

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2020**

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Floyd County, Virginia, held on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. in the Board Room of the County Administration Building 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 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.

Supervisor Yoder led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item 4. – Approval of minutes of August 11, 2020 and August 25, 2020.

On a motion of Supervisor Yoder, seconded by Supervisor Coleman, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the minutes of August 11, 2020 as presented.

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

On a motion of Supervisor Kuchenbuch, seconded by Supervisor Boothe, and carried, it was resolved to approve the minutes of August 25, 2020 as presented.

Supervisor Coleman – yes  
Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes  
Supervisor Yoder – abstain because of absence from that meeting  
Supervisor Boothe – yes  
Supervisor Turman – yes

Agenda Item 5. – Approval of monthly disbursements.

Questions and discussion followed.

On a motion of Supervisor Kuchenbuch, seconded by Supervisor Coleman, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the September 2020 monthly disbursements and additional bills as presented.

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

Agenda Item 6.a. – Mr. John McEnhill, Executive Director, Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. McEnhill explained why he was seeking CARES {Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security} funding for the Floyd Visitors Guide:

- 1) The Chamber of Commerce has been putting out a Visitor's Guide for almost 30 years;
- 2) The current guide is widely distributed throughout the State, including 5 welcome centers strategically placed at entry points into the State;
- 3) The current guide is outdated and does not reflect the current reality with 10 businesses in the guide now being closed, 5 more expected to close, and 11 having outdated information;
- 4) The Chamber has noticed a significant decline in businesses' ability to do what they normally did in terms of paid promotion for their business;
- 5) Chamber membership is down by one-third;
- 6) Most people make a decision to visit a place from looking online but when they arrive at a destination the demand is very strong for something printed;
- 7) Floyd does not have good cell phone coverage with a lot of major cell phone carriers;
- 8) We are still being asked for these guides by people who intend to visit and by visitor centers;
- 9) Rural travel destinations like ours are favored because people think they are safe places to visit;
- 10) Residents themselves are becoming tourists in their own county;
- 11) Our proposal for the new guide is to structure it to be a Floyd County guide that is not just for visitors, but also for residents;
- 12) We are thinking about doing it by quadrant so we can move people around Floyd County;
- 13) A lot of people want to stay as safe as possible by doing outdoor activities;
- 14) This guide will focus on outdoor activities and agritourism;
- 15) We will have information about how people can access businesses safely;
- 16) The overriding theme of this guide is "How to Access Floyd Safely;"
- 17) We will have which businesses are offering curbside service, which businesses are only open by appointment, which only allow a limited number in at a time due to occupancy restrictions; and which have options like outdoor dining;
- 18) This guide will also dovetail with the "Shop Floyd" online campaign;

- 19) Everything is in such a state of flux we are looking at doing smaller printings on a seasonal basis so we can update more frequently and reflect the changing situations as we move through the pandemic;
- 20) We think a quantity of 10,000 will be sufficient for a seasonal issue;
- 21) The guide will have a full page for the Floyd Safety Pledge that a lot of businesses have adopted or the “Be Committed Be Well” campaign that the Health District and the New River Valley Regional Commission and the local governments are supporting;
- 22) The total cost of a 24-page, full color seasonal guide is a little over \$5,600;
- 23) We feel that businesses need some buy-in but at an affordable amount of \$25 to get a listing in the guide;
- 24) We expect 70 businesses to participate at \$25 each;
- 25) We are asking the Board of Supervisors for \$3,900 from CARES Act local government funding;
- 26) I will work with the County Administrator to make sure we meet the requirements of CARES Act funding by keeping the focus on safety.

Agenda Item 7.a. – Subdivision plats as approved by Agent for August 2020.

Ms. Morris – I will be happy to relay any questions or concerns regarding the August 2020 subdivision plats to Ms. Turman, if you have any.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – I thought it was interesting that we had four cemeteries in August.

Ms. Morris – If you would like I will ask Ms. Turman to join us.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – It seems like it was a busy August. Why do you think, was there any rhyme or reason to it?

Ms. Turman – It was very busy. I think a lot of people are refinancing. I know a few of these were done for refinancing. I have done about 5 that were from Phillips and Turman Tree Farms in the past couple of months.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – I noticed there are four cemeteries.

Ms. Turman – That is a typographical error. I apologize for that. There was only 1 cemetery, but we have a couple in the works right now. One large parcel is going to auction so they are doing a family cemetery division to keep that piece and auction off the rest of the property. We had some families who were able to do a lot line revision. One of them started as a four-family subdivision but two of the children are on each side so they took theirs in as a lot line revision.

Agenda Item 7.b. – Designation of representative and alternate to the Board of Directors of the New River Valley Agency on Aging, term effective October 1, 2020.

On a motion of Supervisor Yoder, seconded by Supervisor Boothe, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to reappoint Ms. Terri Morris as representative and to reappoint Ms. Cynthia Ryan as alternate to the Board of Directors of the New River Valley Agency on Aging from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020.

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

Agenda Item 6.b. – Public Comment Period.

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

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

Agenda Item 7.c. – E911 Road Name Request – Backwoods Lane.

Ms. Morris – The next three items are road name requests. I believe they are all because of a third house being added.

Vice Chairman Boothe – For all three of these the terminology used is “so-called shared drive,” has the drive been established?

Mr. Kevin Sowers [Emergency Management Coordinator] – I didn’t type these requests but any time there are three structures on a drive we have to name the road. That wording can be struck.

Vice Chairman Boothe – I just wanted to make sure there was no implication that there was a problem with what is being established. That is all I need to know.

On a motion of Supervisor Yoder, seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the naming of Backwoods Lane, with the cost of the road sign installation to be paid by the County.

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

Agenda Item 7.d. – E911 Road Name Request – Lees Luck Lane.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – Does this one, Lees Luck Lane, cross a river?

Mr. Sowers – I don't go out and make a site visit. I look at them on plats. I'm not sure if it crosses a river, but really if there are three structures that share a driveway, then it needs to be named.

On a motion of Supervisor Kuchenbuch, seconded by Supervisor Coleman, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the naming of Lees Luck Lane, with the cost of the road sign installation to be paid by the County.

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

Agenda Item 7.e. – E911 Road Name Request – Tessar Drive.

On a motion of Supervisor Coleman, seconded by Supervisor Boothe, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the naming of Tessar Drive, with the cost of the road sign installation to be paid by the County.

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

Agenda Item 7.f. – Discussion of CARES funding requests.

Ms. Morris discussed CARES funding requests:

- 1) The first request this morning was from Mr. McEnhill for \$3,900 for the Floyd Visitors Guide;
- 2) I provided an original and revised request from the New River Valley Public Health Task Force:
  - a. The Health Department has their phone system through VITA [Virginia Information Technologies Agency] which is a State system so these costs are only for their increased costs;
  - b. They reduced the request for the Ambassadors Program, which was where employees would be out in the community answering questions, handing out masks;
  - c. The Health Department will be doing the hiring for the Call Center but they cut down on the number of hours while still having 4 employees working per shift, 7 days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.;
  - d. The Call Center will be in the basement of the Radford Health Department, there are already 4 offices set up with a computer system and a phone system;
  - e. The School Liaison in my opinion is the most important piece to this and the New River Valley Regional Commission would assist with hiring this position;
  - f. The administrative fee would go to the New River Valley Regional Commission for their facilitation of this whole project;

- g. The new testing technology tests for the COVID virus and the flu and differentiates between the two;
- h. We are ordering enough tests for the entire population of the New River Valley with Radford University and Virginia Tech ordering their own tests;
- i. Existing expenses for masking are items already paid by Montgomery County for the entire region; we need to go pick ours up;
- j. The Task Force has a 3-month stockpile of personal protective equipment right now which is being stored at Lewis-Gale Montgomery but they will deliver it to the localities as we need it;
- k. We had quite a discussion on how to divide the costs.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – There is over \$.5 million for the “Be Committed Be Well” campaign, almost \$600,000.

Ms. Morris – Over half of that is for masks that have already been ordered. The rest is for marketing and billboards and other things. They really don’t think they will be spending that much money.

- l. If the costs were divided equally that wouldn’t be fair either;
- m. We finally decided on a combination of per capita and equal shares;
- n. The result is close to our original amount which was \$288,640 and it is now \$304,408;
- o. As far as I know all the other localities are okay with this.

Supervisor Yoder – I am trying to imagine what the Ambassadors would do in Floyd because we are not having any big events right now.

Ms. Morris – They will be in the community at different events, if we have any. I can see this working more in a college town. They would go out and answer questions, hand out masks, and speak to businesses.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – I know Dr. Bissell spends a lot of her time with the schools, what happens to the School Liaison position?

Supervisor Coleman – What happens to all of the positions?

Ms. Morris – These are just limited time positions during the COVID pandemic. The amounts shown cover both salaries and benefits.

Supervisor Yoder – This amount to spend on marketing...I know there are always new developments, but the information is everywhere. Personally I think we might be over marketed.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – I find that the Business Task Force out of the New River Commission seems to be a more targeted approach when a business has a problem.

Ms. Morris – Yes. That is the main thing they are doing.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – It seems more targeted, more focused. What happens if we say we are just going to stick with our original budget? Do we have that ability?

Ms. Morris – I don't think so because they talk a lot about applying for Community Development Block Grant money if they need to continue on past this December. Mr. Byrd is quite confident that we can get funding.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – Yes. He mentioned that at a meeting the other night. I also think there will be more CARES money if it is needed in the future.

Ms. Morris – I just wish they would extend the deadline. There has been talk about that. Ms. Morris continued discussing other CARES funding requests:

- 3) I have done a considerable amount of research on your thoughts about purchasing an ambulance;
- 4) I spoke to other localities and had an hour long conversation with two attorneys;
- 5) One of the main things you need to consider is not that other localities are making these purchases, but how it relates to Floyd County and your level of risk tolerance;
- 6) Mr. Durbin suggested that if you want to go down this path that you consider adopting a resolution, which he drafted, outlining the reasons for this purchase;
- 7) \$35 million has been set aside to audit these funds, it is going to happen;
- 8) After our discussion we felt that we can document our reasons for the purchase of this ambulance.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – If we look at our calls for the last 7 days, it does make sense. I appreciate all of your work on this. Thank you.

Ms. Morris – We have to prove that this is a durable good for use during this emergency, that it is reasonably necessary, it has to be purchased before December 31. One of our main reasons is that we only have two good ambulances and one on standby, we are basically using this as backup so we can decontaminate between calls. The one that was already budgeted will be used in the normal rotation of vehicles.

Chairman Turman – Up until the last 3 weeks we really couldn't justify it, but now you can.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – We need to start a folder documenting these calls.

Ms. Morris – We have been doing that. The main thing was that we already had one ordered based on our budget. If you are okay with this we need to go ahead and get it ordered.

On a motion of Supervisor Kuchenbuch, seconded by Supervisor Coleman, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve a resolution establishing the use of money acquired through the Coronavirus Relief Fund for the purchase of an ambulance in order to fight the spread of COVID-19 in Floyd County, Virginia (Document Number 1128).

Supervisor Coleman – yes

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes

Supervisor Yoder – yes

Supervisor Boothe – yes  
Supervisor Turman – yes

Ms. Morris continued discussing possible uses of CARES funds:

- 9) After further research and discussion with our attorneys we can't provide a flat payment to our businesses;
- 10) We could put more money into our RISES program because there has to have been a business interruption, meet qualification, and we have to ensure the funds are used properly;
- 11) The last request is that we provide hazardous duty pay to certain staff;
- 12) This could definitely apply to our Emergency Medical Services (EMS), our Sheriff's Office, Solid Waste and Emergency Management;
- 13) A lot of localities are providing this to their employees;
- 14) Some are doing it as a flat amount and some are paying \$4 to \$5 more per hour from the end of March to December;
- 15) Or if job duties have changed and an employee is dealing only with CARES, we can charge their salary.

Supervisor Yoder – Have we had a problem with employees not wanting to work because of fear of coronavirus.

Ms. Morris – Yes, especially with EMS. We shut Recycling down for a while. I talked to them before we reopened and they were leery of reopening.

Chairman Turman – They are not only exposed to coronavirus but to other hazardous stuff as well.

Supervisor Coleman – I appreciate that we are trying to keep as much of this money in our community as we can and looking at needed purchases like the ambulance. I know there are needs in the Task Force as well, but I want to make sure we are prepared here and take care of our local economy as well.

Ms. Morris – The Giles County Administrator has led a lot of this and they are like us; they don't have a lot of staff to deal with these things. The Task Force has really helped us.

Supervisor Coleman – There is definitely a place for it.

Ms. Morris – I understand your points too.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – Supervisor Coleman, I agree with you. We have done regional stuff before but this is our first time to have something so traumatic and it has been reassuring to me how well everyone has worked together. Having your previous participation in-person and on the phone in established regional efforts has been important. But again the more we can keep for our citizens, that we feel as leaders we need for our County residents, is important. It is just that some of these numbers are so high that it is hard.

Ms. Morris – To date we have only spent \$478,000 from our CARES money.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – How much have we received?

Ms. Ryan – \$2.6 million.

Chairman Turman – That shows how frugal we have been.

Ms. Morris – That's true but you don't want to send it back if there are things that we need and can use it for.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – That doesn't count the new ambulance.

Vice Chairman Boothe – That will be about \$300,000 once it is fully loaded and ready for use.

Agenda Item 6.c. – Constitutional Officers and Registrar reports.

Ms. Amy Ingram, Floyd County Registrar, and Mr. Bob Smith, Chairman of the Electoral Board provided an update on recent General Assembly legislation and its impact on the upcoming November Presidential election:

- 1) The General Assembly is requiring that we put postage on the return envelope for absentee ballots;
- 2) We are expecting 2,000 and already have 1,000 applications;
- 3) I have never had anywhere close to 1,000 mail-in ballot applications;
- 4) In President Obama's first election I had 1,000 applications but those were split with about 600 in-person and about 400 by mail;
- 5) This will take some load off the election workers at the poll on Election Day, but there will be a lot of work leading up to then and the night of;
- 6) There is some provision that we can do pre-processing a week or so before the election if we notify both parties;
- 7) When we had to recount the Town election ballots it took the bulk of the day to scan about 800 ballots with just one tabulator;
- 8) To mail a ballot with return instructions to a voter costs 70¢;
- 9) I need about \$2,500 for stamps by September 14, with \$1,400 of that amount being for the 70¢ outgoing and \$1,100 being for the 55¢ return envelope;
- 10) This would be enough money for 2,000 mail-in ballot applications;
- 11) When North Carolina switched to no-excuse early voting, they saw a 40% to 50% increase in early voting among localities and COVID-19 wasn't around then;
- 12) I expect half the voters to vote before Election Day;
- 13) I am happy to see the no-excuse voting and that is a permanent change;
- 14) We just got guidance about having absentee voting drop boxes and the Electoral Board needs to meet and decide which option we want to go with at the Courthouse;
- 15) We can have a permanent one up all the time during the 45-day period;
- 16) It has to be on camera and the video has to be kept for up to 30 days after the election;
- 17) Another option is a staffed drop box during office hours;

18) We need to discuss this with the Electoral Board and Sheriff, but our initial thoughts are that because we will already have a large outside presence, we might want to go with the staffed drop box;

19) That way we won't have to have the drop box permanently mounted and lighted.

Vice Chairman Boothe – Do you know what the expense for this will be?

Ms. Ingram – I don't and I have heard that the permanent drop boxes may not even be available since much of the country has gone to that. Another problem is storing all that data for 75-80 days. I think it might almost be more cost efficient to have a person.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – What about at the polling locations?

Ms. Ingram – At the polling locations we are required to have a mail in drop off location just for Election Day. We are thinking about using just an outside box manned by a person.

Supervisor Yoder – In the past you had to have people present. Do you have to have two people at the box this time too?

Ms. Ingram – The reason we used to have two people was because we had the touch screen machines which essentially could be activated and voted on unlimited times. Since we have gone to the paper ballot and we only send one ballot out, that two party law is not in effect. But we will have multiple people outside for this election with our curbside setup.

Supervisor Yoder – You almost want a lockable box for people to put their ballots into.

Ms. Ingram – Absolutely. We actually have a black box that the chiefs have and that is a ballot box.

Mr. Smith – So we actually have the physical box and we just have to work out the custody issue.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – How do you feel that your poll worker numbers are trending at the moment?

Ms. Ingram – We have called our list and a lot of people want to help out. I feel like we are in good shape as long as people stay healthy. I do have a few people who have decided not to work. A few do not plan to work and a few were nervous about being in public and have offered to work an absentee precinct where they wouldn't have to face as many in person. Now that Election Day is a State holiday, we are going to use a courtroom this time and set up two teams to process absentee ballots. In the next two weeks we have a lot of stuff to get done. Hopefully we will be able to reorganize our office. Thank you for working with us on the Probation Office. It should be ready soon. Thank you for your support with everything. You may have heard that Kanye West made the ballot, but Thursday night he was removed from the ballot.

Vice Chairman Boothe – What is the last date you accept mail in ballots?

Ms. Ingram – If you postmark your ballot by Election Day, we can receive it until the Friday at 2:00 p.m. after the election, I believe. That means the absentee election workers might have to work Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Vice Chairman Boothe – If a person comes to the polls then they won't be marked off if they also mailed in a ballot.

Ms. Ingram – If I mail you a ballot you are flagged as an absentee voter even if a ballot hasn't been returned. You either need to return the ballot you got in the mail at the polls that day or get a new ballot and vote provisional. The Electoral Board would wait until Friday to see what has come back. If the ballot is received prior to the Election Day it is noted in the system that you marked the ballot and returned it. You would not be able to get another ballot at the polls. We have a ballot tracking and voters can log onto the State Department of Elections and track their ballot as I send it out and as it is returned. Our office has been swamped for the past 4 weeks. We are on the phone all day and stay late after work to catch up on our work. I am hiring several people over the next few weeks to help with the tent and curbside. I met with Judge Fleenor last week and showed him the plan for outside and setting up a table in the lobby with the poll book and he gave his 100% support for any efforts we did for voting.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – Could some of our CARES funds go toward elections?

Ms. Ingram – We got some CARES funding but it is going quickly.

Ms. Morris – Supposedly the State is going to reimburse us for the postage.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – What about staffing?

Ms. Ingram – Some of that I can to the extent that we have the money.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – I am talking about our County funds. Is there any way we can use that?

Ms. Morris – We can check into that.

Ms. Ingram – For the postage the State set aside \$2 million for the whole State for the 55¢ return. They will use a formula to divide it up. The 70¢ outgoing stamp they will not reimburse. This election is expensive but it is important that it be a smooth, transparent, safe election. Interest is very high. We want voters to feel good that their vote counted. Some people don't think their absentee votes are counted. They think it is only counted if it is close. Another law is the absentee cure process. If you vote by mail, your ballot is sealed inside a second envelope. It has your name, residence, signature and a witness signature. The witness signature has been waived because of COVID. We have to examine each envelope within 3 days and notify the voter if there is any deficiency so they have an opportunity to correct it.

Ms. Smith – In the past we had to throw those out, which we hated to do but the law said it had to be done a certain way. If they don't do it right, they have a second chance to come in

and correct it before we open the envelope. That is even greater assurance that it will be counted and not thrown out on a technicality.

Sheriff Craig provided an update on the Sheriff's Office:

- 1) Over the last 2 months EMS has had 245 calls;
- 2) I appreciate the EMS staff they are working constantly lately;
- 3) 4,099 calls came into Dispatch over the last couple of months of which 3,716 had to be worked by Deputies or Dispatch;
- 4) I want to thank all of our first responders, Fire and Rescue, law enforcement and dispatchers;
- 5) One Deputy is supposed to turn in his two week notice today in order to transfer to the State Police;
- 6) State Police change their policy and steal a lot of local law enforcement and that is what has happened.

Vice Chairman Boothe – Are you transporting prisoners to New River Valley?

Sheriff Craig – No. The majority of the time they come to us. I know Patrick County bought a transport vehicle but they have their own jail.

Vice Chairman Boothe – Are you decontaminating the vehicles?

Sheriff Craig – Yes, they decontaminate the vehicles.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – Is all the new equipment we added over the past couple of years working okay?

Sheriff Craig – It seems to be. I know Mr. Sowers is the main person to ask about that. I couldn't do it without him. He has taken this ball and run with it and done a really good job.

Agenda Item 6.d. – Dr. John Wheeler, Superintendent, Floyd County Public Schools.

Dr. Wheeler – I sent an email to you earlier. I was told that some of you have questions on the propane tank. There is the information. It has been a long process. We are working with Ms. Morris on the best time to get it filled. The rest of the heating system should be in by October 5. We go in with you on the propane bid. Ms. Morris is working on that. As you saw from the collage there will be a very tall fence above that and very nice trees specific to the height and the cover for the aesthetic value that we want to achieve. It is out of the way. All along the engineers said we have to put it in the safest spot. It was also the most economical thing to do. At least now it is 30,000 instead of 36,000 if we had gotten the two other ones. The air conditioning should be done in January. We have a construction meeting coming up with the Collaboration and Career Development Center. Frith has been great to work with. We are going to have some summer internships that our students will apply for. Part of the new senior experience is job and work experience. Frith is going to provide paid internships. They will be here for two summers. We will put applications out in the spring. You have the letter on the timeframe. The first thing is to get the new parking lot finished so we have space.

Vice Chairman Boothe – Are things still working well with Virginia Tech on getting programs?

Dr. Wheeler – Yes, especially in the agriculture area and other areas where they have gone to two-year programs. Then it will be not just the community college but students can go to Virginia Tech and get a specialized degree.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – I have some constituent questions that were phoned into me. The first is “Was there ever a discussion to bury the tank or tanks? Was there a discussion about 3 smaller tanks, like 10,000 gallons, and burying them?”

Dr. Wheeler – I think burying the tanks was decided by the engineers as not being the best way to do it.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – Why was that?

Dr. Wheeler – The land and where they would lay there and they wanted to pull it up. To my knowledge they did not want to bury the tanks with the heating at all.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – Is there documentation on the not burying of the tanks?

Dr. Wheeler – I talked to Dan Berenatto. The discussion on where to put them was ongoing. I will be happy to tell him that you would like some documentation on why there were not buried. This was left to the engineers. I was not going to say bury them at all costs even if it is detrimental.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – I can’t imagine that burying tanks would be detrimental. The second question is could the architect get to me all safety documentation on the placement of said tank, the distance from the school building as it exists now and any other documentation on the distance from the school building, distance from the school building that will be built, and all other things related to the safety and placement of a 30,000 gallon unburied propane tank.

Dr. Wheeler – We will make that request.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – On the tree screen I would like to see what kinds of trees will be planted and the size of those trees.

Dr. Wheeler – Okay. I am always open and you can always come. I will put you on the phone with whoever you want to talk to if I don’t have the answers.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – I find the situation of where that tank is placed to be very troubling.

Dr. Wheeler – I understand and we will get you that information and put you in touch with the people who can explain it.

Ms. Morris – This all goes through our Building Official also.

Chairman Turman – I guarantee everybody that worked on that had the safety of the students in mind. I can understand them not burying the tank. I would rather have it on top. It is a lot safer sitting on top instead of buried in the ground. If it were buried and blew, you could put the Town of Floyd in the hole.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – Or if it leaked. Understood.

Chairman Turman – Above ground they have pop off valves to make it safer. I am comfortable with everything you are doing. I can't see anybody cutting corners and risking the students.

Supervisor Yoder – I have thought about it a little bit and the conclusion I have come to is that the tank is a lot safer than having tons of coal underneath the school ready to be heated. Having that much coal packed into a spot at a school building was probably a much higher fire hazard than a propane tank.

Dr. Wheeler – I tell parents this all the time, “Call me at home. Don't dwell on anything. I want everyone to sleep well every night. Call me. I'll take you out to lunch and we will have a nice calm discussion. If I can't answer it, I will put you with who can.” This is a different world in public education. We are moving forward with it. We are all in the same boat with other logistics. Everybody would like to do something different. We are fortunate that we can get our preK to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade in. Most places just can't. It is the way it is. There are a lot of waivers and a lot of variances. We don't want any pressure, whether it is attendance or grades or accountability. Let's just support each other and get through this. Take care of each other's mental health, emotional health and we will be good.

Vice Chairman Boothe – At first I heard a lot about communication and that there were some snafus, which is to be expected. But since I heard that you worked through all of that and things are tremendously better.

Dr. Wheeler – It is better but there is a long way to go to make a virtual setting. You are not just changing a setting but a whole class environment. It is hard on parents raising children. It doesn't matter if they are a senior or 4 years old. We are going to do our best to take care of the teachers. You heard Dr. Bissell when she was here. The night before we opened I talked to her to see if there was any reason to not open. I talk to her constantly. It is part of the world we live in. You have to work with health care providers in your community to make sure you are part of the solution. Those are the things our Board will continue to look at.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – Is there a plan on your website that makes public as to what happens if we spike in our school systems?

Dr. Wheeler – All the plans are under the reopening. I follow the same guidelines you do with DOLI [Virginia Department of Labor and Industry] and the CDC [Center for Disease Control.] The bottom line with CDC is that we will take the advice of local health. DOLI is mostly notification which we do. There will be more cases associated with schools whether they were ever in the building or not. We will let everyone know. If you walk into a store you don't

know how many people have it. We will make it as safe as possible for everyone involved. I appreciate you. I appreciate the CARES act; we were able to purchase a lot of personal protective equipment.

Agenda Item 6.e. – Mr. David Clarke, Resident Engineer, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

Mr. Clarke provided construction and maintenance updates:

a. On the maintenance side –

Machining and putting gravel on roads	Various roads
A little bit of storm work	
A lot of pipe repair and replacement	Daniels Run Road, Boothe Creek Road, Hale Road
Mowing, trimming and brush work	Couple of roads
Dust control as we get complaints	
Secondary shoulder work	Christiansburg Pike, Conner Road, Hale Road, Jacks Mill Road

b. On the construction side –

6 Year Plan	Mill Run Road should we done this week if the weather holds out.
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Mr. Clarke – I have some information regarding naming for Supervisor Coleman that I will share with you later. It does require a resolution from the County.

Supervisor Coleman – I don’t have anything today other than the question on the naming. Thank you.

Vice Chairman Boothe – Thank you for the line painting on Rt. 8. They painted a little further than we thought but it took care of our problem. I appreciate the crosswalk at Milestones being established. Does VDOT or the Town paint the lines designating “No Parking?”

Mr. Clarke – I will look up the standard on how far of each side of a crosswalk is “No Parking.”

Vice Chairman Boothe – Thank you for putting the lines in the crosswalk at the high school. I noticed they didn't put any signage up there.

Mr. Clarke – It is a different crew; one crew does the painting and it is separate from the sign crew.

Vice Chairman Boothe – Remind Chris about our project down on Rt. 8 under the bridge. Please check into the right of way distance there so we know exactly what we are talking about. I understand that you can't get outside of your right of way. Please thank everyone for what they've done. You still have a list so I won't go over it again.

Supervisor Yoder – Have you gotten down to Diamond Knob Road yet?

Mr. Clarke – No. They got to Lick Ridge Road, but I don't think they got to Diamond Knob Road yet.

Supervisor Yoder – Have you done lines on Rt. 8 South toward the Parkway recently? Early in the morning it is foggy out there and the side lines are impossible to see.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – Those white lines are really important in this County with the fog that we get. Thunderstruck Road and Roger Road really have issues right now. Also the crosswalk signage that is in the crosswalk has been run over. There seems to frequently be a traffic backup on Rt. 221 from the light. It seems to happen even when someone is not crossing in the crosswalk. It seems to be working well right now and I would hate to fool with it anymore, but there are some backups on Rt. 221 to Food Lion on a regular basis. A lot of it might be because people make left turns at the light. We don't have room to put in another lane.

Vice Chairman Boothe – Unless we do away with parking. I noticed the same thing on Rt. 8.

Mr. Clarke – We need to get someone out there and observe what is going on.

Chairman Turman – Thank you for the dust control. We are still getting some calls on brush at the intersections. Some of the brush is hiding stop signs.

Mr. Clarke – Yes. We are talking to school transportation people.

Chairman Turman – What is going on with the new stoplight at Gardner Road?

Mr. Clarke – I don't know. I will have to look into that.

Chairman Turman – There is a pole on the right before you get to Gardner Road that is leaning over. Other than that, I thank you for all you are doing.

Agenda Item 9. – Board Member Time.

Supervisor Yoder – I asked Ms. Morris to print out a copy of our short-term rental ordinance. This year some of the people who were doing short term rentals are not able to. A constituent asked me about waiving the registration fee for the year. The other question I have is if there are no changes could we look at having a different fee structure if it were a new registration requiring work by the Commissioner of Revenue rather than a renewal application. When we charge a lodging tax on a hotel, they don't have to register every year and pay a fee.

Ms. Morris – I don't think they have to pay an annual fee.

Supervisor Yoder – We are charging the small operator a fee and not the larger operation. To make it an even playing field for everybody, we might want to think about changing this in the future and possibly waiving the fee for this year. If we do waive fee the fee then it would be good to do so before the end of the month. For a lot of people the fee is coming up soon.

Vice Chairman Boothe – Please keep in mind and consider doing a one-step across-the-board pay increase starting in January. This is still on my radar.

Supervisor Coleman – Can we put up signage at the green box site below the Ridgeview Road storage buildings stating that this is not a dump site?

Ms. Morris – Mr. Thompson has talked to the owners several times. We can't take the brush to the Transfer Station. He has asked if we could move the green boxes closer to the storage buildings and they wouldn't let him do that. It doesn't seem to bother the owners, but the stack is getting pretty tall. I talked to a gentleman from the Department of Fish and Game and he is going to put signs up on the green boxes that it is illegal to feed bears. He asked permission to do that. He is visiting different sites at different times of the day and night trying to catch people feeding them.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – The Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library went to curbside only service systemwide last Friday due to a case in one of the branches. They will look at the numbers next week to make a decision on whether to continue that or reopen.

Agenda Item 6.f. – Public Hearing regarding the petition for abandonment altogether as a public road of a portion of a former Virginia Department of Transportation Road off Boone Road near the closed bridge over Burks Fork at Weddle Road, a distance of .6 of a mile.

Ms. Morris read the call for the Public Hearing and noted that it was advertised in the August 6, 2020 and August 13, 2020 editions of The Floyd Press and also sent by certified mail to all the property owners within a 1-mile radius of the property. One written comment was received from Ms. Darlene Hylton, she said, "I have no objection with this portion of road being abandoned altogether."

**Mr. Ry Winston** – I am back again about this road abandonment request which I appreciate each of you considering. I don't have anything new to report. My neighbors remain in support of it, the Bakers and the Martins. I've heard no objections. The signs have been posted at each end of the road for 45 days at this point. For all the reasons I have mentioned before, it will improve safety and take a little bit of access away from that bridge. It will be good

for the long-term interest of providing safety on our farm. If you have any questions or have heard any concerns that have come up since I last spoke, please let me know. I am here to answer any questions. I certainly hope you will choose to approve this request. Thank you for your consideration.

**Mr. Frank Carrocci** – I am a resident of Weddle Road. I appreciate the opportunity. As you are aware we actually proposed closing Weddle Road in December of last year. After learning of possible access we withdrew as our goal was never to restrict access to landowners who are bordering that road, but really manage the number of unlicensed vehicles, ATVs, 4-wheelers, motorcycles, etc. They use the property as a pass through from the two maintained roads, which still continues to be an issue. That being said, the portion of the road in question has little bearing on our property. Therefore we have no strong opinion one way or the other. One request I would have of the Board is around the Floyd County Board of Supervisors' policy regarding maintenance on public roads that have never been abandoned but are no longer publicly maintained. We would ask that all parties who have an access from this road be sent by certified mail a copy of this policy as an action of conclusion of this meeting. This comes as a request after our experience last year and the beginning of this year where we tried 6 times with failed attempts to meet with our representative to gain an understanding of this policy. After those attempts failed, we out of pocket met with legal counsel to understand the landowners and the adjacent landowners use, rights and responsibilities as good stewards maintaining, using and returning the land to its original quality or better when beginning, during or upon completion of a project. I think it is fair to note that we are the only full-time residents who live on that road. It is also our main entry and exit to our property, house, etc. We are the only party who pays for the maintenance of this road. On average it runs from \$8,000 - \$10,000 per year. That includes grading if we have to rent machinery or not. This is also tree removal which happens often as you all know and up to 4' gullies that wash out when it rains. This is not once but several times a year. And obviously the cost of regraveling. We feel that we have gone above and beyond and taken on our own financial costs. We have also done very labor intensive, time commitment and corrections for the safety and improve access for basic things such as emergency and maintenance vehicles such as gas, electric, and EMTs. So again that request would be our request. We appreciate it and thank you for your patience.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – Would that be from the state-maintained road of Conners Grove Road to your entrance to your property?

Mr. Carrocci – No. It goes from where the state maintenance ends through our property. We only maintain the part that goes through our property.

**Ms. Kitty West** – My partner and I have no objection to Mr. Winston's request to close the road. We would like to understand our neighbors trying to close the road that is not state maintained, why that wouldn't be considered and Mr. Winston's would be considered. Again, they maintain the road. We help maintain the public access road from Weddle Road to Running Buffalo. Our tractor equipment, fuel, we put gravel down and we have been threatened by people coming back there because they think it is an open road. I have been threatened to be shot, killed while I am out on my property. I don't understand why it is still open and why we can't close it since we are the ones maintaining it. But you are considering Mr. Winston's petition to close the road. We are trying to understand the process for this and I agree with my

neighbor that I would like to be notified of the process for closing these roads and would like to see some action from our representative to look out for the people who are paying for the maintenance and who live there. Thank you.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – What road do you live on?

Ms. West – I live on Running Buffalo which is off of Weddle Road.

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

Supervisor Yoder – I would like for us to consider closing the bridge and part of Weddle Road as well. I think there is a problem there and liability there. I think we should consider abandoning more of it. I am all for this right here.

Chairman Turman – This is the only portion that is uncontested. We can take up the other portion again and have hearings on it too.

Vice Chairman Boothe – In our attorney’s research did he find any potential problems?

Ms. Morris – No.

On a motion of Supervisor Yoder, seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve abandoning altogether as a public road of a portion of a former Virginia Department of Transportation Road off Boone Road near the closed bridge over Burks Fork at Weddle Road, a distance of .6 of a mile (Document Number 1129).

Supervisor Coleman – yes

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – yes

Supervisor Yoder – yes

Supervisor Boothe – yes

Supervisor Turman – yes

Vice Chairman Boothe – I never got any satisfaction as to whether the one property owner had any access from another area or not. That was the big concern I had with the original request.

Supervisor Yoder – I get that and I think the bridge issue is similar. I could drive anything I want on that bridge, but I can’t come off it on the other end. That is my concern.

Vice Chairman Boothe – I think the bridge should be done away with.

Supervisor Yoder – My position is we say if you would like to come to an agreement for us to abandon the bridge that would be wonderful, otherwise we will take it down.

Vice Chairman Boothe – Then it goes back to the property owners.

Ms. Morris – But she does not want it.

Supervisor Yoder – She wants us to carry the liability.

Vice Chairman Boothe – If we aren't going to abandon it then we ought to dismantle it. Could Mr. Bolt give us an estimate of what it would cost to take that bridge down?

Agenda Item 6.g. – Ms. Pam Seay, President, Virginia War Memorial Foundation.

Ms. Seay explained the purpose of the Virginia War Memorial Foundation and asked for support relative to the number of names of Floyd County citizens on the Memorial wall:

- 1) The walls are etched with 12,000 names of which 57 are people from Floyd County;
- 2) A recent initiative undertaken by the Foundation is to provide curriculum resources to teachers regarding 9/11 and the military actions taken as a result;
- 3) We produced a documentary, "New Century, New War" based on Virginians first person account of the attack, the military invasion of Afghanistan, and subsequently Iran;
- 4) All 30 documentaries produced by the Foundation are available on our website and tell oral histories from Virginians about our country's military conflicts;
- 5) The stories include WWII, Korean Conflict, the wars in Viet Nam and the Persian Gulf and now the war on terror;
- 6) Our education staff is still available to travel and meet in person with teachers on conferences, panel discussions;
- 7) All of our programs can be watched live time or are archived and can be watched later;
- 8) We have reopened the facility so visitors can come inside to the galleries and grounds;
- 9) We have made this appeal to all Virginia cities and counties to lend support and thereby your endorsement to keep alive the memories and stories of the nearly 12,000 names etched on the walls.

Supervisor Yoder – Can you explain the criteria for having a name listed?

Ms. Seay – The names etched represent fallen in combat. On our website we have started a database with a biography about the person with anything that our volunteer researchers can find. Of those 57 Floyd names I think only 3 are in the database because we need researchers to find out more information. It is an ongoing project. We will eventually get to all 57. But the programs are not just about the fallen. The programs are more about the role of the military in a democracy. The programs are not political. What makes our museum special are the veterans who serve at the museum.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – In a normal year like 2019 how many visitors did you have to the memorial?

Ms. Seay – Close to 100,000. We had just dedicated a new facility on February 29, which was the anniversary of our original dedication in 1956 and less than 10 days later the Governor shut down all state agencies in Richmond.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – Thank you for your work in memorializing our fallen heroes.

Chairman Turman – Thank you for your presentation. We will discuss this and see what we can come up with for you.

Ms. Seay – Thank you. We just began this initiative last year and so far 25% of Virginia's counties have sent in some small or larger amounts. The heaviest response has been from southside Virginia. I think patriotism runs deep across Virginia and distance from the capitol doesn't seem to have much to do with how deep the patriotism is.

Agenda Item 7.f. – Discussion of CARES funding continued.

By consensus the Board approved funding the \$3,900 request for the Floyd Visitors Guide.

Ms. Morris – Do you want to think about the Task Force request some more?

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – As I asked before, is there anything wrong with us staying level at \$288,640 or do we have to go up to \$304,408?

Ms. Morris – That is what the Task Force agreed on.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – What happens if we say we are sticking with our \$288,640?

Ms. Morris – It is a lot of money but we...

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – For me I have a problem with just under \$600,000 going to a Be Committed Be Well marketing campaign. To me that just seems like we want to spend money. For the record I am not saying that the Task Force isn't a necessary group that hasn't done good.

Ms. Morris – Like I said, half that amount was spent for masks. It doesn't leave that much left for marketing.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – That is a lot of money for masks.

Vice Chairman Boothe – I have seen several places where it talks about the School monies drying up and these masks could be made available to the school systems throughout the New River Valley. It is not just our emergency personnel.

Ms. Morris – This is enough masks for the entire population of the New River Valley.

Supervisor Yoder – It is just hard for me to imagine that there is anybody out there who doesn't know they should wear masks. Everywhere I go they are handing them out.

Ms. Morris – Do you want us to research the hazard pay?

Supervisor Kuchenbuch – I would be very interested in that.

Vice Chairman Boothe – Please come up with a spreadsheet.

Supervisor Yoder – Especially for EMS, not to shortchange anyone else, but they are in direct contact.

Agenda Item 8. – Old/New Business.

On a motion made by Supervisor Boothe, and seconded by Supervisor Yoder, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to go into closed session under Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph A. 1., Personnel regarding assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers.

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

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

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

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Kuchenbuch, 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. 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 Coleman – yes

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

This certification resolution was adopted.

Vice Chairman Boothe – I noticed the audit report on the Fire Department has a couple of recommendations. Are those being addressed?

Ms. Morris – I think these are the same recommendations they receive every year.

Vice Chairman Boothe – Their policy says two signatures on checks. This is not the first time I've seen this. But maybe it is about time that it be addressed. I'm not saying anything is wrong or implying that it is wrong. But when you keep getting the same recommendation over and over and it is not addressed, it needs to be.

Ms. Morris – We will check on this. It is for his own protection too.

Agenda Item 10. – Adjournment.

On a motion of Supervisor Yoder, seconded by Supervisor Coleman, and carried, it was resolved to adjourn the meeting to September 22, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.



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Terri W. Morris, County Administrator



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Joe D. Turman, Chairman, Board of Supervisors

