

April 8, 2019

The Carroll County Board of Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on, April 8, 2019 in the Board Meeting Room of the Carroll County Governmental Center.

Present were:

- Rex L. Hill
- Dr. Tom Littrell
- Bob Martin
- Phillip McCraw
- Robbie McCraw
- Joe Webb
- Steve Truitt, County Administrator
- Nikki Cannon, Assistant County Administrator
- Steve Durbin, County Attorney

Mr. Rex Hill called the meeting to order at 4:28 p.m.

**CLOSED SESSION – PURSUANT TO VIRGINIA CODE SECTION 2.2-3711(A1, A5, A7)**

Upon motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Robbie McCraw, and passing, the Board convened a Closed Session for the discussion, as authorized by Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 ( A3, A5, A8).

Mr. Durbin explained the reasons for entering Closed Session.

3. Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.

5. Discussion concerning a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community.

8. Consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to permit the closure of a meeting merely because an attorney representing the public body is in attendance or is consulted on a matter.

**VOTES**

- |                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Mr. Webb           | Not Present |
| Mr. Phillip McCraw | Yes         |
| Mr. Hill           | Yes         |
| Mr. Robbie McCraw  | Yes         |
| Dr. Littrell       | Yes         |
| Mr. Martin         | Yes         |

(Order)

**COME OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

Upon motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Robbie McCraw and passing, the Board came out of Closed Session.

**VOTES**

- |                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Mr. Webb           | Yes |
| Mr. Phillip McCraw | Yes |
| Mr. Hill           | Yes |
| Mr. Robbie McCraw  | Yes |
| Dr. Littrell       | Yes |
| Mr. Martin         | Yes |

(Order)

**CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION**

Upon motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Robbie McCraw and passing, the Board adopted the following Resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Carroll County Board of Supervisors convened a Closed Session this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and on the motion to close the meeting in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act;

**WHEREAS**, Section 2.2-3711(D) of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Board of Supervisors that such Closed Session was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Carroll County Board of Supervisors hereby certifies that, to the best of each member’s knowledge, (I) 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 Session to which this certification applies, and (II) only such business matters as were identified in the motion by which this Closed Session was convened were heard, discussed, or considered in the meeting to which this certification applies.

VOTES

- Mr. Webb Yes
- Mr. Phillip McCraw Yes
- Mr. Hill Yes
- Mr. Robbie McCraw Yes
- Dr. Littrell Yes
- Mr. Martin Yes

Mr. Robbie McCraw lead in invocation and pledge.

Mr. Hill welcomed everyone here tonight. We have a long night ahead of us and everybody wants UVA win the national championship, even though I am a Tech man.

(Order)

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Upon motion by Mr. Robbie McCraw, seconded by Mr. Martin and passing, the Board approved the agenda.

VOTES

- Mr. Webb Yes
- Mr. Phillip McCraw Yes
- Mr. Hill Yes
- Mr. Robbie McCraw Yes
- Dr. Littrell Yes
- Mr. Martin Yes

(Order)

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Upon motion by Mr. Robbie McCraw, seconded by Mr. Phillip McCraw and passing, the Board approved the Consent Agenda.

VOTES

- Mr. Webb Yes
- Mr. Phillip McCraw Yes
- Mr. Hill Yes

Mr. Robbie McCraw Yes  
Dr. Littrell Yes  
Mr. Martin Yes

(Order)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon motion by Mr. Robbie McCraw, seconded by Mr. Phillip McCraw and passing, the Board approved the minutes of the meeting on March 7, 2019 and March 11, 2019.

VOTES

Mr. Webb Yes  
Mr. Phillip McCraw Yes  
Mr. Hill Yes  
Mr. Robbie McCraw Yes  
Dr. Littrell Yes  
Mr. Martin Yes

(Order)

**SHERIFF**

Upon motion by Mr. Robbie McCraw, seconded by Mr. Phillip McCraw and passing, the Board approved an allocation a donation received from Carter Bank & Trust.

VOTES

Mr. Webb Yes  
Mr. Phillip McCraw Yes  
Mr. Hill Yes  
Mr. Robbie McCraw Yes  
Dr. Littrell Yes  
Mr. Martin Yes

(Order)

**CLERK OF COURT**

Upon motion by Mr. Robbie McCraw, seconded by Mr. Phillip McCraw and passing, the Board approved to move Records Preservation Grant funds from the revenue line item and post to the Clerks available budget.

VOTES

Mr. Webb Yes  
Mr. Phillip McCraw Yes  
Mr. Hill Yes  
Mr. Robbie McCraw Yes  
Dr. Littrell Yes  
Mr. Martin Yes

(Order)

**KATHY CRESSEL – MOUNT ROGERS**

Mr. Logan Nester said he is Communications and Public Relations for Mt. Rogers. We are here today to request approval of a name change for Mt. Rogers Community Services Board, we would like to drop the name Board. It is the prevailing standard within the state, both New River Community Services and Highlands Community Services have both changed their names and dropped the word Board. We think it is a little easier to understand for consumers. Board is more about the way we are structured whereas Community Services describes what we do. It wouldn't change anything about the way we operate. The Code of Virginia does dictate that the founding counties and

cities that first made up Mt. Rogers Community Services Board which includes Carroll must approve any such change. We have received approval from four of our six localities, Carroll and Galax are the two remaining.

Mr. Hill asked if we need a resolution or do we need to advertise?

Mr. Durbin said no need to advertise a resolution. Do you have a resolution?

Mr. Nester replied yes, I do.

Upon motion by Mr. Robbie McCraw, seconded by Dr. Littrell and passing, the Board approved the resolution.

Mr. Webb said he would like to ask counsel; do you see anything in it?

Mr. Durbin said I do not have any heartburn over this.

VOTES

Mr. Webb	Yes
Mr. Phillip McCraw	Yes
Mr. Hill	Yes
Mr. Robbie McCraw	Yes
Dr. Littrell	Yes
Mr. Martin	Yes

Mr. Nester replied thank you. We look forward to working with you in the future.

(Order)

**PUBLIC HEARING – CSA**

Mr. Hill opened the Public Hearing at 6:07 p.m.

Ms. Isom said I was here last month. The request is the same amount \$1,047,132. Last month we had 89 children in care when I presented. Up until 3:00 today we had 93, but we sent 2 home, so we have 91. I did a little bit of research and 1 in every 60 children in Carroll County are in foster care. The 2018 consensus of children ages 0 to 17 was 5527 and we have 91 of them.

Mr. Martin asked what the number is?

Ms. Isom replied \$1,047,132.

Mr. Hill asked if you would briefly mention that we are soliciting people to be foster parents?

Ms. Isom said we absolutely are. When I was here last month I was talking about an information session that was held in March. We had 23 people come that will go on to be trained as foster parents. We are also trying to plan a fair hopefully sometimes in August. We applied for a grant to help with those things. We are trying hard to get foster parents, so we can keep kids in the locality.

Mr. Robbie McCraw asked of the 91 how many are out of the county?

Ms. Isom replied over half.

Mr. Robbie McCraw said that is where the majority of expense comes from.

Ms. Isom replied yes. Residential facilities throughout the East Coast and Central Virginia. We have quite a few that have been in care for a long time, so we are using a thing called extreme recruitment that they going very deep to find an adoptive home.

Mr. Martin asked so if there is not a home available in Carroll they go other places?

Ms. Isom replied yes. Typically, if it is a child that doesn't have behavioral issues or have substance abuse issues or things of that nature we can usually get them a little closer. We have some in Rural Retreat and places like that, they are not staying in their school system and they are not having the social interactions that they did.

Mr. Martin said I think all of the Board cares about these kids, it is expensive though.

Mr. Hill closed the Public Hearing at 6:12 p.m.

Upon motion by Mr. Robbie McCraw, seconded by Mr. Phillip McCraw and passing, the Board approved the appropriation for CSA.

(Order)

**PUBLIC HEARING – SIX YEAR ROAD PLAN**

The Public Hearing opened at 6:12 pm with Ms. Lisa Hughes serving as moderator, with the following opening remarks:

This hearing is being held today, April 8, 2019, in accordance with Section §33.2-331 Code of Virginia, which requires the joint effort of the County Officials and the Department of Transportation personnel for the tentative commitment of estimated available secondary construction funds, beginning with Fiscal Year 2019- 2020. A copy of the proposed Six-Year Plan and priorities for the proposed secondary construction budget for 2019-2020 have been available for public viewing at the county building; and a copy is on display here.

After receiving your requests, the Board of Supervisors and the Virginia Department of Transportation Personnel will finalize the Six Year Plan. Currently the next proposed projects in this year draft plan, scheduled for completion this construction season, are:

- 1) RT. 620 – COULSON CHURCH ROAD (still under development, PE)
- 2) RT. 935 – APPLETON ROAD
- 3) RT. 856 – STOCKNER CEMETERY ROAD
- 4) RT. 750 – HARVEST ROAD
- 5) RT. 967 – MAGNOLIA LANE
- 6) RT. 808 – EXPANSION DRIVE

Upon the completion of the opening remarks, the following requests were received:

**Route 683, Millstone Road** Four speakers addressed concerns of road conditions and automobile repairs (punctured tires) needed after traveling this section of road between High Point Road and Joy Ranch Road. They requested the roadway have a hard surface applied in hope to eliminate potholes and rutting. Current conditions are gravel roadway with a traffic count of 70 ADT (2013) RNS.

**Route 633, Groundhog Mountain Road** One speaker requested pavement for about ½ mile section of Route 633 from Spencer's Mill Road to Little Bit Road. He stated this would complete the hard-surfaced road to Little Bit, would help control dust in summer conditions, and provide access during winter storm events when the Blue Ridge Parkway is closed. The traffic count for this section of Route 633 listed in the RNS as 90 ADT (2013).

**Route 974, Grace Lane** One speaker requested pavement for this roadway. Stated potholes and wash boarding are major concerns. Drainage issues with structure over Glad Creek. Ms. Lisa Hughes confirmed Grace Lane was on the priority list for paving and expected to complete in future years.

**Route 706, Glade Creek Road** One speaker asked for pavement on Glade Creek Road, placement of “Children at Play” signs and a reduced speed limit. A Board member informed the speaker these signs were available, and the County would install them. Ms. Lisa Hughes explained the speed limit was set with a prescriptive 35 MPH for a non-hard surface roadway. Current traffic count along the 0.8 mile of Route 764, 50 ADT (2013) as listed in the RNS.

**Route 764, Panther Creek Road** One speaker requested Panther Creek Road be considered for a rural rustic improvement stating issues with drainage and potholes. This is the second portion of the road, approximately 1.5 miles, the first portion was completed a couple of years before. The RNS has listed traffic counts at 60 VPD (2013).

**Route 608, Appalachian Trail** Six speakers addressed the board regarding the conditions along this portion of Route 608, echoing their concerns of safety and service. They detailed the narrow width in places, steep drop-offs without guardrail protection, and access needs for EMS / fire departments when the Park Service closes the Blue Ridge Parkway due to weather conditions or storm damage. They requested rural rustic paving for the gravel portion near Skyland Lakes where Route 608 crosses the Blue Ridge Parkway. Current traffic count not listed in RNS. Total project length estimated at 1.14 miles.

**Route 683, Turner School Road** One speaker requested Turner School Road be hard surfaced as a rural rustic, Ms. Lisa Hughes confirmed this project was already on the priority list and expected to be constructed in the future years.

**Route 838, Broadway Lane** One speaker requester Broadway Lane be constructed using the rural rustic format, Ms. Lisa Hughes confirmed this project was on the priority list. The speaker requested a copy of the list. The County Administrator, Steve Truitt, agreed to place a copy of the priority list on the Carroll County web site for anyone use.

**Route 666, Collier School Road** BOS member requested, for a citizen who could not attend the hearing, this roadway be developed as a rural rustic project and hard surfaced. Ms. Lisa Hughes confirmed Collier School Road was on the priority list and, when funding became available, be developed as a rural rustic with a hard surface finish. After the completion of comments by the public, members of the Board of Supervisors requested the addition of the following projects to the priority list for future consideration.

(Order)

**BETH DIXON – TWIN COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Ms. Beth Dixon said it is nice to be with you again and I'd like to start first of all with an apology for missing the meeting last month but due to the death of my mother. I sent a message and it did not get to the right people. I would once again on behalf of the Chamber and its membership thank you for your contribution and support of the Chamber of Commerce. To wrap up the first year of directorship and since I have been there we have completed and updated our bylaws and our articles of incorporation. We have also created a policy handbook so that we are taking very serious purpose and we have also created a committee structure. What we are working on in terms of going forward is we are deep in the process of beginning the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. We have been in contact with the foundation and we will be representing and sending information to the 17 zip codes. That is a library and preschool reading program that is available to all children from birth to 5 in the two counties and the City of Galax. It is being conducted by the newly formed Professionals Network organization. We are getting ready to start the launch in the late summer. We also are making some changes to Smoke on the Mountain. We are beefing up the festival side and are focusing on handcrafted regional arts and crafts vendors, doing additional food vendors. We are focusing on the merchant and community defenders as a regional piece, not bringing in national corporate type organizations. There will be arts and crafts demonstrations, we will have potters' wheels, wood carvers, a blacksmith so that there will be demonstrations as well as increased activities for children and their families. We are looking at doing a

April 8, 2019

temporary mural along one of the buildings so when people come to visit they will be able to graffiti. We are also making another shift away from professional musicians. We will be having the two concerts, the Tam's on Friday and on Saturday Will Jones will be returning and in addition to that we are going to put a stage at the other end of Main Street and asking the JAM students to participate. Last year we had the Wrestling Team keeping the event clean and safe and we infused some money into their pocket. The students also created the awards last year. We are having a cornhole tournament and an amateur wing competition on Friday night. It is a nominal fee to participate but we want to encourage the community to experience this festival. We are looking to target 50 vendors this year. You will have the competition, but you will also have the opportunity to eat barbeque. We are also working on a Chamber directory to encourage membership as well as promote the membership. Last but not least we invite you to a business after hours. The one this month is near and dear to the heart of one of you gentleman. Dr. Littrell and his wife are hosting us at the car museum. Please join us on Thursday, it is always the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month. The May event will be held at the old Vaughn executive building which is being converted into a small business incubator for the region and then we will be doing a tour of Crossroads in June. It is nice to keep you informed and it is nice to have you as participants in the Chamber.

(Order)

### **SCHOOL BUDGET PRESENTATION**

Dr. Perry thanked Mr. Chairman and the Board, first of all I have the budget to give to you. I would like to thank you for all you have done in the past for our school division and our funding, supporting our students, our staff and all of our resources. It all starts with funding. The funding is what starts the whole process, hiring of staff, support staff, excellent staff. In order for our programs to continue we have to be able to attract and retain our current staff and our current quality of teachers. This comes with the support of our teachers, in support of our resources are salaries and benefits. If we do not have funding to support our teachers and support system, then we lose teachers. We are not attracting teachers and we are not retaining. We are currently in competition with our surrounding school divisions. As you know, there is a teacher shortage. Carroll County has been very lucky in the past because many students will go away, get their education and come back and teach in Carroll County. They want to be here, but when you can go right across the line to a bordering county because you are getting paid more. We have to be able to continue to attract and retain. We don't want to just attract and retain poor quality, we are always searching for the very best, that is what our kids deserve, that is what Carroll County deserves. When we have good staff and good facilities and resources and programs in place we are able to support the students in their education and in their life endeavors. You can all think back in high school what that did for you, it gave you that jumpstart, it gave you that head start on what you want to accomplish. If we don't have the support in place for our resources and our teachers and support staff, then our programs are going to suffer. With our programs we are able to support our students. They are strong and relevant to today's times, they are necessary, and they have rigor. We are preparing them for life, we have to give them a good start. It is our job, it is our responsibility, it is our duty and they are the best investment we can have. If it is not you that funds us, nobody else is going to fund us. This is it, so we are really depending on keeping our programs and our schools as we know it.

Carroll County is a wonderful place, I have fallen in love with this county. The students, the people, the employees are top notch. They are so excited about learning and to give you a thank you I want to show a little bit of what you do for our students. I just couldn't cut any out, those little faces it is very hard. For our operational budget, our budget goals, these are things that are just a few of what we cherish as far as our goals but we have many others, but these are the basic ones that we are going to focus on: support, achievement, and a safe learning environment, maintain a quality of instruction with appropriate class size throughout the system with focus on grades K through 3 and that is due to the student to teacher ratio that is required to continue to receive federal funding for those classes. Provide open lines of communication, keep staff, students and public well informed, maintain equitable salaries, benefits, incentives and positions to ensure a quality school system. That is what we currently have, quality. Support extracurricular activities that prepare students to be lifelong learners and active members of our

community. If it wasn't for extracurricular activities as far as sports, school would not have been an interest to me. That is what kept me in school and kept me focused. Budget challenges, this year we had a health insurance increase of 12%. We have been lucky in the past, not so lucky this year. We have no control over this, it is due to our experience based on illness based on catastrophic injury or health condition. State funding for salary increase for our Standards of Quality funded positions only. We do get funding, but it is only for 60% of what we employ. Continued increase in special education needs and students, as always this continues to be an increase and required resources, unfunded mandates to provide support for special education needs. Our numbers do not always go down. They were a little bit higher last year but if you look in the prior history we continue to have a lot of special needs students that require accommodations and cost. Bottom line is cost. Maintenance issues, that is with anything you have. Whether it be a home or school you have to continue to maintain and keep it up or you will fall apart. We have 8 aging leaking roofs, aging boilers, it is always a process of maintaining what you have. Staffing issues on transportation department, as you know bus drivers is always an issue. That is in the forefront, making sure we have enough bus drivers. If we can't get them to school, we can't teach them. Most of our buses are over 30 years old. We just had an engine fire on Friday at Hillsville Elementary School. No one got hurt, we were able to put it out. Our federal programs, the money continues to decrease with our federal programs including the state level as well. Here is our special education child count, you can run through and see 2016-2017 we had a spike and then we went back to 667 for 2017-2018. This number is not going away. Even when you have a lower special ed child count you can't just say you have less students, so you have less resources because it is based on what the child comes to you with. One child could have a full-time aide all day long, again it is an unfunded mandate. When they come to us we have to be able to support the service and accommodate them. It is a federal law, you can't bypass it.

Compensation supplement, this is looking at the money we are going to have on the table for us to support raises for our standards of quality employees which I said before is about 60%. Last year we were not funded at all, this year we have \$784,115 that is there for us to support raises. We have to be able to continue to attract and retain and the only way to do that is to pay people and be competitive with surrounding school divisions. The Compensation supplement in chapter 2 includes a July 1, 2019 effective date for 3% compensation supplement. The General Assembly also funded an additional 2% compensation supplement for standards of quality funding, instructional and support positions and this is effective September 1<sup>st</sup>. Salary rankings, just to give you an idea of how we rank with the state. Right now, with a beginning salary we are 105. School divisions participate in a survey every year with the state of Virginia. Salary comparison with our surrounding school divisions, Floyd right now is 94<sup>th</sup>, Galax is 95<sup>th</sup>, Wythe is 101<sup>st</sup>, Pulaski is 104<sup>th</sup> and Carroll is at 105<sup>th</sup> and then goes on Patrick and Grayson. The reason I am showing you this is that when I go to my Region 7 Superintendent Meetings monthly we always discuss raises. There is not a school division around that is not giving a raise, you are not going to leave that money on the table. So, the most that you could have got credit last year was 3% so if you gave at least 3% last year you can count it towards the 5 and give an additional 2 this year. So, if everyone gave at least 2 and we didn't give anything you could see how quickly we would get behind. Right now the difference between us and Floyd is \$870. We have to stay competitive. That is not going to be enough for someone that loves Carroll County to go to another school division but if that differential increases definitely it will be.

Our local composite index is basically our ability to pay as a school division, educational cost, fundamental to the Commonwealth standards of quality. The local composite index is calculated using three indicators of a localities ability to pay, the true value of real property is weighted at 50%, the adjusted gross income is weighted at 40% and the taxable retail sales is weighted at 10% and right now we are at .2727 and that is for 2018-2020. All school revenue projections, when we look at our overall school operating budget and our income that is coming into our schools, our state revenue for the proposed budget is \$27,228,825 and you can see the difference in last year or this current year and our proposed budget. The county right now \$11,250,664 and our proposed budget is \$12,034,413 and you can see the difference is \$782,789. That is what we need to maintain what we have today. I know you are trying to stop the bleed, I don't want to start the bleeding with our school system. We have got to continue to maintain the level or expertise and quality that we currently have in our schools. At the bottom line it gives

you a total operating revenue and summary. Here is our pie chart just to give you an idea. The state right now is at 60.21%, the we have the other school operating budget, the county operations at 26.61%, federal at 11% and again our local composite index is .2727. Our total operating budget is \$45,220,694. Personnel cost, our salaries are always going to be our largest part. Our salaries are 58.55% of our budget and then of course comes to our accounts payable and our benefits. 81.68% of our budget is directed towards salaries and benefits. That is what keeps people here, that is what attracts people. Attraction and retain, end result the kids get a quality education. County appropriations start with fiscal year 20 and takes you all the way to fiscal year 14. It gives you an idea of how we have been funded in the past. We have been staying pretty much around the 26% since fiscal year 17. 26.7, 26.2, 26.1 and we are back up to 26.6 for fiscal year 20. The biggest part of that again is dealing our increase in the health insurance, again no control. I wish we could change it, but we can't stop someone from having cancer or for having a catastrophic injury that requires surgery and at the same time we have to be able to keep our quality staff and give raises. We did not give raises last year. With our expenditure projections, personnel is going to be one of our largest, so is our instruction. That is what we are doing, teaching our kids. It breaks down into administration, attendance and health, pupil transportation services, operations and maintenance services. Our food services of course is all self-contained, it is federally funded. Facilities, debt and fund transfers and our technology which I am using right now and the bottom line with that again is \$45,220,694. The difference of that is \$2,097,463. This gives you a breakdown by category, school operational budget and here is the big part again, instruction. It gives you the pie chart breaking it down, so you can actually have a visual. Your technology, non-instructional operations, our next largest piece of the pie is our operations and maintenance required to keep everything running and improvements as needed. Pupil transportation services and our administration attendance and health. So, your three largest is instructions, operations and maintenance and pupil transportation. This is an additional slide, you have seen it before. It summarizes it all again.

At the very bottom, this was discussed last year, I think Mr. Webb started this conversation about transportation and bus drivers. In order to continue working on that area with our bus drivers and transportation an additional appropriation request to restructure transportation which would include revisiting the pay scales and doing some reconstruction with those, changing the pay scales, increasing substitute pay add sick days for all part time employees and this would be an additional \$311,047. I can't say enough, this is where it stops, this is where we get our funding. If it is not you no one else is going to pick it up. I do thank you, I hope you enjoyed looking at the students where your money is going. You can't beat that investment. The return on your investment, educating your children in Carroll County, there is no substitute and it would only be a sacrifice if we did not continue to take care of them. I would like to introduce the chair of our School Board, Mr. Brian Spencer.

Mr. Spencer stated I want to thank you as a board for the funding that you have give us every year. As you know I served on this board thirteen years ago before my paralysis and at that time we had a focus on keeping a quality school system in a direction of funding our schools. You all have maintained that, and you have continued with that. It has been 13 years and we should be proud of the funding of our school system and what we offer children-not ashamed or embarrassed. We should be proud that we have that focus because we are a community with 60% free and reduced lunch and aging population. I think I heard the other day that we were leading in sending people to prison here locally at New River. We should be proud that we make our investment in our children to try to give them a better life. As Chairman for 8 years I want to thank my board. I want to introduce my board, Reggie, Olen, Sandy and my Assistant Chair, Joey. They have elected me to be Chair for the last 8 years. When I started this there was a lot of hostility between the Board of Supervisors, it was awful. I told my board, please elect me your chair but this is one thing I won't do, I won't fight, I won't argue, and I am not going to belittle a Board of Supervisors. I am going to praise them and thank them and tell them I appreciate them. I don't take baits, I don't take jabs because I just ignore them. That is what we need to do, our children are watching. I want you to know there has been people behind me that said oh you offended the Board of Supervisors, you made them mad. They called your budget peaches and cream, smoking mirrors. We should have invited him to dinner and they would have come but they didn't show up because

they didn't care. Well none of that is true and if we met any disrespect to your board I want you to know now I apologize. I don't know if you know how the situation was on our invitation. It used to be that we have 2 people on our budget committee and y'all would have 2 people on the Board of Supervisors budget committee and we would start the process back in December. Tom, I think you and Hendricks were one of the last 2 that we met with about 3 years ago. We would meet about 3 times during the budget cycle and we would all work together and produce a budget and everybody understood what was going on. Last year, we don't set up the budget cycle it is deemed by y'all and once you set the date that we have to have our budget ready, I think the state takes over and we have to have a public hearing so many days before we can vote on it. Well never did we get asked to come to a budget meeting all during that process until we had to publish our budget by y'all's terms on Monday the 12<sup>th</sup>. The other day we were asked to come to a meeting but the way we were asked was we were asked Monday afternoon. Tammy got a call that we needed to have a joint meeting of the two boards Thursday. I was tied up with our lawyers at my office in Bristol and I got back with her probably after 4:00. I said well Tammy I will try to reach out to my board members but first of all I don't know if I can get a quorum in two days and at the same time I don't know if it will be legal. Y'all had a called meeting so it was legal for you all to meet but we hadn't advertised for a called meeting and sure enough section 2.2-3 707, the notice shall be posted at least 3 working days prior to the day of the meeting before the board can legally meet so if we had come last Thursday night as a School Board we would have had an illegal meeting. Number two, we just didn't have a quorum. If we had known that you just wanted a couple from the school system to come that we would have gladly done. We respect you and you have a hard job and you are not doing it for the stipend. You are doing it because you care. You care about what we are trying to develop as a community just like our board. We shouldn't ever be enemies or fighting against each other, we should be fighting for the same things. So please if you felt disrespected last Thursday, that was never our intent. We were asked 2 days prior to try and have the entire board at a meeting and we just didn't have. Three of us were out of town, me included. I was in stuck in Johnson City and could not get out of those meetings so for that I want to apologize and apologize to our county supervisor because that is not our intent ever. There were some questions about the meeting and the idea about we always ask for more and I just want to show. The last two years we kept everything at level funding and that level funding was below what we were funded in 2014. We had a spike in 2016 and the Governor wanted to give a raise. I shouldn't say that negatively but that is how I feel sometimes. Isn't that awful, we should be happy, but I tend to cringe. He gave a 1.5 raise that year and our insurance went up 13% and our ADM went significantly down. That year the board helped us out because our constitutional job is to maintain a system and that is what we are trying to do for you. We can not help that the 5% that the Governor is proposing that we can't absorb that extra \$500,000 just like we can't help that our insurance went up 13% costing over \$300,000. A child can come in tomorrow and tie up several services because that is what they need, and it is federally mandated. I don't think we always ask for more. I think we try to be good stewards and try to stay well below the composite index. We try to cut when we can without cutting our programs. Anything that you all decide would be a cut in a program. You have to understand that and constitutionally I have let them know that. It is not that I am trying to that is just where it is. A couple years ago we had a joint meeting and we swore we were going to have more of them. We had a leaky roof and we needed buses and I remember that we had some money that we were able to save back, and we thought we could address one of the two issues. You all said do that and we will be there if you need us. The grace of God we got a one-time small Virginia school system rebate check of \$284,000 a few months later so not only did we pay for the leaks at the high school but we were able to say that we don't need the money for the buses. If we weren't good stewards of money we would have not done that, but we did because we are trying every which way we can to present you a realistic budget of what we have and don't have. I know some of you asked about food service the other day. There is no local money in food service, it is all federal. Nothing that you give us or don't give us goes to food service. It comes from the federal government and it comes from the fees that we charge for lunch. That is it. It is an in and out. If there is any profit at all we turn around and if we have an oven that halfway works, we can buy an oven or buy some more cafeteria chairs. We have 3600 students every day. Think about that, every day wearing out our equipment. It has to be self-supportive, no local money goes into the food service

program at all. There were questions about outlays. There is a \$59,064 for IDA loan for buses. On technology, yes, it is \$400,000. \$362,000 of that comes from the state government if the county matches it with \$46,500. Why wouldn't we as a county want to have \$46,500 to put in an account that the state is going to give us \$362,000 to buy chrome books for our children or whatever else we need in technology. Phones still baffle me, I don't ever want to change my phone and if I have to buy a phone guess who fixes it, my 12-year-old. These kids love technology, we have to be technology rich and the state believes that so that is why they give us this money. If we cut that \$46,000 we are actually going to cut our budget another \$360,000. We all know we don't want to do that. \$371,000 on the outlay was facilities use, desks, chairs, band equipment, any kind of uniform that you can think of, CTE equipment. Again, I remind you we have 3600 children in our schools every day. To a testament of the school system and a testament to you all we have 95 or 96% attendance rates. I have been at School Board meetings and they talk about 70's and 80's, struggling with getting kids to school. You all have made us so well like with our children because you want a quality education, our children want to come to school. We have 96% and that was during the cold and flu season. That says something, you all should be proud. Our Superintendent wanted to do the eyes of a child and you heard the presentation but 60% of our kids are in free/reduced lunch. We have to worry about opening schools early because they don't have coats. We have to worry about what the temperature is like at 5 in the morning because we are afraid they don't have coats. We are constantly reaching out to churches and groups to have backpack buddies and coat drives to help. We worry about closing schools on Friday because we are afraid they won't have a hot meal again for 3 or 4 days. You see all the Social Services issues that you have. Do you don't think they bring them into the school system and cost us in counseling and other services. As a community, lets give the children hope and top education that you have already achieved. Everyone of those awards in that video was from this year. We have children and young adults walking the streets that graduated from Carroll County that can actually say they sang at Carnegie Hall because our choir achieved second in the nation on the East Coast and was asked to perform. We have a yearbook that three years in a row now has received national attention because it was considered one of the top 50 in the nation. Our ROTC program, not funded by the state, has done incredible achievements and that is because of you all and us working together. I ask that we continue to work together, lets do budgets earlier together. I don't know who is on your committee but you all dictate that, so we can be there. The other night was not an offense. I thank you and I hope that in the next couple days as you look at budget, any more questions that you have reach Tammy and Dr. Perry but also me. I will do anything I can, but we are what we are and we wouldn't have had those successes if we didn't work together. You all should be so proud of our children and that funding came from you. That should make you more proud, not ashamed. Thank you for your time tonight.

Mr. Hill asked when the last time teachers got a pay raise?

Mr. Spencer replied, it wasn't last year. I don't know so I'm going to ask Tammy.

Mr. Hill responded I thought it said they didn't get one last year. It shows here there was \$475,207 increase over 2017/18 to 2018/19. What did that increase go to? That is under instruction.

Ms. Quesenberry said we did not do a percentage increase last year, we just did a step.

Mr. Hill replied teachers got a step increase?

Ms. Quesenberry replied yes but there was no percentages across the board. It also could have been the changeover of staff members. If we had someone leave us that was at step 5 and we hired someone at step 10 their salary would have been higher. We had several teachers last year that also received their master's degree and that pays higher. So, if we had 10 or 12...

Mr. Spencer responded if we had a child come in with special needs and all the sudden we had to hire an additional staff member because of state or federal law we have to have somebody with them because they couldn't speak English or because we couldn't lift

them. The Special Education budget has went up from 14% to 19% roughly of our budget. Our population has come down, but we have almost 700 students in Special Ed.

Mr. Martin said if kids have to go out of the county for special education not only do we have to pay for transportation but we pick up the cost of that program.

Mr. Spencer explained it is mandated. We don't know, tomorrow we could have 5 more. We had 667 last year, our student body is 3520 so that is 20% roughly.

Mr. Martin asked if that was a very high number compared to many other systems?

Ms. Quesenberry said the state average is around 400 so yes we are higher than the state average.

Mr. Robbie McCraw asked what represents purchase services in each one of these categories?

Ms. Quesenberry asked which category?

Mr. Robbie McCraw said you have in administration there is \$164,000 in facilities you have \$250,000, in operations and maintenance you have \$460,000.

Ms. Quesenberry asked if we can skim across a few of them.

Mr. Robbie McCraw said I am just curious as to what it is.

Ms. Quesenberry replied in instruction that is anything from test scoring, student handbooks, surveys, stop bullying app, outside consultants for special needs. That covers a lot of things, legal fees, I try to separate those out on what it is.

Mr. Spencer said as you are looking through the budget have your Administrator send to us that way we can make a spreadsheet instead of rattling off something. We can show you data behind it.

Mr. Robbie McCraw said I want to say this about the meeting last week. There was a miscommunication somewhere and I think all of the members on the Board that were here will agree, we asked for someone not the entire Board.

Mr. Spencer stated that is why I wanted to address it.

Mr. Truitt said we invited the entire Board but it wasn't a requirement to have a joint meeting, it is also not a requirement to have 3 days' notice for a special meeting.

Mr. Spencer said we were told joint meeting.

Mr. Hill replied it was a budget work session.

Ms. Quesenberry said basically it is money used for bus driver physicals, drug testing, OT services.

Mr. Hill asked about the Capital Outlay in each, what is that, the \$134,000?

Ms. Quesenberry said that is going to be some of the items he mentioned such as band instrument repair and replacement, band uniforms, CTE equipment. Part of that is a state match that comes in on equipment and they split that 50/50 with us.

Mr. Hill replied so purchase services and capital outlay are intermingled?

Ms. Quesenberry replied no.

Mr. Hill asked what is in capital outlay replacement?

Ms. Quesenberry explained capital outlay additions are anything we can't say to the state that we replaced. We may have replaced a broom with a vacuum cleaner. Anything additional we have to put on our books different.

Mr. Hill asked what PTE stands for?

Ms. Quesenberry replied CTE, Career and Technical Education.

Dr. Perry said it used to be called Vocational Education.

Ms. Quesenberry said Mr. Webb knows, you have to keep that equipment up to date.

Mr. Webb stated that he needs to read the following disclosure. The discussion involves the budget and includes funding for the Carroll County Schools and he at times works for Carroll County Schools. He said that the proposed funding would affect the entire school system and not just him individually and together we constitute a group of 3 or more individuals who are similarly employed by the school and affected by the decisions and therefore the exception to the Virginia State and Local Conflict of Interest Act, code section 2.2-3212 applies to this situation and he is able to participate and discuss fairly, objectively and in the public's interest. Mr. Webb said I have some questions and looking at your proposed budget. You have categorized all the monies you are receiving for state, federal and other funds, but the money you are requesting from this board is one-line item of appropriations. To me, I think we deserve the respect of knowing which one of these classifications that you plan on using the money we give you. I mean if you have a problem with it, lets talk about it. We do have the right to ask for a budget that way. Let's get down to brass tacks, last year above LRE we gave the School Board over \$4 million above what we had to. We did not have a clue where you plan to use it, we heard but we don't have a clue where that money was used. We have done research and right now today, Carroll County is giving 89.9% more funding than we are required to. Nobody even close to us in Southwest Virginia given that much more. I would like to see Mr. Chairman that the budget come to us with our local funds categorized.

Mr. Hill stated under the categories by the General Assembly.

Mr. Webb replied definitely the RLE that is required local effort under the categories that they get. I think we can make a better decision as a board as to how much money we are going to give above. That is my opinion.

Mr. Hill asked if that is a possibility?

Ms. Quesenberry asked if you can expand on that a little? Are you just wanting to see how much local money is put into transportation?

Mr. Webb said I know there is a thing called RLE and you receive that from Richmond and it dictates to you where our local money has to go. What I am asking for is this money we are giving above and beyond the RLE that you are requesting from us, where do you plan to use it?

Ms. Quesenberry said when you get the RLE report it says what is required, you receive SOQ funding, what is required to receive incentive money. It doesn't report on that anywhere.

Mr. Webb replied what I am saying is, instead of us just seeing one bottom line of \$12 million, I know RLE is included but I know there is going to be an amount of money over that you are requesting from us. How do you plan to use it? The \$4.3 million we gave you last year, we don't know how you used it.

Mr. Spencer said minimal funding pays no nurses. I don't understand because if you are talking about what the state funding your \$4 million. Well I'm telling you SRO Officers- state doesn't pay for that, nurses- state doesn't pay for that, a principal at every building- state doesn't pay for that. They have limits so there you go. You want to tell

an elementary school teacher she has to teach more than 20 kids how to read. If you put it at 28, that is what the state says but you will lose federal funding and K3 initiative and then you are laying off about 1/3 of your elementary teachers.

Mr. Robbie McCraw replied you just brought up something else I am curious about. This is the teacher student ratio, it seems to me being a father with kids you have a 15 to 1 ratio according to the website in elementary schools. In high school it is 8.5 to 1. Why is it showing that? It is on the website. It shows total instructional positions at the end of 2018 is 325 with an average salary of \$49,163. That is the highest and most of any surrounding county or anywhere in Southwest Virginia. We are looking at this stuff and we want to do all we can for the school system that is the bottom line. When you see numbers like this it don't justify us having to consider an \$.08 tax increase to accommodate for the school budget. We took and cut our budgets completely down to the bare bones because we knew what we were up against. It would be more than 8 cents, it would be more like 10 cents because we are at \$2 million over budget and that is after we have cut everything out of our budget. It is hard to justify and that is why we are asking these questions.

Dr. Perry stated that she is really concerned about the ratio that you found. We cut back teachers in elementary and maxed out as much as we could across the board last year so that is very concerning to me.

Mr. Robbie McCraw said Carroll County shows to have 147 elementary teaching positions at a 15.15 pupil to teacher ratio.

Dr. Perry replied so that was 147 for 2018.

Mr. Robbie McCraw said it says 157 secondary positions at an 8.5 ratio.

Mr. Hill said you have fewer students per teacher in high school than you do in elementary school.

Dr. Perry said she understands they have built in all support staff. It is not like a classroom teacher per pupil ratio. You would include all your specialties, art teacher, special ed teachers, counselors, aides and physical education.

Mr. Robbie McCraw replied it says elementary teaching positions include classroom, homebound, media technology and technology instruction for K-7.

Dr. Perry replied and support staff. That is why it looks skewed. I can show you classroom numbers, we don't have anything to hide. We really maxed out last year on making sure that we were servants of this money and if we had classes that were even 1-15 we thought were low and we moved teachers last year. We put some teachers on a 1 year only contract and did not renew them. We had some teachers that did not come back because we are really making sure. I talked to Mr. Martin at the end of last budget season and he said get ready for next year, so we were already preparing for this years tight budget. We started skimming back last year. To be quite honest the K3 initiative that we have to keep within the federal guidelines, we would have had those maxed out if we would have not lost funding, but we want to get that money.

Mr. Gallimore explained there are also 600 special ed kids and a lot of them are 1 on 1.

Mr. Hill stated that his grandson is in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade and there are 16 students in his class.

Dr. Perry asked where?

Mr. Hill replied Laurel.

Ms. Quesenberry said that is because we were over class size for K3 and had to have 2 people.

April 8, 2019

Mr. Spencer said if you had one teacher in 1<sup>st</sup> grade and you hit the magic number, 24, if you don't split them you lose the funding. It saves you money to split them and have a smaller class size because of federal funding.

Dr. Perry said we work out the cost of the teacher and how much it would cost to hire a teacher and how much it would cost if we did not receive funding. We work it both ways.

Mr. Hill replied you do have great teachers. That lady does a wonderful job with 16 kids.

Mr. Spencer replied as a testament to the system a lot of our teachers are on the high end of the scale.

Dr. Perry said we have never had a problem with elementary teachers and last year when we would post a job it was the first year that we started to see the crunch with critical needs. Who would ever think that we would have a shortage of elementary teachers. We had to hire probably about 3 that were already on the real high end of the scale just to get someone to fill the classroom.

Mr. Phillip McCraw said there is probably not a person in here any prouder of our children than I am. I want the best for them but then I look at where this tax money comes from. I look at my neighbors and not any of them had an increase in their wages last year. I look at some of these wage increases here, we have to look to these elderly people out in the community to get the tax money to fund these things and that is what concerns me. Our tax rates in Carroll County compared to other counties is not low. If we keep going up on tax it is not going to be very attractive for the kids to come back. Ride through the community and look at the for-sale signs.

Mr. Spencer said we took 2 positions and made it into one position so that person inherited 1/3 more job. We reduced a staff member that saved us \$77,000 and we gave her a \$5000 raise and a title change because she got 1/3 more work and instead of middle and high education she is now K12. We saved \$70,000 by cutting that. That was a savings.

Mr. Hill said when you look at our composite index it is probably the lowest in Southwest Virginia but we pay the highest amount over what is required of any other county is Southwest Virginia. Lee County may have a lower composite index. That show you that a rural county doesn't have a lot of money is paying a heck of a lot for education. 89% over what is required.

Dr. Perry said you can't compare the two. What Carroll County offers is not the same with what they offer. I don't want us to be just looking at the bottom line. I know that is important, but I am thinking about the programs that we have. I have been in other school divisions, I know what they have, and I know what Carroll has. I would hate to think we are going to compare ourselves to some other school division. Lee County can't hold anything on us.

Mr. Hill replied we are higher than Montgomery County.

Dr. Perry responded well then can't hold anything on us either.

Mr. Hill replied that is a college town.

Dr. Perry said you talk about quality of education, I know. But you can't compare the two.

Mr. Gardner said the composite index is .27 and that is what the state says Carroll can afford to pay. You are not above .27, what the state says your ability to pay is.

Mr. Hill said that gives you the minimum. The required local effort is that 2.7%.

Mr. Martin stated to me the discussion going back and forth it shows strong evidence that the Board of Supervisors and the School Board should have multiple meetings during the year to discuss these things. It bothers me, I am one of the few people in this room, I was a PTA president four years. I am going to speak as a PTA president to the Board. We had a constitutional officer in here recently that has uncollected taxes of \$6.2 million. I thought the Board did everything but kiss her good bye when she left and during the process. We have done everything but take a machete to the school board. I am not going to vote against the school board budget if we are not doing one frizzling, which is a curly lock of hair, if we are not going to go after \$6.2 million and just kiss that off. I am not going after the school board. If the shoe fits, wear it. We need to meet with these people but if \$6.2 million doesn't matter then I don't think we have much to worry about with the school system.

Mr. Hill asked who was appointed to the Education Committee?

Mr. Martin said at the last second of the last hour of the last minute it was suggested that maybe Dr. Littrell and I could do something with educational funds.

Mr. Hill replied meet with the School Board.

Mr. Martin said I have been in that office 2 or 3 times in general discussions. I chose a long time ago that I didn't want to run for the School Board. I would suggest that certain members of the Board here maybe you are in the wrong job. Maybe you need to run for the school board office and nitpick then. Again, if \$6.2 million doesn't matter to you guys then the school board budget doesn't matter to me. If we are not going to do anything about \$6.2 million then count my vote as not going against the school board.

Mr. Hill responded, Mr. Durbin has been working on our collection of delinquent taxes, so it is not that we have not done anything. He is working on our last years delinquent taxes and we have just collected \$100,000 and we are going to be working on some more of it.

Mr. Martin replied however, Mr. Chairman, we asked the Treasurer last fall and she was supposed to give us a list of delinquent taxpayers. Could you hand me that copy Mr. Truitt and if not why not? Do you have a copy of it from the Treasurer?

Mr. Truitt replied not an updated one.

Mr. Martin responded, oh you don't have it do you? I forgot. And then we were supposed to get one this spring. Mr. Truitt, could you give me a copy of that?

Mr. Hill replied it comes out in August, it doesn't come out in the spring.

Mr. Martin said she was asked for it twice Rex, and she didn't give it to us.

Mr. Hill replied she didn't give it to us last year, but she gave it the year before. That is what he is working on.

Mr. Martin asked how do we get ready for the future if she is going to be a year behind? She should give it to us in what we have requested. We are not getting it.

Mr. Hill said I will appoint you to that committee and you go down there and meet with the Treasurer and get it worked out.

Mr. Martin replied no, but if we go back into executive session and we come back out, Mr. Durbin is going to have a whole lot to do because at the last meeting I passed out informational sheets about law that gave the Board of Supervisors in a County Board form exclusive rights to collect money from the Treasurer, correct Mr. Durbin?

Mr. Durbin replied that is not exactly what the law provides. It is something we can discuss more, I think it would be an appropriate topic for closed session.

Mr. Martin said an appropriate topic for closed session would be nitpicking with the School Board too, sir.

Mr. Hill responded, lets move on that is another issue and we have some more questions.

Mr. Webb said I want the School Board and Dr. Perry to understand I am not nitpicking. I am sitting up here facing a huge budget as a member of this board with a \$3 million shortfall. I am not looking to cut it from y'all. All I am asking is, I would like for you all to present what you need the money for in categories so that we can go out and face people. When they say why did you give them \$12 million, I would like to know and would like to explain why we sit here and made that decision. I am not nitpicking and looking to cut you to the bone. I am tickled to death with the school system. I agree with Dr. Perry, this is one of the strongest school systems in Southwest Virginia. I worked in one that neighbors and I agree with what she says. What I am asking for is, it is hard to explain to people when they look at these numbers about how much we gave over RLE, what did they use the money for.

Mr. Spencer said if y'all will do a list of questions and submit them to us I promise you expedient detailed information. You all have my cell phone number. We could go all night and I don't like to give you something off the top of my head and I think a few minutes later, that was inaccurate. I am never going to lie to you. On one program, we have a RAE Center. That center saves you from Social Services. Those kids would be homebound, expelled or in your prison. It is not funded by the state.

Ms. Quesenberry said we do receive state funding, but it does not cover the cost.

Mr. Spencer replied the RAE Center is just one example. If we can help that child to stay in school, we had a gentleman last year graduate from Virginia Western Community College and he said the RAE Center saved his life. They have a low student teacher ratio because they need that extra incentive and that keeps you from having that homebound.

Mr. Haynes said the county will absorb these things in a lot of other ways.

Mr. Spencer replied that is just one program. Please write down and we will help you more as you have questions.

Mr. Hill said I have to compliment Tammy. Anytime I sent a request to her she always gets back pretty quick.

Mr. Haynes said you don't need to hear from all of us but just, so you understand, the other night I was at the doctor. We are always glad to talk to you all.

Mr. Hill said I don't look at it as being questions we ask for find out or things that we point out is not being disrespectful to the school board.

Mr. Spencer replied, I don't take it that way.

Mr. Robbie McCraw told my biggest concern is a tax increase on the citizens of this county. That is just not something we can do at this time. When we are \$.69 and Wythe is at \$.55, it would be almost impossible for us to do that. The other night I made the comment to lets just take away all the capital outlay projects. That is what we have done in the county. We took every bit of the capital outlay away. I know you are kicking the can down the road but then you can come back and address those situations on an as needed and prioritized method. That is what I think we need to work toward, is coming to a common agreement where we can find what we can find to remove from this. I will be glad to work with you all any way we can, and I think you all know that.

(Order)

**AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE PROPOSED COUNTY & SCHOOL BUDGET FY2020, PROPOSED TAX RATES FOR FY2019**

Upon motion by Mr. Robbie McCraw, seconded by Mr. Phillip McCraw and passing, the Board approved to advertise the proposed County and School Budget FY20 and the proposed tax rates for FY19.

Mr. Webb asked for that to be explained.

Mr. Hill said it is authorization for us to advertise the school budget and proposed tax rates that we might have for 2019.

Ms. Cannon explained we will probably advertise the school budget once an amount is determined. We need authorization now because we have to adopt in May.

**VOTES**

Mr. Webb	Yes
Mr. Phillip McCraw	Yes
Mr. Hill	Yes
Mr. Robbie McCraw	Yes
Dr. Littrell	Yes
Mr. Martin	Yes

(Order)

**COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Upon motion by Mr. Robbie McCraw, seconded by Mr. Phillip McCraw and passing, the Board approved to table the Committee Appointments for a month.

**VOTES**

Mr. Webb	Yes
Mr. Phillip McCraw	Yes
Mr. Hill	Yes
Mr. Robbie McCraw	Yes
Dr. Littrell	Yes
Mr. Martin	Yes

(Order)

**CITIZENS TIME**

No one was signed up to speak.

(Order)

**SUPERVISORS TIME**

Mr. Martin stated not one thing, I am waiting on the numbers.

Dr. Littrell said I felt overall it was a very productive meeting. The School Board explained some of the numbers we had questions about. I look forward to getting some more details.

Mr. Robbie McCraw stated I have to reiterate what Dr. Littrell said, I think we got some answers. We still have some we need to get, and it appears they are willing to give us what we need to answer our questions. I hope we can proceed and move forward. Thank everyone for being here tonight. I know we had a great crowd when the road meeting was in here and it kind of abandoned us.

Mr. Webb thanked everyone for their thoughts and prayers for what he asked last month. The procedure went well, and we have to wait and see what the results are. I feel good about it and I think everything is going to work out fine. I do appreciate anyone's thoughts, prayers and concerns, calls, emails and everything that I got checking on me.

Very informative meeting to me, I hope that we cleared the air on what our job is and looking for answers to right this ship and get this county back going like we all want it to.

Mr. Phillip McCraw thanked everyone for coming out. I do hope we can hold the tax low and I am begging that we can. I haven't got any neighbors that has money to spare.

Mr. Hill asked if we can do a closed session Thursday at our budget meeting, is it possible you can be there?

Mr. Durbin replied it should not be a problem. What time?

Mr. Hill said 6:00.

Dr. Littrell asked if we can recess this meeting instead of adjourn?

Mr. Hill said closed session could be at 4:00.

Dr. Littrell replied he can't be here until 6:00.

Mr. Hill said we will just do it at 6:00. All we need to do is recess. I do feel that we are going to have to consider everything we have listened to. We pointed out what we do pay out over other counties. It is apples and oranges sometimes, but you have to look at what the county can afford. Yes, it would be nice to have a Taj Mahal, it would be nice to have good teachers which we do. It is good we have good folks on the School Board, good Superintendents, good County Administrator, good county employees, but things are tough, and we have to look forward and make tough decisions. I will be glad to take any recommendation from any board member on what he would like to do going forward and how we are going to meet this budget impasse that may include an \$.08 for hundred. That is what the school budget will be, at least 8 cents.

Mr. Martin stated that is why Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Hill responded that is not going to solve the problem this year. If we collected it all, it is a year we have been working on this. It is my time Bob. We have been working on this a year and if we start on the next one it will be next year this time. Going forward we have got to do something. The only other alternative if you don't cut is to raise the property rate.

(Order)

**RECESS**

Upon motion by Mr. Robbie McCraw, second by Mr. Webb and passing, the Board recessed until Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

VOTES

Mr. Webb	Yes
Mr. Phillip McCraw	Yes
Mr. Hill	Yes
Mr. Robbie McCraw	Yes
Dr. Littrell	Yes
Mr. Martin	Yes

(Order)

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Chairman

April 8, 2019

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Clerk