a little old and set in my ways, but I've started on occasion on my travels to Christiansburg back and forth that I start to pull off and count the traffic. Less than a week ago I was going to Christiansburg and I pulled off. There were two tractor-trailers in front of me. There were 27 cars behind me. I was coming back the other afternoon, which was about two days later, and I pulled off and there were 21 cars behind me inbound. We can't look for economic development if we continue with these areas. People are not going to come. There is new business going in to Glen Lynn over here. The reasons they look at that are a good highway system and a good workforce and a good area for development. We need to get Route 8 upgraded for the benefit of our citizens that work in the New River Valley, for the safety of the citizens, tourism, workers, visitors. We need to get that highway upgraded just for the safety of everyone. I am here to help you any way I can. Let's make that a priority in 2018. Thanks to each of you. I appreciate your service.

Ms. Jayne Avery, Courthouse District – I have a simple question. I'm not good at looking up legal stuff. I've had a number of people asking me, voicing their concern about the possible privatization of water in this County. Do we have any legal protections from that? Their concern is that some water company could dig a deep well next to their land and drain their water and they would have no legal rights against that. I'm just wondering has that been considered? Is there anything protecting people's water on their land?

Chairman Yoder replied that is a good question and I don't have an answer.

Ms. Avery said then I present that be something that is considered because what I am learning, particularly in the commercial world, access to water to sell in plastic bottles is getting to be a big deal. Companies are looking for more and more. Appalachian mountain water is on the top of the list. Given our vulnerability and the fact that our only source of water is rain, we have to figure out some way to protect our underground resources so that it doesn't get taken by that kind of company. Thank you.

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

Agenda Item 6.d. – Mr. Darrell Sowers, Maintenance Manager for Residency, Virginia Department of Transportation.

Mr. Sowers provided an update on work being done by the Residency:

- 1) Machined some gravel roads last month.

- 2) Patched some potholes, particularly on Rt. 221, Oxford Street, and Christiansburg Pike.
- 3) Brush cutting on Christiansburg Pike, Sunny Ridge Road, and Loss Bent Road.
- 4) Continued pulling primary shoulders on Rt. 8 last month. As weather allows we will continue that for the next month or so and get some of those low shoulders filled in and brush cut from some of the primaries.
- 5) Chris [Price] has the speed study for Parkview Road in the works.
- 6) We've talked about the sidewalk public information meeting. It has been changed a little bit. Now a public hearing will be held, February 20. They are going to try to schedule that at the Town Hall.

Supervisor Boothe asked if it is going to be like a Town Hall meeting or a Public Hearing?

Mr. Sowers replied Public Hearing. There will be some advertisements coming out next week in the newspaper.

Ms. Morris confirmed that there will not be one as originally discussed in January?

Mr. Sowers agreed that there will not be one in January.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch asked what caused the delay?

Mr. Sowers answered there seemed to be a lot of interest and they wanted to be sure that everyone had an opportunity for input. A lot of times when it gets to the District they decide to do it a little bit bigger.

Supervisor Boothe asked if the office has all the supporting information that led up to this?

Ms. Morris replied we don't really have plans or anything. I assume you will have those there?

Mr. Sowers confirmed they would. I expect they will have large poster boards with ideas on it.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch requested that this Board see the materials prior to the meeting.

Supervisor Boothe said that is part of what I thought we were doing with the Town Hall type meeting with the Town Council is information, presentation and

general discussion back and forth. If you are doing a Public Hearing session then it is going to be listening to what the citizens say and basically no input back. That is a whole different scenario unless the Town Council gets a "head's up" ahead of time. They are not going to know any more than a citizen walking through the door.

Mr. Sowers agreed that they would put a packet together for the Board prior to the meeting.

Supervisor Boothe requested that they include the Town Council in that.

Mr. Sowers agreed to include the Town Council. He said David Clarke has been working with the Town Manager and the Mayor on this all along.

Supervisor Boothe said I want them included. I have heard all kinds of wild rumors on where the funds are intended to come from. If you would, get us a general informational packet ahead of time.

Supervisor Boothe said when I served on the Board previously the Superintendent or someone would set a time to come out and ride each district with each supervisor. That way you are at least seeing what we are seeing. When we sit here and try to explain something to you, you will have some idea of exactly what we are talking about. If possible, I would like to see that start again maybe once a year.

Mr. Sowers said he could be available most any time. Ms. Morris has our contact information.

Supervisor Boothe said I apologize to the people in my district but I haven't been on every road, but there are problems with shoulders. They are either way too low or way too high. Much of it will involve ditch work for which you will need an EPA permit and eat up the costs. You were talking about some of the shoulders on Rt. 8. There are some washouts around the guardrails on Rt. 8 a lot longer than just this year. Is there a way to use money to deal with safety issues?

Mr. Sowers replied there is a Safety program that started a couple of years ago where we did some sight distance on some curves. There are some funds available for that. We've probably done four locations so far.

Supervisor Boothe said we used to do it out of secondary maintenance money instead of a special pile of money. If they have special money that is even better. I'm looking at ways we can work together.

Mr. Sowers said we are open to suggestions and to continue our working relationship and build on what we have.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch said she had one constituent mention that work was done on Thomas Farm Road. She was very appreciative of the work, but it appeared the work was done

on a section that did not need it as much as the lower section that needed it more. The lower section has an incredible amount of potholes.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch said she wanted to go on record as stating, with my VDOT representatives here right now, that another life has been lost on Rt. 8 last week in a tragic accident in Montgomery County. I do want to emphasize, once again from my point of view, I know this Board has tried to work in the past with Montgomery County to address the needs to finally straighten the section from basically the Christiansburg/Montgomery County/Riner area on out to our County line. I would just like to say that is the area where the most accidents have been occurring. Sometimes they are not fatal. Sometimes they are just an inconvenience and a lot of people get held up. Many of our citizens in all of our districts work in Montgomery County and travel to the interstate or the colleges that employ them or businesses. I just want to say that I would like to see Rt. 8 straightened. I know as a Board we will continue to work towards that through our staffs as well as our Board leadership. Otherwise you are doing a great job here in Floyd and I thank you and all your workers.

Vice Chairman Turman asked that they keep the curve below C.W. Harman on their radar. That has been washed out and a lot of vehicles go across the centerline to avoid that area.

Supervisor Coleman said he has one item but is still gathering information before bringing it up to discuss.

Chairman Yoder said he had no issues to bring up but wanted to thank VDOT staff who are working night and day at this time of year.

Agenda Item 6.e. – Mr. Billy Weitzenfeld, Director of the Association of Energy Conservation Professionals.

Mr. Billy Weitzenfeld said he was sharing his spot on the agenda with Ms. Mary Freday who would be speaking first.

Ms. Mary Freday, Little River District – Good morning. I'm here today to comment on the resolution that was signed by four out of five Supervisors on December 12th, 2017. I'd like to begin by thanking my own representative – Mrs. Linda DeVito, for voting no on a resolution that almost directly contradicted the one signed unanimously on October 24th. And to the new members of the Board, I'd like to say welcome – and welcome back. I look forward to working with you, and I apologize that you have been handed a manufactured controversy to attend to upon arrival. And to the two supervisors who signed opposing resolutions – I have to tell you that I am just disappointed in the way you handled some concerned citizens who approached you with questions about violations to their property rights, and the ability of the County to develop economically with a Clean Energy Resolution on the books. Those were valid concerns and they deserved to be addressed in a valid manner. I knew that these concerns were present in our community, so my response was to have a community discussion at the library. We listened to one another and we used the concerns as a way to build community and begin to educate one another about our beliefs and worries and hopes and fears. A few of you were there, and you know it went well. But then, a few weeks later, when those concerned

citizens officially approached this Board, you allowed a resolution containing, at its heart, a logical contradiction, to be passed without undergoing any legal scrutiny. The logical contradiction, as I see it, is this: the new document states that there will be major adverse impacts if we do not stop using fossil fuels and that is counter-productive economically and unnecessarily costly to do so. If the beginning of the resolution is true – the part that says that we will have more intense heat waves, prolonged droughts, rising sea levels, ocean acidification, and more intense and frequent storms, then it stands to reason that those things are going to be financially draining. Not to mention dangerous.

By taking the original resolution and adding contradictory information to it, I believe you devalued the concept of a Floyd County resolution. Your actions on December 12th demonstrated to the community that you do not, as a matter of policy, require facts, evidence, or legal scrutiny to be a basis for decision-making.

You now have a dilemma on your hands. You have to decide what you stand for as the legal representatives of the citizens of this County. In my opinion, it is imperative that you hereby resolve to place at a premium science-based information and implement evidence-based policies. Our modern world did not get to the place that it is today by equating ideology with evidence, or by equating personal religious beliefs with carefully conducted scientific experimentation and empirical evidence. If we want to continue to advance as a society, develop technologically, and survive as a species, we need to acknowledge the work of great scientific minds and utilize the information they provide to us when making our policies.

As you know, over the summer and fall of 2017, a number of concerned and responsible citizens came before this Board and presented the science of climate change. We came before you, respectfully, with fact-based climate science. We did not have a secret agenda. We were transparent. Due to heartfelt concern about the state of our planet and a belief that we could work together with our local government to work towards a solution, we came here hoping that we could get rational and forward-thinking energy policy enacted at the County level. And I do believe that the information we presented had an influence. So I hereby promise to visit you regularly, and share basic climate science with you, in the hopes that you will use this information to the benefit of the citizens of Floyd County.

And I am going to start right now. Carbon dioxide is increasing in the atmosphere at the fastest rate that it has in 66 million years. It's rising at a rate unprecedented in the geological record. This is due to the use of fossil fuels and we know this because prior to the industrial revolution, there were 280 parts per million of CO₂ in the atmosphere. Last July, it was measured at over 400. And here is a fun fact: the estimated level of stability for the Antarctic ice sheet is 450 parts per million. This means it is coming dangerously close to collapse, which means we are all coming dangerously close to catastrophic sea level rise. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, recent Arctic melting has been more intense than at any time in recorded history. Did you know that a chunk of ice roughly the size of Delaware broke off of the Antarctic Ice Shelf in July? Did you know that a chunk bigger than Manhattan broke off in September?

I could keep talking about 2017 because there were unparalleled fires in California, unprecedented flooding in Houston, and the strongest hurricane ever recorded in the Atlantic

Ocean, but in the interest of time, I won't. Unparalleled, unprecedented, record breaking, longer than normal, wetter than normal, drier than normal, hotter than normal. All of this has become normal because there is too much CO2 in the atmosphere.

According to UCLA Climate Scientist Daniel Swain, "the changes in climate we are experiencing are largely due to the human emission of greenhouse gases. And we expect warming to continue for as long as we continue to emit those greenhouse gases." According to Park Williams, Climate Scientist at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, "As you put greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, the globe warms, whether it's Earth or another planet. It's just the law of physics."

These are two examples of credentialed climate scientists who work at major U.S. universities. Of course you can read opposing viewpoints. As we all know, we do not have, and we may never have, 100% scientific consensus about the causes of these changes. However, 97% to 98% of publishing climate scientists agree that we are currently experiencing anthropogenic, which is human-caused, climate change. Among those scientists who question this basic law of physics are earth scientists, botanists, geologists, and bio-geographers. Interestingly, some of them are on the payroll of multinational oil and gas corporations. According to Harvard Professor and scientific historian Naomi Oreske, over \$120 million dollars have been funneled into 'doubt campaigns' by the Koch brothers alone. However, according to the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, it is "extremely likely" that this observed warming is caused by human activity and according to the United States Global Change Research Program, "there is no convincing alternative explanation."

As a culture, we are letting a small number of people create a debate where there really need not be one. Some say that these are natural geological processes and that the earth goes through cycles like this all the time. And some say that whatever happens or is happening is part of God's plan. And some, including 97% to 98% of publishing climate scientists, say that these changes are caused by the increasing amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, and that the worst effects can be stopped if we stop putting so much greenhouse gas into the atmosphere. There is no doubt that it's a complicated issue. But I'd like everyone to carefully ask themselves the following question: "What if the climate scientists are right?" What if we can be better stewards of the earth by enacting policies that encourage and incentivize renewable energy? What if we do make the planet uninhabitable by failing to act?

This situation is extremely serious. Each one of us has an ethical and moral responsibility to assess our role in this. Especially those of us in seats of power. I will not stop working to bring about the changes that need to be made in order to ensure a sustainable future. I truly could not look my daughter in the eye if I didn't continue this work. I had hoped, and I still hope, that I could work with you to achieve these very necessary objectives, because I believe we can go faster, further, and better together. But in order for that to happen, we need science- and evidence-based decision making taking place in this room. We all need a seat at the table, and we all need to be represented. This country and this County are divided now along political and ideological lines. And we also just happen to be on the edge of environmental collapse. These facts are probably not mutually exclusive. But everyone, deep down, has the same motivations. We all love our children. We all love this land and we all want a bright and happy future. I'd like to see our County become a model. A model of environmental action, if possible, but at the

very least, a model for how people with divergent ideas can work together to bring about positive changes. That work will not just take place in this room. We are going to be doing it, with or without you. But we'd like to have you at our table. And we'd like to sit at yours. Thank you very much for your time.

Mr. Billy Weitzenfeld, Courthouse District – Good Morning. Thank you Mary and thank you for allowing us to share the agenda spot. I appreciate that. So we have two resolutions representing two different viewpoints, two different perspectives, two different schools of thought if you will. Maybe this is okay. Maybe the Board is comfortable with this?

But I have a better idea. Let's build a bridge rather than accept the wall that exists between these two documents – a wall that in my opinion has the potential to further divide this community. Let's see if we can work together and come up with one resolution.

Can we? I don't know. I think it will be difficult, I don't think it will be easy but we should try. The recent community meeting was an example of how people with different ideas and opinions in this community can come together with civil conversation and respectful engagement and create some dialogue that helped us move forward. Even if we fail in creating a single resolution perhaps the process itself will allow us to better understand each other and to create some mutual respect. So let's build a bridge.

So I suggest or request with all due respect to the Board that we form a working group comprised of people representing each resolution, some Board of Supervisor representation, and people from the County government. And I think this should happen fairly soon.

The bottom line is that we are all in this together whether we want to be or not and the more effectively we work together the more successful we will be moving forward. A clean, safe, affordable, and sustainable energy future is what I believe we all want and certainly our children and grandchildren deserve this from us. If we can't find a way to come together to solve the many problems facing us, not just in Floyd, but globally; I guarantee politics, resolutions, renewable energy, fossil fuels are not going to save us. That is the most important task in front of all of us – to find a way to work together effectively.

And in conclusion I will just state myself, my colleagues, my organization and other groups in the County will continue to move forward. We are already planning a series of educational workshops on energy conservation, energy efficiency, renewable energy, global warming, and climate change. We will continue to put programs and projects on the ground, all of which will result in additional renewable energy generation in this County. We are already planning a second Solarize Floyd program. We are continuing to work with James Madison University to see if there are opportunities for small wind in the County which has created a lot of interest. I think right now 50 people have signed up. People who live in Floyd County will see if they qualify for this program. It is very exciting. We are also planning our second annual Floyd Energy Fair so we are moving forward. And we will do our part to mitigate the impact of global warming and climate change and also help to provide accurate and timely information to all of the citizens of Floyd County. Again we want to work with you. We want to work with everybody in the community. Even though we have passionate beliefs on each side of the issue – you've heard some of that today – let's build a bridge. Thank you.

Chairman Yoder said he appreciated the comments both of you had. I agree with you Mr. Weitzenfeld cooperation goes a lot farther than arguing over something. I will speak for me personally, I am really interested in what we can do in the County in our government buildings for efficiency if there is a way we can save money and leave a cleaner place for tomorrow. Going forward that is what I am interested in as we remodel or as we do things in the County. It is important that we consider those things. A lot of times just efficiency like insulation is more beneficial than anything else.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch said I echo Chairman Yoder's comments. I think building a bridge is a statement that can be done. Two resolutions on the books, while divergently opposite one another, sure that is fine. They are on the books. It is something that can work. I will put my voice and let it be known that I would like to see this working group. I am but one person on this Board, but I think with the amount of work we did on our first resolution I think the same amount of work should have been done on the second. In making a single resolution through a working group, not only does it work towards bringing two divergent points of view together on a single issue, it shows that we as a community can work together. I think that is a powerful message. I think no matter what side you sit on that's important – that we as citizens of this County can come together and respectfully discuss issues that are not something that we see the same eye-to-eye. I think we do that on this Board every time we meet because not all the time are we seeing an issue with the same set of eyes or same set of beliefs. I will go on record saying I would love to see a working group tackle both of these. I think it is important for our County. I think it is important for relations within our County, and not just on the climate. Whether or not I am a lone voice or whether or not others see it as that way. It is how we have to move forward from now. Those are my thoughts.

Chairman Yoder said especially with having two new Board members, my suggestion would be that we take our time and consider where we are going from this point and that we not make any hasty decisions on what we are going to do. I really appreciate your time today; the time everyone spent to come out today. For me I just don't want to jump into something again as hasty and that we may regret down the road. Let's continue to discuss it and think about it and we really appreciate your time.

Agenda Item 8. – Closed Session – Personnel 2.2-3711 A.1.; Real Property 2.2-3711 A.3.; and Consultation with Legal Counsel 2.2-3711 A. 7.

On a motion made by Supervisor Kuchenbuch and seconded by Supervisor Turman, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to go into closed session under Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph A. 1., Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment: assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body; 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 Boothe – yes
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Coleman – yes
Supervisor Turman – yes
Supervisor Yoder – yes

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

Supervisor Boothe – yes
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes
Supervisor Coleman – yes
Supervisor Turman – yes
Supervisor Yoder – yes

On a motion of Supervisor Kuchenbuch, seconded by Supervisor Boothe, 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 Personnel in accordance with Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph A.1; 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 Coleman – yes
Supervisor Boothe – yes
Supervisor Turman – yes
Supervisor Yoder – yes

Agenda Item 9. – Old/New Business.

Ms. Ryan provided an update on the ACCE program students, who receive tuition assistance if they meet certain criteria, including 40 hours of community service for each semester:

- 1) The students completed their first semester at New River Community College.
- 2) 26 started the Fall 2017 semester.
 - a. 1 student transferred to another college after completing the semester.
 - b. 2 students quit the program by not doing community service.
 - c. 4 students dropped courses during the semester and three of those owe money back to the ACCE program for dropping the classes.
 - d. 5 students dropped below the mandatory grade point average of 2.5. To stay in the ACCE program for the future, they have to take classes in the spring semester and pay for the classes themselves. They need to bring their cumulative grade point average up to 2.5 by the end of the spring semester. All 5 of those students had already completed their 40 hours of community service for the spring semester.
 - e. 14 students out of the original 26, have completed both the community service hours and have a grade point average over 2.5, and are still in the ACCE program for the spring semester.
- 3) ACCE program tuition for FY18 based on 26 students first semester and 14 students 2nd semester will probably be about \$57,245.00.
- 4) The grant from the Tobacco Commission was \$75,000.00.
- 5) Next year we will have the same group of students again plus a new graduating class so if our experience remains the same, we're looking at spending about \$114,000.00 for the ACCE program in FY19.
- 6) Tobacco Commission hasn't issued grant applications yet for us to apply for funding for students again.
- 7) Floyd County High School has not advertised or recruited students for the program thinking they need to wait until we know if we have a Tobacco Commission grant.

Vice Chairman Turman said I think the program is doing pretty well for it being the first group of students to participate. Once students see what the program is they will step up.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch said she is hearing from students that they are excited and would like to be part of this program.

Ms. Ryan said we had several students volunteer here and one in particular said, "There is no way in the world I would be going to college if it wasn't for this program."

Chairman Yoder said we could carry over the \$35,000.00 we put in the FY18 budget. Can we carry over the amount that is unspent from the grant?

Ms. Martin said no that goes back to the Tobacco Commission. They haven't released their new grant round this year. Last year by this time they had already announced the award. Last year the Tobacco Commission talked about limiting it to STEM programs that are very short term. I don't know if the community colleges have been working to make sure it doesn't go that route. Tobacco Commission wants to pay for people who are getting immediate skills and going into the workforce.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch said she knows of potential sponsors for this program. I think this is a worthwhile program for our youngest citizens. I would like to go ahead and let the school know that we will fund this.

Vice Chairman Turman said I want to see this program keep going.

Chairman Yoder said by consensus we agree to let the school system know that we will fund the ACCE program for FY19.

Supervisor Boothe requested that at some point Ms. Ryan talk to the students and find out why they dropped out of the program.

Supervisor Boothe said on these resolutions at some point we need to put that to bed. I'm not saying next week or when, but we need to put that to bed. A lot of people are getting upset over something that carries no binding authority on the previous Board, no binding authority on this Board, and no binding authority on a future Board.

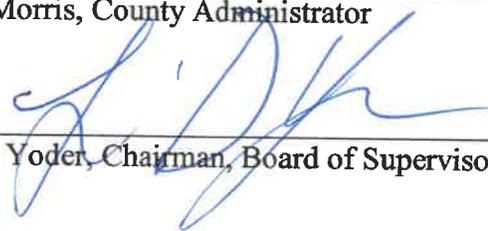
Vice Chairman Turman said there is too much misinformation and misunderstanding out there.

Agenda Item 10. – Adjournment.

On a motion of Supervisor Turman, seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and carried, it was resolved to adjourn to Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.



Terri W. Morris, County Administrator



Lauren D. Yoder, Chairman, Board of Supervisors

