

The Carroll County Board of Supervisors held a meeting on June 29, 2020 in the Board Meeting Room of the Carroll County Governmental Center.

Members Present:

Rex L. Hill
Dr. Tom Littrell
Phillip McCraw
Robbie McCraw
Tracy Moore
Joe Webb

Staff Present:

Cellell Dalton, County Administrator
Steve Durbin, County Attorney
Crystal Adams

CALL OUT OF RECESS

Dr. Littrell called the meeting out of recess.

CANA CONVIENCE CENTER

Mr. Phillip McCraw made a motion to make a clarification on the motion I made on the Cana Convenience Center, that the hours of operation will be Monday 10:00 to 6:00, Friday 10:00 to 6:00 and Saturday 8:00 – 4:00 with the total number of hours open to be 24. There will be \$20,000 put in the budget for the first quarter and be reevaluated at the end of the quarter. The charge will be \$4.00 per bag and bags only.

Mr. Robbie McCraw seconded the motion.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Rex Hill	Joe Webb
	Robbie McCraw	Tom Littrell
		Tracy Moore

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Phillip McCraw

FY21 BUDGET

CALENDAR YEAR 2020 TAX RATES

Mr. Hill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Robbie McCraw to adopt the Calendar Year 20 Tax Rates as follows:

Real Estate	\$0.73 per \$100
Personal Property	\$2.30 per \$100
Machine & Tools	\$2.00 per \$100
Merchants Capital	\$0.69
Aircraft over \$1 million	\$1.00 per \$100
Data Center over \$1 million	\$1.00 per \$100

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Rex Hill	
	Robbie McCraw	Tom Littrell
	Phillip McCraw	
NAYS:	Joe Webb	Tracy Moore

FY21 EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE BUDGETS

Mr. Dalton explained that we have had a Public Hearing on these budgets and we also have COVID Funds to be included for a total expenditure of \$81,719,799.

Mr. Hill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Robbie McCraw to approve the FY21 Expenditure and Revenue Budgets.

Mr. Webb stated that at the last meeting the Treasurers report showed we have an overage of \$2 million and I asked why. I was told it was because COVID money had been put in the budget. The next day I called the Treasurer and the money had not been put in there. Today I called and I was told that June 30, 2019 we had \$6 million and I was told today it is going to be somewhere around \$9.9 million plus the COVID money. We did not borrow money last year to get through and I can not understand why we need to raise taxes, why we did what we did to our employees and I have not been given a reason to vote for this budget.

Mr. Hill replied that he is correct about the COVID funds not being included.

Mr. Moore asked on the New River Jail payments, we had \$2.3 million budgeted and this year we have budgeted \$3 million. The expenditure we have from the jail today we just went \$40,000 over at \$2,390,000. Why are we putting \$650,000 more in that fund. On the budget, on the end of year appropriations there was \$51,000 for senior and community centers. I know some of them did not get a 4th quarter appropriation and will there be carry over for that.

Mr. Dalton explained on the jail budget we were averaging about \$240,000 per month before COVID. That was the requested amount from the jail. All have worked diligently to reduce that jail bill. As we head back to normal, those numbers will return begin to rise again. Back in February we had budget reductions and those senior and community centers were affected. There is no carry over for that.

Mr. Hill stated that every year we have had to do an additional appropriation for the Jail and CSA. It is hard to figure out what it is going to be. We can't tell law enforcement not to enforce the law.

Mr. Webb stated going back to June 22nd when we were in Closed Session, there was a discussion about employees, getting rid of them. It was my understanding they were to be offered to be moved and that didn't happen. They were let go and offered the opportunity to apply for anything that was open and that is not what we agreed on. We agreed to offer them jobs that are available and they could decide. They were served with a thing that they would no longer be employed after tomorrow and they could apply. That is not what we discussed in Closed Session and I don't think justice has been done for those employees.

Mr. Phillip McCraw replied, if we terminate them and they take another job that would end their years of service.

Mr. Hill stated if you stay in the system you will still be under the retirement system. When you retire it is based on your last 3 years of retirement or the highest 3 years. As long as the employee didn't take the retirement out it would stay there.

Ms. Dalton replied if they switch jobs their service will continue. If their employment ended tomorrow and they were rehired in July. They would miss one month because service starts at the beginning of the month. I would hope that could be worked out tomorrow so that they would not lose even a month.

Mr. Moore asked if there is any law if you switch and how much we can cut your salary.

Ms. Dalton replied not that I am aware of.

Mr. Hill responded I think we should add at least a month to make sure that their retirement is covered.

Mr. Phillip McCraw stated that they should get some benefit going into the job with their years of service.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Rex Hill	
	Robbie McCraw	Tom Littrell
	Phillip McCraw	
NAYS:	Joe Webb	Tracy Moore

FY21 SCHOOL BUDGET

Mr. Robbie McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hill to approve the FY21 School Budget by category as follows

Instruction	30,701,649
Administration	1,731,879
Pupil Transportation	2,987,637
O&M	4,358,832
School Food Service	1,761,932
Above RLE	
Buses	520,000
Building Maintenance	200,000
Debt Service	4,329,589
TOTAL	48,613,843

Mr. Webb asked if he didn’t understand in our last Closed Session that the Board was going to buy those buses through COVID money. If they leave that \$520,000 in there, we were told we were going to buy the buses.

Mr. Robbie McCraw replied the COVID money must be verified to make sure that it can be used for that. If we are going to obligate ourselves to those buses it still needs to be allocated whether we can make it happen with COVID money or not.

Mr. Webb replied, I understand what you are saying so why did we obligate that money last Tuesday in Closed Session. If we can’t use it why were we told that is what we were going to do.

Mr. Robbie McCraw told we made an obligation and if that money can’t be used we have to use it out of the budget.

Mr. Hill told there are certain things we can use the COVID money for. We still don’t know what will happen with the state budget. We don’t know what is going to happen with our school system. It is going to be difficult for them to operate.

Mr. Webb asked, did we not sit in Closed Session and say we would buy 6 buses for the schools.

Dr. Littrell replied it seems that we were requesting information from the schools to see if we can justify. These budgets are just guestimates, it is the best we can do under the circumstances. If we can use the COVID money we can adjust this budget.

Mr. Moore asked if we categorize it will the school have to come back to us and request to use it somewhere else.

Mr. Dalton replied we are doing quarterly appropriations except for things that have to be paid up front.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Rex Hill	Joe Webb
	Robbie McCraw	Tom Littrell
	Phillip McCraw	Tracy Moore

NAYS: None

CARRYOVER FUNDS

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Webb to approve the carry over funds as presented.

Mr. Hill stated that carryover is for major items that are under construction or vehicles we did not get purchased.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Rex Hill	
	Robbie McCraw	Tom Littrell
	Phillip McCraw	Tracy Moore

NAYS: Joe Webb

APPROPRIATION OF CARRYOVER FUNDS

Mr. Hill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore to amend and appropriate the carry over funds as presented.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Rex Hill	Joe Webb
	Robbie McCraw	Tom Littrell
	Phillip McCraw	Tracy Moore

NAYS: None

DEALLOCATION OF FUNDS

Mr. Dalton explained that we have about \$1.7 million left out of the budget. I would like to congratulate the Board and departments for saving money this year. We did have almost \$2 million in cuts and if you add those two amounts together it will show you why you have more in your fund balance today.

Mr. Robbie McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hill to deallocate funds from FY20.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Rex Hill	Joe Webb
	Robbie McCraw	Tom Littrell
	Phillip McCraw	Tracy Moore

NAYS: None

DEALLOCATED FUNDS TO RESERVE

Mr. Hill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore to place the \$1.75 million of deallocated funds in reserve.

Mr. Webb asked why. We are setting at \$12 million and last year we were at \$6 million. That was before the tax increase, before ruining our county employees health insurance, before getting rid of all this stuff. Why are we doing this? I cannot understand why we are ruining our county employees and asking more of our citizens. We are never going to get anyone in here with \$0.73.

Mr. Hill responded that we have a county ordinance that requires us to have 12% in fund balance. We have not had 12% since 2014. We have a plan to accommodate that. Even with this savings we may be at 10%.

Mr. Webb replied we have not had a reserve and it has not been a good idea. Why are we trying to do it all at one time? Why are we taxing our citizens \$0.73 per \$100? That shows me we have not dug deep enough into the departments. Has PSA ever come through with a budget? They should have had it in March, that is a huge excess in our budget.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Rex Hill	
	Robbie McCraw	Tom Littrell
	Phillip McCraw	Tracy Moore

NAYS: Joe Webb

APPROPRIATE QUARTERLY EXPENDITURE

Mr. Hill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Robbie McCraw to appropriate the first quarter expenditures of the FY21 County budget, adding in one-time payments such as insurance and debt service.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Rex Hill	
	Robbie McCraw	Tom Littrell
	Phillip McCraw	Tracy Moore

NAYS: Joe Webb

LAND USE

Dr. Littrell noted that Land Use has not changed. We are going to consider discussing that at a later time other than previously scheduled.

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Webb to cancel the continuation of the Land Use Public Hearing scheduled for July 13, 2020.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Rex Hill	Joe Webb
	Robbie McCraw	Tom Littrell
	Phillip McCraw	Tracy Moore

NAYS: None

RECESS

Dr. Littrell recessed the meeting until June 29, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Chairman

June 29, 2020