

January 3, 2012

The Carroll County Board of Supervisors held their Organizational Meeting on, January 3, 2012 in the Board Meeting Room of the Carroll County Governmental Center.

Present were: David V. Hutchins
W.S. "Sam" Dickson
Dr. Tom Littrell
Joshua A. Hendrick
Phil D. McCraw
Ralph J. "Bob" Martin
Gary Larrowe, County Administrator
Nikki Shank, Assistant Administrator
Ronald L. Newman, Assistant Administrator
Jim Cornwell, County Attorney

Dr. Littrell called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and wished everyone a Happy New Year and hopes that everyone had a wonderful holiday season and enjoyed a couple days off. He asked Mr. Dickson to lead in invocation and pledge. He thanked everyone for braving the cold to be here today. He told that two days ago they were in Key West and it was 83 degrees so it has been a change for their systems.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon motion by Mr. Hutchins, seconded by Mr. Dickson and passing, the Board approved to move the Committee Appointments to after the election of Chairman and Vice Chairman.

VOTES

Mr. Hendrick	Yes
Mr. McCraw	Yes
Mr. Hutchins	Yes
Mr. Dickson	Yes
Dr. Littrell	Yes
Mr. Martin	Yes

(Order)

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Dr. Littrell told that he would ask our Clerk to assist with the selection Chair and Vice Chair.

Mr. Larrowe thanked Dr. Littrell and told that it is so good to have a warm place to come to this morning.

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Mr. Martin ask if I has to be the County Administrator that presides at the election of Chair and Vice Chair.

Dr. Littrell told that he cannot answer that except that it the way it has always been done the last four years that he has been here.

Mr. Larrowe told that it has been done that way for the six years that he has been here as well and years prior to that.

Mr. Martin told that grandpa drove a Model A Ford but that doesn't mean its in vogue today.

Mr. Hutchins ask Mr. Martin who he would have to do it.

Mr. Martin told that you have Mr. Newman here and you have others folks. He told that it is a simple matter to elect the Chair and Vice Chair.

Mr. Dickson told that he sees no problem with the way we have done it and moves that we proceed. Mr. Hutchins seconded the motion.

VOTES

Mr. Hendrick	No
Mr. McCraw	Yes
Mr. Hutchins	Yes
Mr. Dickson	Yes
Dr. Littrell	Yes
Mr. Martin	No

Mr. Larrowe told that at this time he will assist with the selection of Chair and Vice Chair in that order. He told that the procedure will be as follows; he will ask for nominations for each seat and once a name has been placed for nomination he will ask for any other nominations. He told that if there is another nomination for that seat he will ask for you to cast a vote for the person in the same order that the nominations were received and the majority vote will prevail. He told that if only one name is placed in the nomination he will still ask for the vote. He ask if anyone had any questions.

Mr. Hutchins nominated Sam Dickson for Chairman.

Mr. Larrowe ask if there are any other nominations.

VOTES

Mr. Hendrick	Yes
Mr. McCraw	Yes
Mr. Hutchins	Yes
Mr. Dickson	Abstain
Dr. Littrell	Yes

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Mr. Martin Yes

(Order)

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Mr. Larrowe told that we would proceed in the same manner and ask if anyone has questions.

Mr. Dickson nominated Mr. Hutchins due to his experience and loyal service for the past five years.

Mr. Larrowe ask if there are any other nominations.

Mr. Martin nominated Mr. Hendrick due to the fact that the people of the County voted for change and if we are going to do everything the same way there is no change.

Mr. Larrowe told that as he mentioned previously we will be voting in the order that the nominations were received so we will be voting for Mr. Hutchins first and if there is not a consensus we will move on to Mr. Hendrick.

VOTES

Mr. Hendrick	No
Mr. McCraw	Yes
Mr. Hutchins	Abstain
Mr. Dickson	Yes
Dr. Littrell	Yes
Mr. Martin	No

Mr. Larrowe told that we now have a new Chair and Vice Chair.

(Order)

COMMITTEE AND AUTHORITY APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Larrowe told that as each of you know much of the work for Carroll County takes place away from this room. He told that some appointments are subject to different criteria such as being a Board Member and some can be staff and general public according to the by-laws of each particular group. He told that Carroll County is very blessed to have many citizens who give time, energy and talent towards these vitally important appointments. He told that the list that is before you is not the full extent of the appointments in Carroll County due to the fact that some appointments are staggered and they will come up later. He told that the list before you provides the name of the person currently serving in that seat. He told that there is one seat where the person who is serving can no longer serve due to the number of terms enacted by the agency and that is Mary Coulson. He told that she has faithfully served Mt. Rogers Community Services

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Board and is no longer eligible. He told that as a point of information, Mt. Rogers did mention the name of Mava Vass since Ms. Coulson is not available. He told that on the sheet the term of 4 years was inadvertently left out after the first Planning Commission Appointment and all of those are a term of 4 years. He told that under the Mt. Rogers Planning Commission it is provided by the Planning Commission. He told that the seat is held by David Williams at this time and the Board does not need to take action on it today. He told that under the Workforce Investment appointment is made by the Workforce Investment Board. He told that he doesn't think there are any other changes and at this time he will assist in the selection of the various committees. He told that the procedures will be as follows. He told that we will be voting on two blocks of appointments, the PSA and the rest and will ask for nominations for each seat and once that is received he will ask if there are any other nominations. He told that if there is another nomination for a particular he will ask for a vote in the same order that the nomination was received and the majority vote will prevail. He told that if only one name is placed in the nomination he will ask that we move on to the next seat and at the conclusion of the nominations he will ask for a vote for the full block of names and the majority vote will prevail. He ask if there are any questions. He told that we will start with PSA and traditionally the seats are filled by district.

Mr. McCraw nominated William Payne.

Mr. Hendrick nominated James Light.

Mr. Martin nominated Jeanette Dalton.

Dr. Littrell told that he plans to serve in the position for the time being.

Mr. Hutchins told that he plans to serve.

Mr. Dickson told that he will serve for the time being.

Mr. Larowe ask for a motion to accept all of these individuals to the PSA.

Mr. Hendrick ask if for the time being means that another individual will be sought to sit on the Board.

Mr. Dickson replied that he does not intend to stay the full four years.

Mr. Hutchins replied that it will all depend.

Mr. McCraw made a motion that the individuals listed above will serve on the PSA.

VOTES

Mr. Hendrick	Yes
Mr. McCraw	Yes
Mr. Hutchins	Yes

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Mr. Dickson	Yes
Dr. Littrell	Yes
Mr. Martin	Yes

Mr. Martin ask if there was a second.

Mr. Larrowe told that there was not a second but we do not have to have one.

Mr. Larrowe told that we will move on to the second block of names. He told that if there is more than one name we will vote on that name then move on to the entire block. He told that we will begin with the Planning Commission and they have five seats open.

Mr. Hutchins told that the ones who are in there have been doing a good job and he would nominate them for another term.

Mr. Larrowe ask if there were any other nominations.

Mr. Larrowe told that next is Mt. Rogers Community Services and Ms. Coulson is not eligible to return. He told that Mava Vass had been mentioned and he is not suggesting her just letting everyone know.

Mr. Hutchins told that Ms. Vass does a tremendous job on many boards and he believes she would be an asset.

Mr. Larrowe ask if there were any other nominations. He told that we will go to District III.

Mr. Martin told that if Mr. Hurst is willing to serve he doesn't see a problem.

Mr. Hutchins told that it has to be a Board Member and he would nominate Mr. Dickson and Mr. McCraw as the alternate.

Mr. Larrowe ask if there are any other nominations.

Mr. Hutchins ask if it is a one year term.

Ms. Adams told that is correct according to the bylaws.

Mr. Larrowe told that we will move on to Recreation Commission.

Mr. Dickson told that all of these are serving well and it is not always a pleasure to get people to serve so he nominates that it stay the same.

Mr. Larrowe ask if there are any other nominations. He told that we will move onto Rooftop and there are 2 seats there.

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Mr. Dickson told that if Dr. Littrell and Mr. Hutchins are willing to serve it would be good since they have been there since the trouble started.

Mr. Larrowe ask if there are any other nominations. He told that next is the 911 Commission.

Mr. Martin told that he sleeps well knowing that these two are going to be on there if they are willing to serve.

Mr. Hutchins ask if there is an alternate and if it allows for one.

Mr. Newman told that he has not seen anything in the bylaws about that.

Mr. Hutchins told he just wondered.

Mr. Larrowe told that it would be Dr. Littrell and Ronald Newman. He ask if there are any other nominations. He told that we will move onto BRCEDA.

Mr. Dickson told that he was not a very good member and would recommend that if Mr. Hutchins would stay and Mr. McCraw to fill the other spot.

Mr. Larrowe ask if there are any other nominations. He told that we will move on to Mt. Rogers Planning District Commission.

Mr. Hutchins ask Mr. Martin if he served on that once and if he would be interested.

Mr. Martin told that he did serve and he is willing to do it.

Mr. Hutchins told that he doesn't mind it they meet twice a year and have a dinner and if you go on it you will be in charge of putting the Spring Dinner together.

Mr. Martin told that he will be glad to do that.

Mr. Larrowe ask if there are any other nominations. He told we will move on to the Consortium Board.

Mr. Dickson told that Mr. Hutchins needs to stay since he is the Chairman.

Mr. Hutchins told that they have had some tough times on the Board but they are starting to turn the corner. He told that it is not listed here but we probably need an alternate. He told that it does have to be by the Consortium Board Ordinance so it either has to be an elected member or the Chief Official so we need to think about doing that at the next meeting.

Mr. Larrowe told that we will place that on agenda and ask if there are any other nominations. He told that we will move on to the Solid Waste Authority.

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Mr. Martin told that you have an engineer and it looks like that would be the perfect fit.

Mr. Hutchins ask if Mr. Martin would like to sit as well.

Mr. Martin told that would be fine, he is here to serve.

Mr. Larrowe told that the County Administrator serves on that as well along with the County Administrator in Grayson and the City Manager in Galax. He ask if there are any other nominations. He told that we will move on to Mt. Rogers Transportation.

Mr. Hutchins told that Mr. Hendrick spent a lot of years working in that area and thinks that he understands it better than most.

Mr. Larrowe ask if there are other nominations. He told we will move onto Social Services.

Mr. Hutchins nominated Mr. Dickson.

Mr. Larrowe ask if there are other nominations. He told that we will move onto Regional Jail. He told that this can be a Board Member or anyone from the public.

Mr. Dickson told that we made a lot of improvements and saved a lot of money recently and he would suggest we leave it as is. He ask Mr. Jackson and Ms. Shank if they would be willing to serve and both replied yes.

Mr. Larrowe ask if there are any other nominations. He told that it was mentioned that there has been a tremendous amount of savings and Nikki Shank as Treasurer has been in the forefront in making that happen.

Mr. Martin told that he serves on the New River Highlands RC&D as Chairman and it pays no salary and I don't turn in expense and ask if it needs to be on there.

Mr. Larrowe told that it would come later since he was recently reappointed. He ask if anyone had any questions about who would be serving in what position and if not they will be voting on the second block.

Mr. Hutchins made a motion to accept all of the nominations in the second block as defined. Dr. Littrell seconded the motion.

VOTES

Mr. Hendrick	Yes
Mr. McCraw	Yes
Mr. Hutchins	Yes
Mr. Dickson	Yes

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Dr. Littrell Yes
Mr. Martin Yes

(Order)

Mr. Dickson thanked Mr. Larowe for conducting that part of the meeting and thanked those who elected him as Chairman and told that he promises to serve the very best he can with distinction, integrity and honesty to all of you and fairness to all. He told that he is not partial to one party or one person and he is here to serve the Board and the citizens.

Mr. Hutchins told that it has been a pleasure and he thanks those who selected him.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. Dickson told that everyone has to have Rules and he assumes everyone is familiar with these and ask if anyone has any questions. He told that there were a few changes with the staggered terms and membership in terms of office.

Mr. Martin told that on the second page from the back under D he can see both sides of accumulative or repetitive testimony and thinks there is a provision in here if the Board were addressing a red hot topic that the Board can extend how long a person can speak.

Mr. Larowe told that is correct or you can just suspend the Rules.

Mr. Hendrick told that he has a question under other members. He told that it has been general practice until this point to appoint the County Attorney, County Administrator and Clerk each year and that was changed when the rules were adopted in November by the previous Board.

Mr. Dickson told that is correct and told that they now serve until released so there is not a set time.

Mr. Hendrick ask what the reason behind it was.

Mr. Dickson told that there were various reasons.

Mr. Hutchins told that for one it gives you some continuity until you terminate them.

Mr. Larowe told that the County Administrator and the County Attorney serve at the pleasure of the Board.

Mr. Dickson told that they are the only two who do.

Mr. Hutchins told that basically all you are doing is saying that you serve until you are terminated.

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Mr. Hendrick told that he understands he just wondered why the change since it had been done that way. He told that the County Administrator was never listed in the Rules as being appointed every year but he customarily was but the County Attorney and the Clerk were listed and he wondered why the change.

Mr. Dickson told that it is at the discretion of the Board so it can end any time.

Upon motion by Mr. Hutchins, seconded by Mr. Hendrick and passing, the Board approved the Rules of Procedure.

VOTES

Mr. Hendrick	Yes
Mr. McCraw	Yes
Mr. Hutchins	Yes
Mr. Dickson	Yes
Dr. Littrell	Yes
Mr. Martin	Yes

(Order)

CODE OF ETHICS

Mr. Dickson told that he would give everyone a minute to review this.

Mr. Martin told that under number 14 the last sentence he has problems with the part where it says that inquiries to staff shall be made through the County Administrator or his or her designee except in emergency circumstances. He told that his position is that I never interfere with a County office and never have because he wasn't elected to do that and would never be in any County office to try to run that office, however his concern is that it has been his experience that the majority of the problems in a situation involving the Board of Supervisors may be the County Administrator and he reserves the right to go ask employees what is going on and get their side of it. He told that he has seen some bad experiences with it. He told that he is not saying this is the problem he is just saying that if the County Administrator is the problem and we are taking a stance that we can't go speak with the employees or if it works the other way we are depending on the fox in chicken house to tell us what it going on. He told that this is not a negative towards Mr. Larowe he is just saying that if there is a problem in Maintenance I intend to be open to all employees and meet with them. He told that he will go to the County Administrator and meet with him first but he has a problem. He told that if he misinterpreted it let him know.

Mr. Larowe told that the intent of that are administrative functions. It does not impair a Board member to speak with employees.

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Mr. Martin told that it has been his experience on the School situation that most of the time when there is a problem in the school it is the principal and if the employees have to go right back to the principal to say that was a stupid thing you did that doesn't work.

Mr. Dickson ask if the problem is just with the very last sentence.

Mr. Martin replied yes. He told that he will go to Mr. Larrowe and find out what the problem is but he still reserves the right to find out from the employees too.

Mr. Hutchins told that if it is employees who have an issue, we have a personnel policy in place now that we never had previously that clearly outlines the steps that they are to take and it never precludes any Board Member. He told that it follows a chain of command. He told that he had one three years ago that called him and he ask if they had spoke with their supervisor and they hadn't. He told that we cannot start interjecting without following the policy and he doesn't take this as we can't ask but as we can not go down and demand that Ms. Dalton change the policy without going through channels. He told that it doesn't mean that when I see Mr. Dowdy at Lowes I can't talk to him.

Mr. Martin told that he intends to go through channels and he always has. He told that he can support that.

Mr. Hendrick told that he would like to bring up a point about Media Relations. He told that this does not eliminate the possibility for any Supervisor when ask their opinion on a matter by the press.

Mr. Dickson told that is correct.

Mr. Hendrick told that there are some in the public that have that sense when this first came out and he had several inquiries on that and he just wanted to make it clear that this does not exclude any member of the Board from giving an opinion if ask by the media.

Mr. Dickson told that normally each Supervisor will be speaking for themselves and if it comes from the Board the Chair or Vice Chair will be making it and before that happens we will make sure that everyone is in agreement.

Mr. Hendrick told that this is aimed at Press Releases. He told that he had some inquiries but just wanted to bring it up.

Mr. Hutchins told that when Chris asks your opinion you are free to speak.

Upon motion by Dr. Littrell, seconded by Mr. Martin and passing, the Board approved the Code of Ethics.

VOTES

Mr. Hendrick	Yes
Mr. McCraw	Yes

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Mr. Hutchins	Yes
Mr. Dickson	Yes
Dr. Littrell	Yes
Mr. Martin	Yes

(Order)

SET MEETING TIME, DATE AND LOCATION

Mr. Dickson told that the location should be determined and ask Mr. Martin if he was serving when the Board met at the Library.

Mr. Martin told that he remembers that and if you want to go way back they used to meet at the Old Courthouse and when you needed to speak to someone in private you had to step into the bathroom.

Mr. Dickson told that we currently meet on the second Monday at 3:00 with Closed Session and he is assuming that the PSA will meet earlier during the day. He told that sometimes it was a hinderance and it might be looked at that we might meet earlier and are open to suggestions.

Mr. Hendrick told that the day is no problem but he thinks that that it should be later in the day, not just for him but when you ask someone from the public to be here at 4:00 it is hard for them to get off work and it will make it easier for the public to be here. He told that it is possible that if you have the meeting at 8:00 no one will show up but the opportunity needs to be there that we are open for people coming and we are not going to have it in the middle of the afternoon when most people are working.

Mr. Hutchins ask if 3:30 will work and have closed session until 5:00 and then go into open session then.

Mr. Dickson told that Public Hearings are scheduled later and we could put citizen's time later as well.

Mr. Hendrick told that he would not do anything open before 5:00.

Mr. Hutchins told that if we finished closed session early we could just recess until 5:00.

Mr. Martin told that we are not the School Board so their problems are their problems, but frankly their problems are our problems to and he understands that they have a pay issue with the billing contractors as far as we meet on Monday and they meet on Tuesday and with the construction projects going they get bills from contractors that they have to approve and then present back to the Board.

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Mr. Dickson told that he has always thought that they should meet before us anyway and they may want to elect to change their time. He told that personally he doesn't see where we should change our meeting to accommodate them when we fund them.

Mr. Hendrick told that most of your pay requests in at the beginning of the month then you have to have a pay request meeting involving the Clerk of the Works, then it has to go before the School Board. He told that his understanding is they have to get all of that in the first week and told that Mr. Larowe may have had some conversations with Dr. Smith regarding this.

Mr. Larowe told that is correct and told that Dr. Smith suggested that we flip the days of the meeting and he suggested back that one thing that we could think about is having a special meeting on the project itself the Wednesday or Thursday prior to the Board meeting. He told that he does not know what their plans are but he did get a notice that the School Board plans to meet for the Organizational meeting and to also discuss Phase III and during that discussion they could talk about the pay requests and that is one example of how it can be solved if they had a special meeting.

Mr. Dickson told that we need to work with them as much as possible and it may be that we need to have more than one meeting a month or they may need to have more than one meeting, whatever it takes.

Mr. Hendrick told that one thing we do not need to get in the habit of is speaking on the side of the contractor as well as administratively is if they have a date to get their pay request in they need to get it in and if they don't, they will not be paid. He told that if they miss their date and a meeting is held and a pay request is not in for one of their subs then tough. He told that if we get in the habit of having a special meeting every time that they miss the day we will be doing it a lot. He told that he is not trying to be harsh, but you have to draw the line somewhere.

Upon motion by Mr. Hutchins, seconded by Mr. Hendrick and passing, the Board approved to hold the meetings on the second Monday of each month beginning at 3:30 with Closed Session and not entering Open Session until 5:00.

VOTES

Mr. Hendrick	Yes
Mr. McCraw	Yes
Mr. Hutchins	Yes
Mr. Dickson	Yes
Dr. Littrell	Yes
Mr. Martin	Yes

(Order)

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Dickson told that more than two Board members will be attending the VACO New Supervisor Forum in Richmond on January 6th through the 8th and it is possible that more than two will be together discussing business and that is just alerting you to the fact.

Mr. Larowe told that they will also be attending the Rural Caucus, VACO Legislative Day and the Chairman's Institute which will encompass February 8th through the 11th and business may be discussed there as well.

Mr. Martin ask on the Committee Appointments will someone be notifying these folks that they were appointed.

Mr. Larowe replied yes.

ADJOURMENT

Upon motion by Dr. Littrell, seconded by Mr. Hutchins and passing, the Board adjourned until January 9, 2011 at 3:30 p.m.

VOTES

Mr. Hendrick	Yes
Mr. McCraw	Yes
Mr. Hutchins	Yes
Mr. Dickson	Yes
Dr. Littrell	Yes
Mr. Martin	Yes

(Order)

Chairman

Clerk

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