

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 24, 2018**

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Floyd County, Virginia, held on Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at 6:00 p.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 Yoder called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.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. – Public Hearing on Six-Year Plan with Virginia Department of Transportation.

Supervisor Justin Coleman stated the following for the record:

Today's discussion involves the County budget which includes funding for the Floyd County Sheriff's Office. As many of you know, I am employed by the Floyd County Sheriff's Office. The proposed funding would affect the entire department and not just me individually. Together we constitute a group of three or more individuals who are similarly employed by the Sheriff's Office and similarly affected by the discussion. Therefore the exception of State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act section § 2.2-3112 A (i) applies to this situation and I am able to participate in this discussion fairly and in the public interest. Thank you.

Chairman Yoder called the Public Hearing on the Six-Year Plan to order.

Mr. David Clarke, Residency Administrator in Salem District, Virginia Department of Transportation, explained the how the Secondary Road Six-Year Plan funding works and how the prioritization process goes. Per the Code of Virginia, VDOT holds this Public Hearing on Secondary Six-Year Plan funding with each county. It is called the Six-Year Plan because that is the funding window. It is not a construction plan it is a funding plan. We have to count for the next 6 years of funding on the fiscal year basis. The plan we are discussing tonight will start July 1, 2018. The allocation is about \$730,000.00 for this next fiscal year. The amounts vary from year to year but are generally in the \$700,000.00 range. The draft plan is the current plan which the Board passed last year minus the roads that we finished this past year or expect to finish this

summer. About four roads are coming off the plan so there is room for about four more, depending on the length of the road. No action is needed by the Board tonight. The roads that are coming off the plan are Alum Ridge Road, Vaughns Mill Road, Diamond Knob Road, and New Haven Road. Primary routes 8 and 221 have a separate Six-Year Plan that they go through and a separate funding process called Smartscale. The Public Hearing for the primary routes will be May 10 and will include the twelve counties in the Salem District.

The current draft Six-Year plan includes:

- 1) Moles Road
- 2) Downtown Pedestrian Signals
- 3) Mill Run Road
- 4) ½ mile section of Roger Road
- 5) Firehouse Road
- 6) Countyline Road

**Mr. John Phillips** stated that **Ferney Creek Road and Route 746**, develop pothole after pothole every time it rains or snows because of drainage problems. On Ferney Creek Road there is a culvert and both sides around the culvert are falling in.

**Mr. Rob Campbell** expressed his concerns about safety on **Ferney Creek Road and Reedsville Road**.

**Mr. Jason Rutledge** asked that a one mile section of **Bear Ridge Road, Route 649**, be added to the Six-Year Plan. The traffic count needs to be done during the period of the year when the Blue Ridge Holiness Church campground is in operation.

**Ms. Oma Reece** and **Mr. Donald Reece** said that **Quesenberry Road** used to be on the Six-Year Plan and they would like that it be put back on the Six-Year Plan. Ms. Reece presented a petition signed by the people who live on that road.

**Mr. Joshua Dalton** also said he had the same issues of **potholes** and ruts on **Quesenberry Road**. He pointed out that there are about 20 houses on 1.25 miles of road.

**Mr. Benny Quesenberry** said improvements have been made on **Quesenberry Road**, Route 760, but there are 5 bad curves and it is dust or mud all the time. Quesenberry Road needs work and surface treating. It needs to be back on the Plan.

**Mr. Bobby Hanes** spoke about **Ponderosa Lane** which is the lifeline to civilization for those who live in Park Ridge development. I would love to see this .5 mile taken care of by adding it to the list.

**Mr. Larry Martin** also spoke about putting **Ponderosa Lane** on the Six-Year Plan again. If added it would be about the sixth time it would be on the plan.

**Ms. Debra Durant** said that about 25-30 residents live year round in Park Ridge development. There are probably about as many summer residents and there are several roads of campgrounds. **Ponderosa Lane** is a very heavily used road and it is our lifeline.

**Dr. Carl Durant** said by putting **Ponderosa Lane** on the Six-Year Plan it would save the County money by not having to spend as much on maintenance for school buses.

**Mr. Jonathan Vest** requested that **Sunny Ridge Road, Route 608**, be put back on the Six-Year Plan. Improvements have been made over the years, but in the past 10 to 12 years those road improvements have declined. Mr. Vest provided copies of pictures of road conditions on Sunny Ridge Road. He stated he was not looking for paving of the road, but looking for improvements of ditches and maintenance.

After hearing no further comments from the audience, Chairman Yoder declared the Public Hearing on the Six-Year Plan closed.

Agenda Item 5. – Public Hearing on Floyd County’s Proposed FY19 annual budget and tax levies.

Ms. Morris read the call for the Public Hearing and noted that it was published in the April 12, 2018 edition of *The Floyd Press* and also posted on the County’s web page.

Ms. Morris provided an overview of the proposed FY19 budget which focuses on public health, safety and welfare. The overall projected increase over the current year is \$1,714,115.00. Some of the primary items that account for the projected increase include:

- 1) The addition of 2 County funded Deputy Sheriff positions who would be road deputies.
- 2) The addition of 2 County funded School Resource Officers to be shared between the four elementary schools.
- 3) The addition of three Emergency Medical Services staff to complete our plan of two ambulances running 24/7 365 days.
- 4) The purchase of two Lucas devices for County owned ambulances. These devices provide continuous machine CPR and frees up our EMS staff to provide other necessary procedures for our patients.
- 5) The purchase of a power-load stretcher for the County owned Medic 1.
- 6) Complete our plan to purchase extrication tools for the fire department. With this purchase all four stations will have the tools. These tools enable fire department members to provide extrication procedures at the scene of a wreck.
- 7) Our estimate of \$50,000.00 in meals tax revenue will go toward the purchase of two police cars. As you will recall, the referendum, as passed by the voters, calls for the meals tax to be used for capital purchases.
- 8) The completion of our plan to replace the call handling equipment for the dispatch center which provides service to law enforcement, fire, rescue, and EMS.

Ms. Morris stated that in other areas of the budget the focus is on education with 60% of the total budget directed toward local schools. This coming year we will have \$78,191.00

designated for continuing the Access to Community College Education program. We have 14 returning students from last year and 20 new students this year. This program provides tuition for students who might not have had other opportunities or means to attend. Funds will also be set aside to begin saving for future school capital needs particularly the expansion of the vocational school. The Board also plans to begin replenishing the Budget Stabilization Fund which assists in balancing the budget so tax increases are not required every year. The Board will also be making some delayed repairs to County buildings and property such as roof replacements, heating unit replacements, and erosion repairs at the landfill. The tax increase proposal of \$.07 per \$100 for real estate will be used to cover the above items plus our other routine increased costs such as insurance, electricity, fuel and other repairs to buildings and equipment.

Chairman Yoder stated the Board of Supervisors has gone through the budget line by line several times and we will continue to do that for the next few months. We don't have to have a budget passed until the end of June. It is hard for us to pass a budget without knowing what the State numbers are.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch stated that she wanted to go on record that she has lived in the County for 34 years and has been pleased to be a public servant on this Board. I do not consider myself a politician and will never consider myself a politician. I am here to serve the public and when it comes to any kind of tax increase, I think long and hard about it. I am just like everyone else. I live within a budget. I have expenses. It is not something I consider lightly nor do any of my colleagues when we are thinking of increasing taxes.

Chairman Yoder called the Public Hearing on Floyd County's Proposed FY19 annual budget and tax levies to order.

**Mr. Jeremy Yuvanavattana, Little River District** – I am a landowner. My wife and I have six kids. As Linda [Supervisor Kuchenbuch] noted, we live on a budget also. At times finances can get tight. It is a normal part of life and we understand that we have people in our district and in our County that are even less fortunate than we are and struggle. With that being said, I wholeheartedly support a \$.07 increase in my real estate tax. I think our County is moving in the correct direction. It is absolutely your responsibility as our elected officials to provide safety and security for your citizens by your best means. I think that is the path you are heading down. It is hopeful to me. I am thrilled to see that you are being proactive versus reactive. From Terri's [County Administrator Morris] comments it sounds like you are adding seven jobs to the County with EMS and the Sheriff's department. I wholeheartedly support that as well. I think it is a very well thought out use of citizens' money. School safety, of course, is extremely important. Like I said I have six kids and five of them attend Floyd County Public Schools. Two new resource officers is a great step forward. I wouldn't stop there. I'm not suggesting you raise taxes again next year. In today's time it is a scary situation we live in. Before we have a problem, let's nip it in the bud. I think that is an important step you are taking. I do support a real estate tax raise and I appreciate your work on the budget this year. Thank you.

After hearing no further comments from the audience, Chairman Yoder declared the Public Hearing on Floyd County's Proposed FY19 annual budget and tax levies closed.

Vice Chairman Turman echoed what Supervisor Kuchenbuch said. I'm at the age where I am on a fixed income. After seeing the numbers from Social Services I realize the poverty rate in this County. I do not take a tax increase lightly, but it's got to happen. I may not agree with the amount but that is something that we'll take care of in the next budget meetings. We'll be going over it a lot more between now and then. I appreciate the support; the people who have called me have been nice. A lot of people are in the same position I am of being retired and on a fixed income. It is a matter of eating or buying medicine sometimes. We have to keep that in mind. I will tell my constituents and the rest of the County that I will be accountable for any money we collect and spend.

Chairman Yoder said we do go through the budget. We don't just get the budget and approve it. It is something we have spent many, many days on already and will continue to go over. Staff continues to go over it as well.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch agreed with Mr. Yuvanavattana that it is the times we are living in and that public safety and welfare are her utmost concerns.

Chairman Yoder stated I consider myself a conservative. When you are looking at tax increases as opposed to supporting the Sheriff's Office, how do you balance that? It is a struggle that we will all continue to go through but our Emergency Services and our Sheriff's Office are important areas that we definitely need to support. The times we face present a lot of pressure on our public servants like the Sheriff's Office and Fire and Rescue.

Agenda Item 7. – Approval of month-end disbursements.

Questions and discussion followed.

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

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

Agenda Item 6. – Public Comment Period.

Chairman Yoder called for the Public Comment Period. Hearing no comments from the audience, Chairman Yoder declared the Public Comment Period closed.

Agenda Item 8.a. – Proclamation for Mental Health/Children's Mental Health Day.

Ms. Morris stated that the request for this proclamation came from the New River Valley Community Services Board.

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the Proclamation for Mental Health/Children's Mental Health Day (Document File Number 973).

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

Agenda Item 9. – Closed Session.

Ms. Morris stated that we do not need to go into closed session for any of the items tonight.

Agenda Item 10. – Old/New Business.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch stated that she attended the Chamber of Commerce luncheon yesterday concerning Amtrak service to the New River Valley. I would like to invite a speaker to our day Board meeting in May to discuss this issue. Most of the other jurisdictions around us are closely involved because their areas have rail through it. Although Floyd does not have rail service, many of our citizens might be interested in availing themselves of rail service in Christiansburg if it were available.

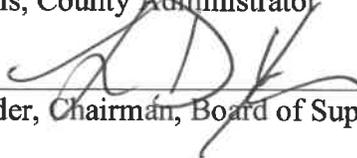
Ms. Morris stated that Ms. Karla Turman, Floyd County's Planner, was going to a meeting about this subject on Thursday to get some information for us. I already asked Mr. Ed Lawhorn if he would be willing to come speak to us and he said he would.

Chairman Yoder said that the School Board requested that our Chair and Vice Chair meet with their Chair and Vice Chair, the School Superintendent, the County Administrator, and the attorneys for the two respective Boards to discuss the steps they need to take to go through procurement to get bids for windows, lights, roofs, heating systems in the schools. They just want to make sure we are all on the same page at the start of the process.

Agenda Item 11. – Adjournment.

On a motion of Supervisor Turman, seconded by Supervisor Coleman, and carried, it was resolved to adjourn to a Budget Work Session on Monday, April 30, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

  
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Terri W. Morris, County Administrator

  
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Lauren D. Yoder, Chairman, Board of Supervisors