

February 8, 2021

The Carroll County Board of Supervisors held a meeting on February 8, 2021 in the Board Meeting Room of the Carroll County Governmental Center.

Members Present:

Rex L. Hill
Phillip McCraw
Robbie McCraw
Tracy Moore

Others:

Michael Watson
Crystal Adams
Steve Durbin

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Moore called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION – PURSUANT TO VIRGINIA CODE SECTION 2.2-3711

Supervisor Robbie McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hill, to enter into Closed Meeting under Section 2.2-3711- A1, A3, A5, A7.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: Rex Hill Tracy Moore
Robbie McCraw Phillip McCraw

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Tom Littrell Joe Webb

COME OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Hill made a motion to come out of Closed Session. Mr. Robbie McCraw seconded the motion.

A (1) Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body; and evaluation of performance of departments or schools of public institutions of higher education where such evaluation will necessarily involve discussion of the performance of specific individuals. Any teacher shall be permitted to be present during a closed meeting in which there is a discussion or consideration of a disciplinary matter that involves the teacher and some student, and the student involved in the matter is present, provided the teacher makes a written request to be present to the presiding officer of the appropriate board. Nothing in this subdivision, however, shall be construed to authorize a closed meeting by a local governing body or an elected school board to discuss compensation matters that affect the membership of such body or board collectively.

A (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.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: Rex Hill Tracy Moore
Robbie McCraw Phillip McCraw

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Tom Littrell Joe Webb

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Moore certified Closed Session with 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.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: Rex Hill Tracy Moore
Robbie McCraw Phillip McCraw

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Tom Littrell Joe Webb

Mr. Robbie McCraw lead in invocation and pledge.

PUBLIC HEARING – ROAD ABANDONMENT

Mr. Moore opened the Public Hearing at 6:21 p.m.

Mr. Newman told we are looking at abandoning a section of road that lies between Whitney Land and Paradise Road. It has been a discontinued section of road for quite some time. The road is dangerous and narrow, there is nowhere for vehicles to meet and nowhere to turn around and back up. The landowners along the road have petitioned the board to hold this public hearing to consider abandonment so they can gate the road and things from happening.

Mr. Craig Cordero explained that he is one of the landowners and is speaking for the other three. We have had a poor history with this road because it has turned into a teen hangout. They come down the road at 3 am shouting and throwing their beer bottles and it becomes a nuisance. MapQuest points you up the road and about midway you hit a creek, it is a quarter mile to back up with no place to turn around. There is no reason for this road to be open, it is a right of way.

Mr. Phillip McCraw asked what the distance is.

Mr. Cordero replied about ½ mile.

February 8, 2021

Mr. Hill asked if the county had a right of way and you gate the road would that work.

Mr. Cordero we would have no problem with the county having a right of way.

Mr. Durbin explained there is a public right of way but we can do a maintenance right of way so the county can use it for county business. We could do a deed of easement back to the county.

Mr. Moore closed the Public Hearing at 6:29 p.m.

Mr. Robbie McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Phillip McCraw to approve abandonment of the section of road and direct the County Attorney to prepare a maintenance deed of easement to the County.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: Rex Hill Tracy Moore
Robbie McCraw Phillip McCraw

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Tom Littrell Joe Webb

CITIZENS TIME

No one is signed up to speak.

PAYMENT OF INVOICES

Mr. Robbie McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hill to approve the payment of invoices.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: Rex Hill Tracy Moore
Robbie McCraw Phillip McCraw

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Tom Littrell Joe Webb

MINUTES

Mr. Hill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Phillip McCraw to approve the minutes.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: Rex Hill Tracy Moore
Robbie McCraw Phillip McCraw

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Tom Littrell Joe Webb

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Durbin told we have a consideration of amending the new business agenda to include the Trailer Park/Manufactured Home Bond Agreement.

Mr. Hill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Robbie McCraw to amend the New Business to include the Manufactured Home Agreement.

February 8, 2021

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: Rex Hill Tracy Moore
Robbie McCraw Phillip McCraw

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Tom Littrell Joe Webb

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mr. Robbie McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hill to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: Rex Hill Tracy Moore
Robbie McCraw Phillip McCraw

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Tom Littrell Joe Webb

TRAINING CENTER

Mr. Tony Isom told he appreciates the opportunity to be here this evening. I serve as the Deputy Clinical Director at the Life Center of Galax. It is a subsidiary of Acadia Healthcare and as a part of that role I am currently helping to facilitate our proposed acquisition of the former Southwest Virginia Training Center. Hopefully I can provide some clarification on a few details as well as speak to our long-term goals for that project and what it means to the County. The overall goal of the project is to repurpose the former Training Center into a 125 bed entirely abstinence-based substance abuse treatment program. Abstinence based means we would not be utilizing any medication assisted treatment drugs that you may have heard of such as methadone or buprenorphine. There have been several recent claims that I would like to address and hopefully be able to provide some clarification around. It has been mentioned that the program could possibly serve as a prison sentence diversion program, that is not correct. All of our patients would be admitted entirely of their own volition, seeking treatment of their own free will. Regarding security of the facility, we will have in depth security protocols including 24 hours per day security staff. The layout of the site is very conducive to us being able to provide a well-rounded safe and secure environment for both the patient and for the community. It has been inferred previously that police in Galax respond to our present facility 8 to 10 times per month. I would encourage you to speak directly with the Galax Police Department if you have questions, but what I can say is it has been said a lot of those calls were very time-consuming temporary detention order calls which would put an undue burden on our Sheriff's Office. We have had one of those calls in the past year and the vast majority of law enforcement response to our current site is for civil paper service. That is patients who have a court date change or some other hearing that requires a civil service. Beyond my present role with Acadia Healthcare, I believe it is even more important for me to speak to you as a citizen of Carroll County. I can appreciate the concerns that have been raised by citizens over the past couple of months. This is something new, big and scary. My mother worked at the Training Center and when that facility came it was scary for us as well. There were a lot of the same concerns raised at that time. They were a great community partner and the citizens fought to save. It is my desire to be the same kind of partner. Acadia is a big company, but this will be ran by local people. Part of what excites me the most is it is a rare opportunity for our county. The initial plan calls for approximately 180 new jobs and that would instantly make us one of the largest employers and that is very exciting. These are careers and the type of employment that would help retain

February 8, 2021

our youth and draw people to move into our community. Some of us may have extremely negative images in our head when we think of an addict. A stereotypical image of someone who is downtrodden, a burden on society. I will be honest with you, I did for many years. As some of you know, I am a grateful recovering alcoholic. I come from a great family, I had a great upbringing, a great job, successful life and then the disease of addiction wrapped its hands around me. If it wasn't for the treatment, I received in Acadia Healthcare facility, I would either be dead or lying in a ditch somewhere being that burden on society, but instead I stand before you as a citizen who pays my taxes, loves my county and works hard every day. So, my question would be, which one do you want? We have two great challenges that face our community, the need for high paying employment and the substance abuse pandemic which has really gripped our country in recent years. We offer a partnership to help address both of those things. We are very excited to partner with the County.

Mr. Hill asked if you would commit to meeting with County Administration frequently.

Mr. Isom replied absolutely.

Mr. Robbie McCraw asked if the process is moving rapidly.

Mr. Isom responded we are in the process of application for certificate of public need. Virginia Department of Health awards public need. Our application has been turned in and we are currently providing them with their requested supporting documentation which has a deadline of March 1st.

Mr. Moore asked where are you on the purchase of the building.

Mr. Isom responded there is an agreement for purchase in place and that will not be executed until after the copn process is finalized.

Mr. Hill asked if there is a specific date which you will be open.

Mr. Isom replied I would hate to give you a specific date since we are in the copn process. That is lengthy. I would not think it would be any sooner than a year, but I am open to meeting with Mr. Watson to keep him in the loop.

Mr. Boatman stated that we are getting a little bit of attention brought to the Training Center now. We have someone from Acadia showing up and that is a positive step forward. What hasn't been addressed is the not sure answers that we were receiving from that gentleman. When is it happening, what are they doing. I appreciate them saying they are going to offer 24 hour security, but what does that mean in writing. People can promise a lot of things but if we don't have it in writing then we can't hold them accountable. I would like to hold whoever buys it accountable if it is going to be anything like what's coming from Galax. VDOT has already posted notice that they are going to abandon that road and that the property had been sold to a private entity. I found from a Supervisor at VDOT that is not true, the sale has been cancelled and it is not approved yet so they are going to print a retraction. Since I came last time the property has been listed on Virginia surplus. Hard to sale if it has not been listed. I think we should look at all options for that property and I hope the Board has been looking diligently into what we can do because we now know that there is a certificate of need application in. That tells me the state is now starting to follow some of its own guidelines on the sale of this property. That is going to allow our supervisors to now move forward with a public hearing, a look at ordinance or zoning which would allow us to put some restrictions on fencing or have in writing with a guarantee to the county and citizens the level of security. To say 24 hour security, I have a camera at my house that is 24 hours and that is not going to stop anyone. I would rather see some people there and possibly renting the security building to the Sheriff's Office. At this time I ask that the Board move forward with a zoning ordinance and a public hearing on this property. We need

something in writing from Acadia or whoever is purchasing this property on what is going on exactly and what type of security will be provided to the community. Is there anything that has been done or found out by the Board, County Attorney or County Administrator. Has anyone looked into it since the last meeting.

Mr. Hill responded we can't pick and choose what a zoning ordinance would cover for a specific facility.

Mr. Durbin replied you absolutely could not. I have reviewed the zoning issue and there is not much the County can do as far as stopping a sale because it is not the county's property. You can zone less than the entire amount of county but it has to be broad enough that it is not exclusionary or targeted at just one entity. There are counties who have zoned half of the county but there is no way to zone one persons property.

Mr. Boatman told that there would be a zoning possibility of a type of facility coming without naming said facility or type of facility. To say that a prison be fenced or secure or that no type of drug treatment given out within a school zone, like a methadone clinic. There are ways you can control what is happening without singling out a certain company or business and still be able to protect the citizens. Would that be a correct assumption?

Mr. Durbin told you can set forth zones where in areas only certain uses are permitted. You can establish a special use process where they can obtain a permit for list of use subject to certain conditions.

Mr. Robbie McCraw asked if it would be like zoning a residential area residential and no business could be in that area.

Mr. Boatman responded without a special use permit and that would be where the county could put a stipulation on it.

ANIMAL FRIENDLY TAGS

Mr. Watson explained that we received a letter from the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles where we receive funds annually based on the number of special license plates that are issued. There is \$450 this year and if accept will be used for dog sterilization.

Mr. Robbie McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hill to accept and appropriate \$450 from the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: Rex Hill Tracy Moore
Robbie McCraw Phillip McCraw

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Tom Littrell Joe Webb

MOU AMBULANCE

Mr. Watson explained this is to cover the use of an ambulance for Laurel Volunteer Rescue. We received an ambulance with CARES Act Funds. Laurel will provide the maintenance and also use in a safe manner. This will also protect the County if for some reason the rescue squad is inoperable for a period of time the County would get the ambulance back.

Mr. Hill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Phillip McCraw to adopt and sign the MOU for an ambulance with Laurel Rescue.

February 8, 2021

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: Rex Hill Tracy Moore
Robbie McCraw Phillip McCraw

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Tom Littrell Joe Webb

BOARD OF ELECTIONS APPROPRIATION

Mr. Watson explained that we recently received a grant from the Center of Tech and Civic Life. This was applied for by the Board of Elections to provide equipment during COVID for purchase of tables, protectors, PPE, etc. We received \$14,214.

Mr. Robbie McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hill to appropriate \$14,214 to the Board of Elections for the grant received from the Center of Tech and Civic Life.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: Rex Hill Tracy Moore
Robbie McCraw Phillip McCraw

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Tom Littrell Joe Webb

SET PUBLIC HEARING – TAX RATE

Mr. Watson stated that we had a reassessment this year and it appears to have increased the values of property. Our current tax rate is \$0.73 per \$100 on real estate. As we go through this procedure with this increase, we need to set a public hearing date and begin that process in order to change the tax rate. I would recommend us beginning with a value of \$0.69 per \$100 assessed value on real estate.

Mr. Moore asked if we can have it advertised by the March 8th meeting.

Ms. Adams replied yes.

Mr. Hill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Robbie McCraw to hold a public hearing at the March 8, 2021 meeting on the proposed tax rate.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: Rex Hill Tracy Moore
Robbie McCraw Phillip McCraw

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Tom Littrell Joe Webb

DMV APPROPRIATION

Mr. Phillip McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Robbie McCraw to approve and appropriate \$400 for DMV Stops.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: Rex Hill Tracy Moore

February 8, 2021

Robbie McCraw Phillip McCraw

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Tom Littrell Joe Webb

MANUFACTURED HOME AGREEMENT

Mr. Durbin stated that you have a development agreement that would provide the owners of Cedarbrook Manufactured Home Park, Yellowhammer Holdings LLC. This would be an agreement to give them a designated length of time to complete the improvements that have been determined to be required under the County's manufactured home park ordinance and it would set a bond amount to allow them to move forward with development prior to completing that improvement. There is an exhibit a that is attached and that is the quote for the work to be done. If the Board is inclined to approve this then my suggestion would be to approve the agreement provided that the work be completed by December 31, 2021 and the bond amount be \$21,607.04. This is a fairly typical process that is done. The decision on the time frame and the bond is retained by the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Robbie McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hill to approve the agreement for Cedarbrook Manufactured Home Park/Yellowhammer Holdings LLC and to set the bond amount at \$21,607.04.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: Rex Hill Tracy Moore
Robbie McCraw Phillip McCraw

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Tom Littrell Joe Webb

OLD BUSINESS

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Robbie McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hill to appoint Sandy Worrell to the Mount Rogers Community Services Board.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: Rex Hill Tracy Moore
Robbie McCraw Phillip McCraw

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Tom Littrell Joe Webb

Mr. Robbie McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hill to table the Social Services appointment until the next meeting.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: Rex Hill Tracy Moore
Robbie McCraw Phillip McCraw

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Tom Littrell Joe Webb

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Phillip McCraw thanked everyone who helps the Board. Also, thanks to the people to come in and present their thoughts. I have chosen not to run again.

Mr. Robbie McCraw thanked everyone in attendance. I thank staff for helping us through all the difficult things we face each day. This past year has been difficult and I hope this year gets better. I hate that Phillip has decided to not seek reelection, it has been a pleasure to serve with you.

Mr. Hill stated that he agrees with Robbie, you have done a great job and helped us fix a lot of situations that we have had. I thank everyone in County government for the work they have done. About 80% of the teachers have had their vaccines. I am glad they are back in school and I think most everyone agrees.

Mr. Moore told he appreciates all Mr. Phillip McCraw has done. I have relied on Mr. Watson a lot tonight. Can we get an update on the hotspots? I thank everyone for what they do. Look forward to seeing if we can come to a common ground on the Training Center.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

Mr. Watson said that broadband is a tough issue. I get calls about it a couple times a week. There are some opportunities in the future and as we go along, we will see broadband grow, but to give a time line on it is virtually impossible. The Board approved using Cares money to place 5 hotspots throughout the county. I believe four of those are running now. This will allow one hotspot in every district in the county.

Mr. Robbie McCraw asked if we can get those four spots publicized.

Mr. Moore suggested getting a yard sign to put at those spots.

RECESS

Mr. Robbie McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hill to recess until March 1 at 4:30 p.m. at the Cliffview Mansion in Galax.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Rex Hill	Tracy Moore
	Robbie McCraw	Phillip McCraw

NAYS: None

ABSENT:	Tom Littrell	Joe Webb
---------	--------------	----------

Chairman

February 8, 2021