

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 28, 2020**

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Floyd County, Virginia, held on Tuesday, July 28, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium of Floyd County High School thereof;

PRESENT: Joe D. Turman, Chairman; Jerry W. Boothe, Vice Chairman; W, Justin Coleman, Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch and Lauren D. Yoder, Board Members; Terri W. Morris, County Administrator; Cynthia Ryan, Assistant County Administrator, Tabitha Hodge, Operations Manager to livestream and film the meeting.

Agenda Item 1. – Meeting Called to Order.

Chairman Turman 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 Coleman.

Agenda Item 3. – Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Yoder led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item 4. – Public Hearing on Floyd County’s Proposed Ordinance Regulating Construction of Tall Structures on Protected Mountain Ridges.

Ms. Morris read the call for the Public Hearing and noted that it was published in the July 9, 2020 and July 16, 2020 editions of The Floyd Press and also posted on the County’s website.

Mr. Steve Durbin, County Attorney, gave a brief overview of the Proposed Ordinance Regulating Construction of Tall Structures on Protected Mountain Ridges:

- 1) There are two essential components of the regulation:
 - a. First it designates ridges 2300’ and higher in Floyd County would be subject to protection and the County would prepare a map to identify the ridges covered by the ordinance;
 - b. Regulation of any tall building or structure in excess of 250’ in height, with exceptions being (i) water, radio, telecommunications or television towers or any equipment for the transmission of electricity, telephone or cable television; (2) structures of a relatively slender nature and minor vertical projections of a parent building, including, but not limited to, chimneys, flagpoles, flues, spires, steeples, belfries, cupolas, antennas, poles, wires or windmills; or (iii) any buildings or structure designated as a historic landmark, building or structure by the United States or by the Board of Historic Resources.

Supervisor Yoder – If we wanted to adopt an ordinance that was somewhat different than this one, we could raise the height?

Mr. Durbin – It would be safe to increase the height of the ridge to be protected because that would be less restrictive or you could increase the height of the tall building because that would be less restrictive.

Chairman Turman called the Public Hearing open on Floyd County's Proposed Ordinance Regulating Construction of Tall Structures on Protected Mountain Ridges.

Mr. Billy Weitzenfeld, Courthouse District, mailed in comments and requested that they be read into the record – During the 2020 General Assembly, Virginia lawmakers passed the Virginia Clean Economy Act (VCEA) with the intent purpose of modernizing Virginia's clean energy portfolio, addressing climate change and creating green energy jobs. First and foremost, the VCEA will transition our electric grid to 100% clean energy by 2050 into Virginia law. This will be accomplished by a significant increase in energy efficiency programs and standards and by harnessing the renewable power of wind and solar energy. The entire energy landscape of Virginia has changed dramatically due to the passage of the VCEA. Interestingly this follows an October 24, 2017 Clean Energy Resolution passed unanimously by the Floyd County Board of Supervisors, which in part “supported a policy of the Floyd County government to work with regional allies and other local organizations to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions by replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy along with conservation and energy efficiency” and “support the achievement of near zero greenhouse gas emissions through policies that shift the energy supply strategy of our County from fossil fuels to 100% clean renewable energy.” As a matter of fact, Floyd County's Clean Energy Resolution was the first passed by any local government and community in Virginia. So the idea of establishing a ridgeline ordinance that could potentially interfere and disallow a move towards clean and renewable energy – specifically wind energy – seems out of step with the VCEA and our own Clean Energy Resolution. To debate the merits of a utility scale wind farm on a Floyd County ridgeline is more than appropriate but to create an ordinance that would eliminate any possibility of large wind turbines in Floyd I believe is a mistake. A better approach would be to remain open to the ideas expressed by the VCEA and Floyd's Resolution and develop a process whereby any proposal for utility scale renewable energy in the County would be properly vetted and examined by local government and the community at large. Thank you.

Ms. Kathleen Ingoldsby, Courthouse District, emailed comments and requested that they be read into the record – I am writing in support of the proposed Ridgeline Height Ordinance. I wish I could attend this important public hearing in person, but I hope you'll find this letter a worthy substitute. Thank you, too, for redrafting the proposed ordinance 250' height regulation to best fit the needs and the future of Floyd County residents, landowners, and visitors. It's a smart choice. It's smart environmentally. Why? As hydrology engineers have told county leaders, Floyd's sole well-water resources are fragile, held in fissures and are easily disrupted by blasting or by major construction required by foundations of tall or extremely large structures. County ridgelines contain a multitude of original sources for Floyd County wells, cattle water troughs, ranches, creeks, and rivers. Using Wills Ridge as an example, that ridgeline alone holds at least 49 to 50 individual primary spring sources and also many important water recharge zones. Some of the springheads, branches, and springs that originate on Wills Ridge

include Simmons Creek, Whites Branch, and Huckleberry and Spurlock Creeks. Springs on Wills Ridge, in turn, feed the waters of Earls Branch, Beaver Creek, Greasy Creek, Dobbins Creek, West Fork, and Little River among others. Any ridgeline protection measure enacted goes hand-in-hand with Floyd County groundwater protection. It's smart economically. Why? Virginia residents and visitors place great value on the state's natural resources and vistas. Protecting Floyd County ridgelines from extreme height development helps to preserve the unique scenic qualities that people value. This element is reflected in tourist dollars, real estate taxes, home and farm property values, neighborhood quality of life, and enhanced business investment in areas with outdoor recreation and scenic amenities. Such an ordinance can provide predictability and stability to the value of current real estate to create the confidence necessary for continued investment. It's important to note that ridgeline structures over 200' would require illumination at night. One might say that ridgeline regulation holds the principle that while a person has the right to develop their high elevation property, others in the area have a right not to have to see or be adversely affected by it. Any ridgeline protection measure enacted goes hand-in-hand with Floyd County's economic development planning. It's smart aesthetically. Why? Aesthetics becomes important with ridgelines because their high profile and wide visibility can characterize a whole region, alter public perception, or in this case, change the vista of a very wide swath of the county. Any visitor center understands the value-added aesthetic quality of ridgelines that can be lost when developed with tall structures. Floyd County's rural and scenic natural environment is one of our greatest assets, adding to a strong sense of community character, connections, and pride. Once lost, no amount of dollars can bring it back. Any ridgeline protection measure enacted goes hand-in-hand with Floyd County's visitor and tourism planning. It's a smart tool for future development. Why? With an uncertain future federal role for environmental regulations and potential eminent domain takings, a certain measure of control for any community lies in such a local regulatory tool. There will be options for conditional use, and the tool that is able to best develop a balance between private property rights and existing landowner expectations for property enjoyment, may well lie in the guidance clearly provided by Floyd County's ridgeline height ordinance. Any ridgeline protection measure enacted goes hand-in-hand with Floyd County's ability to maintain local oversight. It's smart overall. Why? Major large-scale development on steep slopes can have an adverse effect on water quality as a result of increased erosion, runoff, sedimentation, and impervious additions preventing the infiltration of storm water into the soil. Industrial scale development on ridgelines would require secondary road access, major electrical powerline provisions, and additional support infrastructure, all of which would have a great impact on surrounding landowners and farms. "Two views are involved with any ridgeline – the one from the ridgeline and the one of the ridgeline. One involves the property rights of the landowner, while the other involves the rights of a community." [L.Jones, Study Evaluating Ridgeline Protection, 1991] The beautiful balance that can satisfy both views of these two property rights holders can be found in the Floyd County Ridgeline Ordinance under discussion tonight. It's a very smart choice. Any ridgeline protection measure enacted goes hand-in-hand with Floyd County's future. Please vote yes on this measure. Thank you.

Dr. and Ms. William B. Spillman, Jr., Burks Fork District, emailed comments for the record – We would like to express our support for the proposed ordinance "An Ordinance Regulating and Prohibiting Tall Structures on Certain Ridgelines in Floyd County, Virginia" which would designate mountain ridges within the county having a height over 2,300 feet as "protected mountain ridges" and would prohibit the construction of structures having a height of

over 250 feet on such ridges. My wife and I have lived on Wills Ridge for the past 21 years. One of the great treasures and attractions of Floyd County is its natural beauty, especially its mountains and ridges. Wills Ridge, which fits the proposed definition of a protected mountain ridge, is one of those distinct landmarks that make Floyd the wonderful place it is and attracts repeat visits by tourists along with their contributions to the local economy. In terms of the property rights of the citizens of the county, it is difficult to see how the proposed regulation would be particularly burdensome given that structures up to 250 feet would still be permitted. Finally and most importantly, the proposed ordinance would give the county and its citizens a measure of local control of its natural assets which it does not now possess. Respectfully submitted

Mr. Frank Rudisill, Indian Valley District – My thing about this ridgelines...Mr. Turman you knew...Mr. Yoder you knew. It has come before the Board 3 times without a vote. (Indistinguishable) before you took the reins from the previous Board. Anything that comes before the Board 3 times and fails to have movement, it's dead and it will never come up again. And if you'll recall who's the lady who wanted money to neuter cats? I brought it to the attention of Fred Gerald. She done it 3 times. The fourth time she can't ask for nothing. As for the ridgelines, you can't ask for nothing. You've asked 3 times. This is the fourth time. It's dead in the water. Sorry to the attorney, they wasted your time. These two knew about it. The other 3 don't. You should have known and Ms. Terri knew too, because she was at the meeting when you made the vote on the ridgelines before. Because wind turbines were coming to the County, if the landowners would let them. You two knew it and you allowed it to come again. This is the fourth time. You are going against your own rules. It's not right. And if you are going to do this then you need to call that lady that I mentioned for the neutering of the cats and spaying, because she came 3 times. This was the Chairman who owns the pizza place. He said, "You are right, Mr. Gerald." and apologized to that lady. You have done this 3 times. This is your fourth time. Are you going to have a fifth time and a sixth time? I've got news for you. The company with the wind turbines is not interested in Floyd County now like they was. When they was, Don Williams was at my house and told me if we could get the wind turbines approved, they would come to the County. But his company was willing to pay \$800,000 to balance the County budget. Mr. Gerald knew it. And he also said (Indistinguishable) it is up to the landowners to approve it. He said once that's done, he would write a check for \$800,000 to balance your budget. The next time we meet you tell us what school needs air conditioning. I said, "Indian Valley." I had children going there. He said, "We'll put air conditioning in Indian Valley. Once they get constructed, if they get approved by the landowners, you pick another school and we'll put air conditioning in it." And this is what I live in, a County like this. You change your rules any time you want to change your rules. You two knew about it. Both of you did. I'm calling you out on it right now. I've seen it 3 times. I've been watching the paper. I've not been looking at it like I used to, but I read that paper. Mr. Boothe tried to get wind turbines for the landowners. He can't make his mind up. He flips one way and then flips the other way. That's all I've got to say about the wind turbines. You two knew about it. Both of you. This is a bad idea. What you are doing is a waste of people's time and money.

Mr. Jack Wall, Little River District – I am here to speak in opposition to this ordinance. First of all, the ordinance the way it is written is a total lie. The second paragraph talks about "numerous detrimental impacts which may be expected from the construction of tall structures on mountain ridges, which include...pollution." Now pollution is one of the reasons

you put in wind power. Wind is totally non carbon producing. It replaces the dirty fuels we currently use now. This is helping pollution, not hurting it. Surface water issues that were brought up by previous speakers, that's not true. If you build a house on a ridgeline, you will have more impact on the geology on the top of the ridge than you would from a...and of course we already have a lot of cell towers and various things that are permitted under this ordinance. So what's the deal? I don't understand that. That makes no sense. This is just a ruse. It's not real. With decent construction practices we are not going to have erosion. All you have is a fairly large concrete pad (indistinguishable) to give it enough structural integrity. Wildlife stuff...the new turbines don't have an impact on birds. You hear that brought up occasionally. The turbines that have the larger, smaller number of blades don't have anywhere near the impact on birds or anything than your typical plate glass window. They have minimum to no impact, particularly when they are designed appropriately. Noise pollution that is another thing, the better quality wind turbines are really quiet. They make less noise than the wind itself makes. I'm planning on putting in a barn-sized wind turbine on my property at the Eco Village. It will not be in violation of this ordinance if it were to pass, because the one we plan in putting in is 220' high. It is a distributed wind turbine. I will be able to see it out my south facing windows every morning. It is a beautiful thing. It's going to attract a lot of attention. Other parts of this ordinance talks about impact on tourism. Well, wind turbines are good for tourism because people like to see them. Well maybe not everybody does. But in general the economic impact of getting renewable energy in our County and not putting a damper on that is the big thing. These things are really good for the economy. Solar energy is pretty cheap but wind energy is even cheaper if you have enough size of the turbines to be able to make them economic and we are going to show that with the one we are putting in. Thank you.

Ms. Susan Icove, Locust Grove District – Thanks for allowing me to come here and express my concerns over the height ordinance that you are addressing this evening. I'm curious why you are doing this now? Why does our County need to have a height ordinance? Why restrict our future for wind power? You as our local Board of Representatives should appreciate the advantage of corporate flexibility and lack of restrictive regulations to meet the future head on. We are a County of people who obviously care about the environment. Wind energy is one of the paths to renewable energy. We could be a part of that process. There will always be skeptics; that is part of the reality. If we set the height at 250' we are basically telling any possible wind developer not to come here. They will not approach us. There is too much money invested in these studies and having such a definitive height restriction would mean we are a no go. There are so many other ways to ensure that there is a public buy-in. No landowners need to be sacrificed. Every turbine would be sited on a land which has a mutual beneficial agreement that is made with the landowner. These installations are not subject to eminent domain. Due to the strict environmental regulation in place that is required to get financing, which is the IFC [International Finance Corporation] standards, extensive environmental and social impacts are routinely examined which requires greater than 100' of buffer from the turbine to a dwelling. Included in this are environmental studies to get this financing. I am sure that would be well looked at. Energy created by wind turbines is an economy of scale so the larger turbines can create cheaper electricity. If you think of a large farm that has many acres of corn crop and you know how much more corn they are going to produce, we are all for that in Floyd. A wind turbine is farming the air. Consider it a hectare, an acre of air or whatever it is. Why can we not pursue that? The area that is covered by the rotor, high wind speeds of course determine how much energy we can harvest in a year. If you double the rotator diameter you get an area which

is four times larger which is two squared. This means that you also get four times as much power supplied from the rotor. I have heard in the past that the Board is not interested in restricting the rights of landowners and I appreciate that. But there are opportunities that we have rejected that are good for our County as well. Why is this more important to this Board, at this time, than past ideas such as cluster development? Thank you.

Mr. Michael Robertson, Courthouse District – I didn't come prepared. I don't have written comments. This is somewhat unexpected, but I will start by saying thank you. I appreciate the job you are doing and appreciate your willingness to serve the residents of Floyd County. I have served in other areas, similar to what you are doing so I know it is tough. You are being scrutinized; your arms are being twisted to go one way or another. You have a tough job and I don't envy that. You have to decide risks versus reward. In my opinion there is no reward to not putting in this ordinance. I support it. I hope you will. I am going to ask you to support it. I personally am not from Floyd County. I owned property here for several years. I moved up here 10 years ago because of the beauty and because I wanted peace and quiet. I commute an hour to work one way. If I wanted noise and windmills and sirens and everything else that comes with living in a town or city, I would live in Roanoke. I don't want to live in Roanoke. I love it here. I've seen these wind turbines up close and personal. Several years ago while serving in the U.S. Army I travelled out west and back. They didn't exist. Last year I travelled to Colorado and back and they do now. It has destroyed the landscape in my opinion. I don't like them. I drove right up to them and stood under them. I've heard them. I've seen them and looked up at them and the noise they make, that shudder effect or whatever it is called that they do, I personally don't want to see that. I don't think it will bring people to Floyd County. People come to Floyd County for the beauty, for the peace and the quiet. That tourism is important to Floyd County. Water resources are important to Floyd County. I know personally, my well is going dry right now. So it is important. I don't want to see that destroyed. These wind turbines are not going to create jobs. It will create temporary jobs. They will construct them and then the people will be gone. Of all the thousands of them that I saw out west I did not see a single person working or servicing any of them. That's a farce. It's not going to happen. What money is it going to bring into Floyd County? What is it going to do? Where are the jobs? What tax relief is it going to bring? What is it actually going to do for the people in Floyd County? In my opinion it is not going to do anything. Does the risk outweigh the reward? That is a decision for you to make. I hope you will support it. Thank you for your time.

Ms. Linda Wagner, Courthouse District – I didn't come prepared to talk about this but we have talked about it in the past. The last I can recall you were going to take a look at these wind farms and see how they operate and how they would fit in Floyd County. I have personally experienced them. I go to North Carolina every year for a fishing tournament and on the pier down there they have three windmills. Those windmills are so loud and obnoxious, you can't hear the person standing right next to you. This is very important. I have also travelled out west and those fields of turbines are a hideous sight. They certainly wouldn't be an attraction for Floyd County. That's all I have to say. Thank you.

Mr. Bob Smith, Indian Valley District – I'll be quick with three words – save our ridgelines. Thank you.

Mr. Wayne Boothe – Courthouse District – I would like to share this with you...the beautiful Wills Ridge is on the back side of my farm. My farm used to go up into the ridge, until the late 40s when my father chose to sell the ridge land. But I do have land on Rt. 730 through 705. The auditor [assessor] says to me, “Mr. Boothe you have some of the most valuable land here.” I said, “What are you talking about sir?” He says, “That ridge is going to add to the value of your property.” I said, “I love that ridge but it doesn’t put more pounds on my beef cattle but that is something else.” I just think that the way that ridge comes up to a sharp peak across from where I live to bring that down where they can run tractors across it and make all those marks would ruin the looks of the ridge. That’s all there is to it. I just think that we don’t need those things. It will devalue our land. It won’t make our taxes go down. They’ll make sure of that. You’ll keep raising them if you need the taxes so it is just not a good thing. Thank you.

Hearing no further comments, Chairman Turman declared the Public Hearing closed.

Agenda Item 5. – Approval of monthly disbursements.

Questions and discussion followed.

On a motion of Supervisor Yoder, seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the month end and additional bills as presented.

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

Agenda Item 6. – Public Comment Period.

Chairman Turman explained the rules for speaking and called for the Public Comment Period.

Ms. Tracy Ann Costello, Indian Valley District – I want to thank you Board of Supervisors for your time, energy and all of the hard work that you do for our County. I’m sure we don’t know all of the efforts and hours of hard work that you do behind the scenes. So again thank you. I’ve tried to put into words what I wanted to say this evening. A lot is going on in this world. I am hanging on to hope to get through these rough times. Here in Floyd County I hope the right thing will be done – removal of the Confederate statue on our Courthouse lawn. It is a sign of oppression and racism and must be removed so our citizens can move forward and begin to heal. I hope we can replace the statue with something that doesn’t represent hate and suffering to the citizens of Floyd County and our visitors. I hope you don’t think the statue is a sign of heritage and history that should be promoted. It is not. It is a sign of racism and hate. We can teach our youth and adults the true history in schools and at home. I hope you will follow the lead of other counties and cities that have removed Confederate statues and monuments that have promoted hate and racism. At least 30 statues have been removed since May 25, 2020, the day George Floyd was horrifically murdered. The statues, the murder are all part of a bigger picture that represents bigotry, malice and discrimination. Let’s be on the right side of history, Floyd County. I hope you will do the right thing. It’s the beginning of healing.

Maybe the question to ask is why have you not removed the statue? If you do nothing, if you leave the statue (indistinguishable). If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. Please do the right thing. I hope you will. Thank you for your time.

Ms. Susan Mead, Rocky Mount – I lived and owned property in Floyd for 26 years. My children were born, raised, and educated here. Therefore, I am truly concerned about how the world sees and understands Floyd, and more importantly, want all Floyd's citizens to feel welcome as they walk in that courthouse to get their marriage licenses, their children's driver's licenses, to pay their taxes – just like I did. But I was privileged. The Confederate statue on the lawn did not mean the same thing to me as it does to some. I get the complexity. My great-great-great grandmother had one son who defended the United States and one son who died defending the Confederate rebellion against it. But my ancestors were not enslaved by the system supported by the Articles of Confederacy. I am here to ask you to work with the United Daughters of the Confederacy to move the statue from the courthouse lawn to a more appropriate private spot where people who desire can visit it, but those for whom it represents a time of pain and injustice will no longer have to do County business in its shadow. A referendum will not do; your action is what we need. I am no stranger to this issue. I am a native of Lexington, Virginia. I was born at Stonewall Jackson Hospital and baptized and married at R.E. Lee Memorial Episcopal Church. I played Confederates and Yankees rather than cowboys and Indians, and we did not like the Yankees, so I definitely understand the heritage and states' rights arguments. That is what I always thought I was representing with my love of the South and our history. But two things changed my perspective: My fourth-grade teacher read us the book *Sounder*, written by local author William Armstrong. I recognized my hometown in that book, which allowed me to step into the shoes of a character my own age, but whose family was mistreated because they were black sharecroppers in the South. That is what often makes a difference to people who don't realize how they are being hurtful – stepping into the shoes of one who is being hurt. Then, when our local college stopped flying the confederate flag and playing "Dixie" at its football games in my teen years, I realized how I had been insulated from the pain of others and that symbols, as dear as they are to some, are extremely traumatizing to people who have been oppressed by those symbols. I was steeped in the unconscious support of a racist system – not on purpose, but because I didn't see, question, or dedicate myself to being anti-racist. Through studying sociology in college and graduate school, I grew into someone whose life is dedicated to challenging racism so we can become that more perfect union we have always said we wanted to be. I will be forever grateful to Jessie Peterman Library for having so many, many diverse picture books that helped me teach my children these lessons; and to the Floyd Center for the Arts and Floyd Elementary where I taught after school programs that did the same. One year in March, we crafted little paper bridges with paper dolls going across, commemorating the 1965 civil rights march across the bridge in Selma – the bridge we all watched John Lewis cross for the last time on Sunday. Do we want to be that more perfect union, one that John Lewis – and even Robert E. Lee when he lived in Lexington – called us to create? Are we willing to admit our errors of oppression and omission and move ahead with grace? The kind of grace that the people of R. E. Lee church had when it left behind the name it took in the Jim Crow years, and returned to its original name – Grace Episcopal? We don't have to change a name here – all we have to do is move the statue to a new home – not by referendum, but by this Board's courageous act. Giving the statue back to the people who honor it, and returning the courthouse lawn to the entire community the courthouse is meant to serve, is the right thing to do. Your

vote to do so would indeed be an act of grace and a critical step on the journey to an anti-racist Floyd County. Thank you very, very much.

Ms. Marcia Winters, Courthouse District – Should we keep the statue? Sure. But where would be the appropriate place for it? History is important. We must not forget the past. Having a statue on the Courthouse lawn says to people we are stuck in our Confederate past. This is not a message that I want to send. This is not a message that is welcoming to all people. Who are we as a community now? How do we want to represent ourselves now? I would love for there to be something outside the Courthouse that says, “All are welcome.” That is how Floyd folks greeted me when I came. Let’s celebrate who we are today and not be stuck in the past when people were treated inhumanely. Sure, let’s have a statue on the Courthouse lawn – one that celebrates our rich culture and invites all to celebrate it with us, one that unites us, not divides us.

Mr. Christopher Wolf, Locust Grove District – I moved to Floyd with my wife in 2014. We were especially drawn to the warmth we experienced in everyone we met. It seems folks here value making others welcome. It is clear that folks in Floyd also value tradition. I think this is exemplified by the way music thrives in our homes and in our streets. With my personal passion for the tradition of shape note singing this is another reason we were drawn to make Floyd our home. I think it devalues making folks feel welcome and honoring our past when it comes to the statue of the Confederate soldier in front of the Courthouse. While I do not believe in the cause of the Confederacy, I respect the need to honor our ancestors, whatever they fought and died for. However I believe the Courthouse is not the right location for such a marker. This marker takes on powerfully hard felt significance in front of a building in which all citizens should be afforded equal protection under the law. The statue that recalls the cause to fight for the institution of slavery in front of a Courthouse says to me that the Courts might be inclined to treat some equal as less than fully human. Not only is this contrary to our shared values of making folks feel welcome, I believe it makes people feel unsafe. For those who want to preserve it, this might seem like misinterpretation of the statue’s intended significance but it does not change the reality of what others experience. Surely we can mark our history in another way or at least in another location. I urge those of you with the power to do something about this to find the courage and compassion to do so and make Floyd a place where folks feel more safe and more welcome. Thanks so much.

Ms. Joyce Hill, Little River District – One thing that everyone can agree on is that the monument is a symbol. Those who want the statue to stay, see it as a memorial to Confederate soldiers who died and a reminder of a past war. The house I live in was built by a Confederate soldier. He and his family are buried on our property. I hand cleaned his gravestone. I didn’t destroy it – I cleaned it. I realized that nowhere on his gravestone did it reference he fought in the Civil War. Records prove that he was a Civil War soldier. I researched and read about it. Perhaps it’s not what he wanted to be remembered by. Perhaps it’s not what we should want to be remembered by. For those who say that we need the monument so that we don’t repeat mistakes, something is dreadfully amiss in a society that needs a monument to remind us that it’s wrong for people to own people. Those same people see a different symbolism if the statue were to be removed. They believe its removal is a step towards trying to erase history in a path to socialism and the taking away of our freedom. Speaking of freedom, what does it say about those in Floyd when a private citizen on the side of keeping the monument uses the Freedom of

Information Act to request all the emails that private citizens had written to the Board of Supervisors and then shares them? Initially, the press used their right to access the emails under the Freedom of Information Act, which in this case would be to prove that what officials say their constituents are saying is what they are actually saying. Once that happened, though, someone who has been vocal in favor of the monument asked for the emails. How did they know that the press had done that? Who on the inside told them that? I'm not a conspiracy theorist but that looks pretty fishy to me. To the people of Floyd, you need to let your Supervisors know how you feel on issues, but based on the way things work here, it is obvious you should do it by phone call rather than email. The individual in favor of the monument who obtained the emails then took the content of those emails and shared them with others. They shared them with someone who then, in a public forum, intimidated someone who wrote an email and then others even posted the actual email on other's pages. I used the Freedom of Information Act to find out who requested the emails, once I saw they had been referenced online. I didn't use it to request the emails themselves. That is an ethical misuse of the intent of FOIA. That is a misinterpretation of the word Freedom. The purpose of the Freedom of Information Act is transparency in government. I am not seeing that in Floyd. If you want a government that doesn't spy on people or allow others to do that, and use the information to intimidate them, then set an example. What does obtaining those emails say about their selective idea of freedom? What does that say about their ethics? What does that say about their cause? Are you willing to be part of that? If you move the statue now, you might see that it is not the beginning of the end. It just might be the beginning of better. Are you courageous enough to try that? To keep it peaceful, it needs to be done in a way that you honor all of the stories related to it. To ignore the issue is to prove that you do not have the gumption it takes to be a leader. You have the opportunity to prove that moving the statue will not move us away from democracy to socialism. The statue is the opposite of the freedom that democracy professes to give us. You have the opportunity to prove that you understand what freedom means. Now that would be an important symbol.

Mr. Jerry Sauter, Indian Valley District – I've lived in Floyd for 31 years. Until the past several years I have been proud to call Floyd home. Floydians are a diverse group yet everyone co-existed harmoniously and people respected their neighbors' differences. Floyd's eclectic reputation led it to thrive, in large part, from the tourist/visitor dollars it attracted. Yet that welcoming, tolerant, diverse reputation was severely tarnished when it decided to become a second amendment sanctuary and the heavily armed Floyd militia met at the park where our kids practice the skills of fair play, respect, and teamwork. Both of those were either initiated or fomented by people from the outside, those with no roots or little bond with Floyd. Now you have another opportunity to set Floyd back on the path it has navigated for many years. The Confederate monument is not a welcoming beacon nor is it a reminder of Floyd's proud past. I have heard the passion in the voices of those who will fight to keep the monument. But don't mistake passion for justice, or for what is right. The Civil War is nothing to be proud of. It was an armed insurrection against the United States of America. And just because battles were won and lives lost does not make it worthy of being glorified. Proponents of the monument might say the war wasn't about slavery, it was about states' rights. But slavery was the currency of the war and is integral to everyone's understanding of the war. If the Confederate States had triumphed, slavery would have continued as a fundamental part of Southern social and economic structure. Who knows how long the institution of slavery would have endured. So you can't really say that because the monument means Southern pride to some citizens but it means something else to

others than the minority opinion is incorrect. It means both. When I hear a racist, insensitive, cruel word or opinion expressed by an individual, I shake my head in disgust that even in the 21st century people can be so narrow-minded and misinformed. But this is the United States and they are entitled to their opinion, even if it's wrong. But the monument is not the opinion of a single person but a statement of belief of Floyd County. And it means not only that people died in battle but that those battles aimed to preserve slavery. If even one Floyd County citizen feels uncomfortable, feels disenfranchised, feels the monument is a symbol of hatred then it does not belong on the lawn of the Courthouse – or any publicly owned land. But it's not just one citizen who feels this way, it's many of us. Is this monument what's best for Floyd? Is this what we stand for? If you believe it is, then let's be honest and erect a new sign on the edge of town: "Welcome to Floyd where guns are welcome and blacks are not." I understand that you want to pass the buck on this decision and let the voters decide. Many of you are probably afraid of the outcry. And you might also be afraid of the potential for threats and violence directed against you if you vote to remove the monument. But you were elected because the citizens felt you had the character, the moral fiber, the resolve to do what's best for Floyd and for all of its citizens. You need to make the decision to remove the monument. And if you choose to pass it on then you have created the scenario of truck loads of angry white men waving the stars and bars at every polling station and fundamentally interfering with our right to vote. And in that reality neither outcome best serves Floyd and its people. I implore you to understand that, even though the monument has been here as long as you or your relatives can remember, it doesn't mean that it's harmless. It doesn't mean that it's nothing but a remembrance of Floyd's war dead. It is nothing to be proud of. Rather it is hurtful, inflammatory, and cruel. Do not be a part in prolonging the wounds of slavery. Remove the Confederate Monument. And do it now.

Mr. William Young, Burks Fork District, mailed in his comments – If the wishes of General Robert E. Lee are to be respected, there should be no Confederate monuments anywhere, he made his thoughts quite clear on the topic. Attached are two letters from General Lee regarding monuments, quoted in their entirety for your reading. I am unaware of any private group other than the United Daughters of the Confederacy who were granted the right to erect a private statue on public property. If you do support the concept of private groups erecting statues on public property, I will donate \$20,000 to begin a fundraising campaign to erect a statue on the Courthouse lawn to memorialize the brave Floyd County residents who resisted the Confederacy; their names are legion, and I feel certain their proud descendants would be excited to see them honored with a statue.

Attached letters:

Lexington VA 13 Dec – r 1866
My dear Genl [Thomas L. Rosser]

I have considered the questions in your letter of the 8th Inst: & am unable to advise as to the efficacy of the scheme proposed for the accomplishment of the object in view. That can be better determined by those more conversant with similar plans than I am. As regards the erection of such a monument as is contemplated; my conviction is, that however grateful it would be to the feelings of the South, the attempt in the present condition of the Country, would have the effect of retarding, instead of accelerating its accomplishment; & of continuing, if not adding to, the difficulties under which the Southern people labor. All I think that can now be done, is to aid

our noble & generous women in their efforts to protect the graves & mark the last resting places of those who have fallen, & wait for better times. I am very glad to hear of your comfortable establishment in Baltimore & that Mrs. Rosser is with you. Please present to her my warm regards. It would give me great pleasure to meet you both anywhere, & especially at times of leisure in the mountains of Virginia; but such times look too distant for me to contemplate, much less for me now to make arrangements for – Very truly yours R E Lee [Robert E. Lee papers, University of Virginia Archives, <https://leefamilyarchive.org/papers/letters/transcripts-UVA/v076.html>]

Lexington, VA., August 5, 1869.

Dear Sir—Absence from Lexington has prevented my receiving until today your letter of the 26th ult., enclosing an invitation from the Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association, to attend a meeting of the officers engaged in that battle at Gettysburg, for the purpose of marking upon the ground by enduring memorials of granite the positions and movements of the armies on the field. My engagements will not permit me to be present. I believe if there, I could not add anything material to the information existing on the subject. I think it wiser, moreover, not to keep open the sores of war but to follow the examples of those nations who endeavored to obliterate the marks of civil strife, to commit to oblivion the feelings engendered. Very respectfully, Your obedient servant, R. E. Lee [as reproduced in The Republican Vindicator newspaper, September 3, 1869]

Mr. Ralph Poff, Courthouse District – Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would be in front of the Board of Supervisors defending the Confederate monument. I never thought I would see this in Floyd (indistinguishable). I think it goes way beyond the monument. I am in no way, shape or form defending slavery or condoning slavery, but I am defending my ancestors. The one thing I would like to ask people here tonight: How many of you have people who have been in this County since the 1700s? Okay. 1800s? Okay. The last 100 years? Okay. The last 50 years? Okay, a few. Now the fact that I have had people here in this County for the last 200 plus years that doesn't make me special. It doesn't make me special at all. On the Hunley side of my family, an old Floyd name, they were here since the 1760s. That was before Floyd was even Floyd. It was Montgomery. The Poff side of my family has been here since the 1790s. That is a long time. So I do feel like it gives me a right to grumble a little bit about things. I do consider myself a native. Before anyone loses their mind here, no I am not American Indian. But when I have been here in this County for 200 plus years, I do consider myself a native. But anyway, first of all I would like the Board of Supervisors to hear from somebody who has relatives that are mentioned on the monument. They are not mentioned by name, but they fought for the 54th Virginia. I even had one relative who actually rode with J.E.B. Stuart. I am very proud of both. I am very proud of them. Their names were Isaac Poff, David Poff. They fought for 54th Virginia and George Hunley actually rode with J.E.B. Stuart in the Confederate cavalry. Now one thing I am not here to argue about reasons for the war. I am not here to talk about race. I have many Black friends who I have hunted and fished with all my life and consider them as close as any friends I have. One thing I would like people to realize is my family owned no slaves on either side. If anybody doubts that I can take you to the Courthouse. I can look through the old slave records and show you. Neither side of my family owned slaves. And only 1 in 10 Confederate soldiers owned a slave. They like my ancestors were fighting for their home, their land, their State, and their families. That kind of blows the theory about all soldiers

were slaveowners. When an outside force attacks your home and your family you fight. If you have ancestors who are memorialized on the monument, it is like a tombstone to our people and every native Floyd Countians' people never mess with the dead. If you have ever seen a graveyard desecrated, it is really the same thing to me as taking down this monument. To the people who want to take it down, just remember, it has been here since 1904, long before the 50s and 60s race riots. When it was erected, there were Confederate veterans present. It is their monument. So to all people who have moved into the County, we welcome you. But when you came to Floyd the monuments were here, their descendants are here. It belongs to these brave soldiers' descendants, not to people's families who were not here at the time. It was one of the darkest times in American history, the War Between the States. If you say you love Floyd, leave our heritage alone. Love Floyd for who we are and not who you want us to be.

Mr. Bob Smith, Indian Valley District – I want to speak for a moment as a member of the Electoral Board. I want to thank you all for your support and we are secure in the knowledge that we will have every resource we need to have a good election this fall, with efficiency and fairness for all. Thanks to you we are going to be able to do that. I am going to change hats and speak as Bob Smith, a fellow who lives in Indian Valley. I am in support of a referendum to get a numerical and empirical source of information that you can use to base a decision on that is reflective of the views of the majority people of this County. I thank you all again.

Ms. Kristy Ratcliffe, Locust Grove District – I'm from up in Franklin County, getting up hay and pulling tobacco worms off tomatoes in July. I am one of you. I'm from around here. My ancestry is traceable to the American Revolution and Thomas Jefferson and it is peppered with Confederate soldiers. I don't know what regiments they were in. Lately I have been accused of being an outsider, by people who assume so, because I assert that the Confederate statue does not belong on our Courthouse lawn. That statue represents my familial heritage, but heritage that I am not proud of. I do not share those values. I grew up around family that threw the "n" word around with abandon freely making racist jokes and jibes. It felt unsafe to me, their kin, a young White girl. The environment felt unsafe because of their obvious ill will towards other humans betrayed my inherent respect for them as my elders. The roots from which I have come are deeply and undeniably racist. Mom sneaked me out without dad's knowledge to see my Black girlfriend who lived in a shack with no electricity or plumbing. In high school one of my best friends was a young Black man, whom I dearly loved. He made me laugh until we cried. But my grandmother, ordinarily a very kind and generous Christian woman, made her opinion known. We should not let that Black boy in our house. How can anyone around deny that racism is no longer a part of life in the Blue Ridge? Day-to-day interpersonal racism as well as systemic racism are alive and well here. The transgenerational, historic trauma that is carried by the Black community is finally being acknowledged and understood. I've given you printed information about historical trauma, but I won't go into it right now. You may not hear much from individual members of the Black community on this issue because hundreds of years of oppression and violent intimidation has established a reasonable fear of retaliation. Historical trauma is a great silencer. In order to get on with life and survive racism, Black people have had to numb to the offenses. In a feature article of the American Psychological Association in February 2019, the author quotes a Black mental health director, "We are so used to living with racially oriented worry and fear that we don't necessarily recognize it or name it as problematic." This mental health professional encourages her clients to reduce exposure to potential triggers such as provocative race-related symbols that relate to the original trauma. I argue Supervisors,

that many of our Black neighbors in Floyd are negatively impacted by Confederate iconology on a daily basis as they go about their business in town with the Common Soldier looming, representing the Lost Cause revision of history that denies the extent of the suffering of slaves. This is particularly inappropriate in front of our Courthouse where all citizens are supposed to be equal in the eyes of the law. Removal of that statue from its very public location is key to helping our current generations of Black and White citizens heal and move on. A referendum may feel like a safe move for your re-election. But I trust that as our leaders you can take fearless action on this issue and do what is right based on a deep consideration of the morality and based on your duty to protect the minority in matters of racist Confederate ancestry in matters like these even if what is right is not what is popular. As a daughter of racist Confederate ancestry and a mother of truth and justice, I ask that you to move the Common Soldier to a place where he hurts no one.

Mr. Frank Rudisill, Indian Valley District – I’ve got to clear up one thing about the wind turbines. It is 12’ deep, 50’ square with 2’ of dirt on top. The monument out front...I don’t know where you went to school at but I went to school in West Virginia. They sure didn’t teach us the North and South fought about slavery. They were trying to get away from the North and oppression from the North but slavery got thrown into it somewhere. The question I’ve got to ask, my daddy was a World War II veteran. Do we take monuments down to satisfy some people? Do we take the D-Day Memorial down, because my daddy hated Germans? The last few years of his life he started talking about World War II. He never talked about it the whole time until the last year or two of his life. That is my question: Where does it stop? Does it stop when World War II veterans are not recognized anymore? Does it stop with the Wall they built up there in D.C. to honor the men in the Viet Nam war and all of the other war veterans? Does it have to come down too just because we killed people on the other side? I think you need to take a look at it. Don’t cave in, because if you cave in one time, it will just be a domino effect.

Ms. Lora Giessler, Little River District – I’m here to respectfully request that the Confederate statue on the Courthouse lawn be removed and relocated to a more suitable place. First I want to address the false story that the Civil War was not about slavery by this quote by the Confederate Vice President, Alexander Stephens, a few weeks before the Civil War began, “...its foundations are laid, its corner-stone rests, upon the great truth that the negro is not equal to the white man; that slavery subordination to the superior race is his natural and normal condition. This, our new government, is the first, in the history of the world, based upon this great physical, philosophical, and moral truth.” The Civil War was a bloody war fought to keep enslaved Black people. Thus we are talking about racism. Racism is an uncomfortable conversation. Many people will say, “I am not racist.” They don’t understand how structural racism is woven into the fabric of our society. I’m learning how people of color have been harmed by systemic racism and I as a White person have benefitted from being White. I want to take a close look at this and contribute to making real and lasting change that ensures people justice, opportunities and care for all people. The removal of the Confederate statue will not make the changes I want to see. But its removal will send a strong message to our community, region, and nation that acknowledges the pain and the struggle of our country’s horrific past and present that views people of color as inferior. I read in a recent local news article that someone stated that, “There is no racism in Floyd.” Well that might be true for a White person who lives, works and socializes in White groups, it is not true for a Black person who receives sneers, insults and threats from some in this community. I imagine you might find some incident reports

with our Sheriff's Department. Racism is not always overt and violent. It is often of an insidious nature. While visiting my father in 1988 I witnessed a KKK march in downtown Floyd. I was shocked. In 1988 one of my friends in the Black community was the age that I am now. I can't imagine how she must have felt. Not one of us White people could possibly know what that feels like. I thought it was something of the past. No, the KKK they are organizing and mobilizing. According to a CBS report in October 2012, a Klan member states, "You don't know who I am. You can think the world of me and yet if you see me beneath this and knew who I was your whole thoughts could change. I've been a fireman. I've been in the Navy," said a member. The people wearing these robes are among us. Yet together as they were this summer in Martinsville, Virginia they are the Ku Klux Klan. The Klan was founded in 1865 by Confederate veterans. They became a vehicle for White southern resistance for the Reconstruction era policies aimed at establishing political and economic equality for Black Americans. The organization, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, responsible for the statue often defended members of the Klan arguing that the KKK was simply a group of White southerners protecting their rights. The Klan was responsible for thousands of lynchings. There are still modern day lynchings. Hence, why a Confederate statue on our Courthouse lawn that holds present and past allegiance to the ideology of White supremacy? Ties to this ideology have no place in front of our court of law. Our founding fathers believed government exists not only to make rules but also to ensure justice. If my father could stand here before you today, he would ask both sides, "What do you need?" One side wants to acknowledge the atrocities of the past and begin healing the wounds of racism. We want to begin by removing what we perceive as a symbol of racism which is hurtful to our Black community. The side that wants to preserve the statue say they want to honor their ancestors. Is it not clear that both sides can have their needs met? The statue could be relocated to a place where we usually congregate to pay our respects to the dead. Thank you.

Ms. Sue Anne Boothe, Courthouse District – I am troubled by this feeling pouring across our country to remove Confederate monuments. Where is the appropriate deliberation and input from citizens? I take issue with the idea that the Floyd Confederate monument be removed because it was raised because of racism. That claim is invalid. People of all races and creeds served in the Confederacy, including free Black men. The War Between the States was caused by complex issues that are often simplified these days. We do need to remember that time so we do not go down that road of discord and inability to agree to disagree. Our monument does not create racism and bigotry and removing it does not solve any problems. The soldiers of that time believed they were defending their State from invasion. Their descendants have the right to honor their ancestors with monuments. It is a sad day when people in this country believe it is perfectly acceptable to remove Confederate monuments, but condemn other world cultures for damaging historic sites and museum artifacts. Our County should not go along with this effort to sanitize history. I believe...if you know our past government official Condoleeza Rice, she did not agree with the idea of sanitizing history we need to remember. Trying to remove the monument is another effort to remove part of our history. It saddens me that we cannot commemorate all of our diverse, complex and, yes at times, dark history. It would be most fitting to add to our history, to acknowledge how fascinating and complicated it is. We cannot allow George Orwell's quote from "1984" to become true in our time. "Every record has been destroyed or falsified, every book has been rewritten, every picture has been repainted, every statue and street building has been renamed, every date has been altered. And

that process is continuing day by day and minute by minute. History has stopped. Nothing exists except the endless present in which the party is always right.” Thank you for your time.

Mr. Dave Warner, Courthouse District – I have a great-great uncle who fought in the Civil War. My father fought in the Phillipines in World War II and my uncle in the Korean War. So I was glad to see there is a monument on the Courthouse lawn recognizing all those who gave their lives. But there is also a Confederate monument and that is confusing to me, because the other monument covers everybody. So I think it should be removed. As far as a referendum, I guess if you vote to do that you might as well vote to put the ridgeline event on a referendum and the budget. Thank you.

Mr. Michael Gale, Indian Valley District – I did not come here to speak about this (indistinguishable). I am a veteran. That statue represents veterans. If anybody paid any attention to history – recent in the Middle East, not so recent in the Viet Nam War or World War I, II; everybody who fought did not necessarily think the same as their leaders who were in political positions. We have a statue there for people who fought. We don’t have a statue for Jefferson Davis or any other political leader or general who made decisions. It is for people who fought. As far as the statue representing racism, I believe our Courthouse was built in the 50s, which meant that more than once somebody was denied, based on race, the chance for a marriage license until Loving vs. Virginia. So are you going to tear down the Courthouse because of the acts of racism it represents? Of course not. At least, I hope not. Let’s realize in the United States some things are not up for a vote. Some things are represented as rights including speech. In the United States when there is speech you do not like, the best solution under our Constitution and in our society is more speech. If someone wants to put up a statue that represents what they think needs representing, then let them go through the effort of getting petitions together, getting finances together, and getting permission to put up another statue. Don’t tear down to build up, that does not solve problems. All it is creating is more problems. That’s all.

Mr. Jeff Dowd, Locust Grove District – I am the Commander of the Floyd County Militia. The first thing I would like to do is to set the record straight. The fellow, Jerry Sauter, who sent in the email is incorrect. No one from outside the County orchestrated or planned the formation of the Floyd County Militia. It was entirely by citizens from within Floyd County. When we met last time in March before COVID-19 shut the world down, I reminded you of the following and feel it is necessary to remind you again that an amendment to the United States Constitution reads, “A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.” Also, Article 1, Section 13 of the Constitution of Virginia reads, “That a well regulated militia, composed of the body of the people, trained to arms, is the proper, natural, and safe defense of a free state, therefore, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed; that standing armies, in time of peace, should be avoided as dangerous to liberty; and that in all cases the military should be under strict subordination to, and governed by, the civil power.” I have yet to see any change made to ESF #16 [Floyd County Emergency Operations Plan - Emergency Support Function # 16 – Military Affairs] that pertains to the military affairs in Floyd County. As such I implore you to strengthen our County before it is too late. We the members of the Floyd County Militia have continued to train throughout the so-called pandemic. Not one Floyd Militia member has fallen sick of COVID-19. Yet as a result of our diligent training and dedicated members, we have

developed a well-organized local militia. We are developing a deeply entrenched support system comprised of those who cannot train to fight. At this time I would like to submit to you an ordinance recognizing the constitutional Floyd Militia. This ordinance was developed with direct input from Eric Branscom, our County's Commonwealth Attorney, so we are extremely confident of its language. For those of you who insist that the County does not have the right to recognize the local militia I would say to you that it is your duty to recognize the militia does not fly in the face of U.S. or Virginia Code. You have every right to recognize the fact that, "The militia of the Commonwealth of Virginia shall consist of all able-bodied residents of the Commonwealth who are citizens of the United States and all other able-bodied persons resident in the Commonwealth who have declared their intention to become citizens of the United States, who are at least 16 years of age and, except as hereinafter provided, not more than 55 years of age." That is the text of the Virginia Code § 44-1. Composition of militia. We are the militia. So I come before you tonight to invite you again to sit down with the militia leadership with the goal of developing the necessary relationship to strengthen and protect our community. In March of this year we warned you of our current ESF Plan #16 to secure Floyd County has left us at, and I said this before, "Great risk in the event of catastrophic statewide or national events and natural disaster, civil unrest or terrorist activity." The (indistinguishable) in our economy as well as the radical leftist agenda to break the back of our nation by alleging false racial tensions has brought civil unrest onto our streets in Virginia. The constant antagonistic tactics of communist organizations such as BLM [Black Lives Matter] and ANTIFA [Anti-fascist] have destroyed...may I have a few more moments to finish?

Chairman Turman – No sir, since I have not allowed anybody else more time.

Mr. Dowd – You allowed a few other people more time. I will submit this document to you.

Ms. Becky Howell, Burks Fork District – The monument on the courthouse lawn seems to be a hot button issue for many people. Some people want it to be moved to another location, because it is hurtful to people of color. Others want it to remain on the lawn because it honors those who gave their lives in the Civil War for a cause they believed in strongly. I can never know what it is like to be discriminated against because of the color of my skin. I believe we are all created equal, endowed by our creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That monument does nothing to add to or detract from our happiness. Instead of focusing on removing the monument, I would encourage everyone here to treat everyone else with respect. Valuing human life and caring about our fellow man is the only way to begin to heal the hurts from the past. I would like for the question to be placed on the ballot this fall so registered voters in Floyd can vote their conscience.

Mr. Gerald Dickerson, Courthouse District – I have heard a lot of stuff said here about that monument. I've been here all my life, been here all of my daddy's life. As far as ancestry, I had two great-grandmothers who were full-blooded Cherokee. They were here a lot longer than any of us. I only have one thing to say. I am going to blow a myth in something else here that I have heard a lot of people say. I went to school with a lot of Black boys. They were good, old boys. I loved them like brothers. They treated me like brothers. And I'll tell you something, as far as voting, not one of them was intimidated by us and we outnumbered them probably 20 to 1 as far as Whites and Blacks. They would fight any one of us any time you bat an eye. So they

weren't intimidated. I want to put a hole in this myth about people being intimidated at the polls because it is bull. That's all I have to say. Thank you.

Ms. Andrea Garland, Indian Valley District – I'm from the North. I'm from northern Illinois originally. I have lived here 30 years which is the longest I have lived anywhere. I had relatives fight on both sides in the Civil War. My closest relatives were, of course, Union soldiers. And I actually had a great uncle, a brother of my grandfather, fought in the Civil War, was shot through the mouth by a Confederate bullet and survived. So maybe if there is anybody here who should not like that statue, maybe it would be me. But I really do like that statue. I came to the South and think it is a wonderful place to live. I love Floyd County. I think the statue or monument represents the part of the United States that we live in. If you go up to northern Illinois, you will see Union soldiers on the Courthouse lawn. It is part of our history. It has nothing to do with slavery. It was put there by the women of the Confederacy to honor their fallen family members, not to talk about racist problems. And as far as racism in the United States, I think people who think we are a racist country forget that we elected for two terms a Black president. We also have Black people who have served on the Supreme Court. We had Black people in our Congress. I just want to say that we've come a long way as far as racism in this country and there is no other country in the world that gives the Black person the advantages that we have here. If you think about it, what other country in the world has had a Black president besides the United States other than African countries. So I think there is no better place in the world for a Black person to be growing up or living than in this wonderful country.

Ms. Linda Haas, Little River District – Thank you for allowing me to speak. You have to have not read a newspaper for 10 years to think this is a wonderful place for Black people. Just in the last year I don't even know how many Black men have been killed for no reason and you don't hear about White boys being killed in the same way. And no, this is not the best country for Black people. They have historically often moved to other countries in Europe that treat them much better. That's all I have to say. Thanks.

Mr. Jerry Myers, Courthouse District – Most of the major media is controlled by one side and there is a lot of disinformation. In 2019, nine unarmed Blacks were killed by the police compared to 22 unarmed Whites that were killed. In the same year 7,500 Blacks died from Black on Black crime in this country. All of the major cities are controlled by the Democrats. We hear about the "sanctuary cities." They are sanctuaries for the drug trade. The politicians are making money off the drug trade. That is why none of this stops. This goes on year after year. And for somebody to sit there and be all emotionally... it is just like Margaret Sanger in the 1920s and 30s was calling Blacks "human weeds." You go into any city today and abortion mills are in the Black communities throughout America. I don't see anybody who is so concerned about Black lives talking about this. Black Lives Matter is a communist organization. What does getting rid of the nuclear family have to do with saving Black lives? It is all a lie. You ought to wake up. It is like the "1984" rewriting of history. Listen to Lenin's little proviso, "After the revolution who needs the revolutionaries?" We've gone down the steps and a little beyond that and get your brains blown out by the people who are jerking you around. That's all I've got to say. The monument should stay. Thank you.

Ms. Kristin Koch, Courthouse District – It is understandable that a lot of White folks feel bad for what happened to Blacks in the past. I think that is very commendable. I don't think

any of us here wish for that to happen again. However, many people don't understand the full history. There were more free Blacks in the South than there were in the North. There were Blacks and Native Americans both that fought on the Confederate side. What happens to those folks who want to remember their heritage? They're Black and they like the Confederate monument. We have a lady here in Town, right in the Courthouse district, who was very vocal about her feelings, how she is very proud of her heritage, that her family member fought for the Confederacy. Is she not allowed to be proud of her heritage? What about those Blacks? I understand that everyone is well meaning and there are a lot of feelings, But when we look at the facts, Whites and Blacks fought together to protect their homes down here in the South. We were attacked by our own countrymen and I think it is extremely important that we don't try to erase history, but we educate folks who think it was just Whites against Blacks. It was not. It was Whites and Blacks together in the Confederacy. Blacks should be allowed to remember their history as well. I support keeping the monument. I believe that is also honoring Black families. Thank you.

Mr. John Myers, Little River District – A lot has been said here tonight. I will keep my comments within the four minutes. Briefly we have a lot of good country in the County, good views even. Let's keep it that way. On the other hot button issue, one thing I feel as I stand up here...during that war in 1864 I believe it was, somewhere in that timeframe...Floyd County actually was sort of a haven for deserters who came back home to look after their families. Some people in the Confederacy weren't very happy with those folks. If anything keep the statue and add some context to it. We have some good historians in Floyd County. Let's find another figure to put next to the statue. It was Mr. Gale I believe who said, let's add another statue to the lawn to get some representation. If we don't learn from history, we will repeat it. If we want to sanitize and forget about it, that is one sure way to repeat it. Nobody wants to do that not even those who are ideologically opposed. That is all I have to say.

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

Agenda Item 7. – Constitutional Officers Reports.

There were no Constitutional Officers present for the meeting.

Agenda Item 8.a. – Nutrient Offset Availability on Floyd County High School Renovation/Addition Project.

Ms. Morris – This nutrient offset availability on the Floyd County High School renovation/addition project is similar to one the Board recently approved for the Commerce Center. We are required to purchase nutrient offsets for any land disturbance we make for any project. We received 4 quotes in response to our bid request. I gave you copies of those. Running Cedar Nutrient Bank was the lowest responsive bidder with a cost of \$8,450.00 per credit for a total of \$39,039.00. This is lower than our estimated cost of \$42,000.00. The recommendation of the architect and staff is acceptance of this bid.

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Yoder, and carried, it was resolved to accept the bid of \$39,039.00 submitted by Running Cedar Nutrient Bank for the

Floyd County High School Addition/Renovation project and to authorize the County Administrator to execute the contract (Document File Number 1121).

Supervisor Coleman – yes
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – no
Supervisor Yoder – yes
Supervisor Boothe – yes
Supervisor Turman – yes

Agenda Item 9. – Old/New Business.

There was no old or new business to discuss.

Agenda Item 10. – Board Member Time.

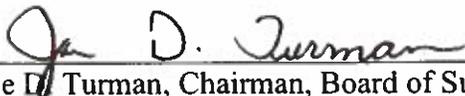
Agenda Item 11. – Adjournment.

On a motion of Supervisor Yoder, seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn the meeting to August 11, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. in the Board Room of the County Administration building.

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



Terri W. Morris, County Administrator



Joe D. Turman, Chairman, Board of Supervisors