

May 10, 2021

The Carroll County Board of Supervisors held a meeting on May 10, 2021 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

Others:

Michael Watson
Crystal Adams
Justin Martin
Steve Durbin

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Littrell called the meeting to order at 4:30 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- A6, A7, A8.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Rex Hill Robbie McCraw Tracy Moore	Phillip McCraw Tom Littrell Joe Webb
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NAYS: None

COME OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

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

A (6) Discussion or consideration of the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be adversely affected.

A (7) Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body. For the purposes of this subdivision, "probable litigation" means litigation that has been specifically threatened or on which the public body or its legal counsel has a reasonable basis to believe will be commenced by or against a known party. 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.

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 Robbie McCraw	Phillip McCraw Tom Littrell
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May 10, 2021

Tracy Moore

Joe Webb

NAYS: None

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION

Dr. Littrell 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	Phillip McCraw
	Robbie McCraw	Tom Littrell
	Tracy Moore	Joe Webb

NAYS: None

Mr. Robbie McCraw lead in invocation and pledge.

PUBLIC HEARING – SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET

Dr. Littrell opened the Public Hearing at 6:09 pm.

With no one to speak, the Public Hearing was closed at 6:10 pm.

PUBLIC HEARING – SIX YEAR ROAD PLAN

Dr. Littrell opened the Public Hearing and turned it over to Lisa Hughes as stated below.

A Public Hearing on the 2021 – 2022 to 2026-2027 Secondary Construction Budget Priority List and the proposed Secondary Six Year Plan for fiscal years 2022 to 2027 for Carroll County was held at the Carroll County Governmental Building on May 10, 2021.

The Public Hearing opened at 6:10 pm with Ms. Lisa Hughes serving as moderator, with the following opening remarks:

This hearing is being held today, in accordance with Section §33.2-331 Code of Virginia, which requires the joint effort of the County Officials and the Department of Transportation for the tentative commitment of estimated available secondary construction funds, beginning with Fiscal Year 2022 to 2027. A copy of the proposed Six-Year Plan and priorities for the proposed secondary construction budget have been available for public viewing at the county building; and a copy

is on display here. After we go through the request we will work together to finalize the Six Year Plan.

Currently the next proposed projects in this year's draft plan, scheduled for completion this construction season, are:

- 1) RT. 620 – COULSON CHURCH ROAD (still under development, PE)
- 2) RT. 683 – TURNER SCHOOL ROAD
- 3) RT. 754 – DICKERSON ROAD
- 4) RT. 844 – STILLHOUSE ROAD
- 5) RT. 700 – HARRISON DRIVE
- 6) RT. 685 – BALTIMORE ROAD
- 7) RT. 974 – GRACE LANE

Ms. Hughes informed the Board that Carroll County received approximately \$500,000 a year for secondary unpaved road funding and the department estimates to hard-surface unpaved roads is about \$300,000 per mile. She remarked "That tells you what we can do a year."

Upon the completion of the opening remarks, citizens supplied the following requests:

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). Project previously placed in SYP.

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. This is a connector between Route 221 and Route 100. The RNS has listed traffic counts at 60 VPD (2013).

Route 757, Duncan Mill Road Four speakers addressed the board regarding the conditions along this portion of Route 757, echoing their concerns of safety and service. They requested rural rustic paving for this portion to eliminate the rutting during the wet season and reduction of dust during the summer months. The RNS has listed traffic counts at 40 VPD (2013).

Route 626, Adams Branch Road One speakers addressed the board regarding the conditions along this portion of Route 626, echoing their concerns of safety and service. They requested rural rustic paving for this portion to eliminate the rutting and reduction of maintenance costs. The RNS has listed traffic counts at 30 VPD (2013).

Route 607, Fries Road One speaker addressed the board regarding the conditions along this portion of Route 607, Pavement rivaling along the entrance to Cliffview Church requesting maintenance to existing roadway. The RNS has listed traffic counts at 3100 VPD (2019).

May 10, 2021

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.

Route 826, Colonial Road Board member requested for a citizen unable to attend, to have the road paved. The RNS has listed traffic counts at 50 VPD (2013).

Route 874, Cemetery Road RNS has listed traffic counts at 50 VPD (2013).

Route 912, Flint Hill Road Due to safety issue with school buses. The RNS has listed traffic counts at 30 VPD (2013).

Route 765, Sutphintown Road RNS has listed traffic counts at 10 VPD (2013).

Route 762, Waterview Road RNS has listed traffic counts at 40 VPD (2013).

Old Wagon Trail Rural Addition

In addition, several Board members submitted additional requests via email to Ms. Hughes prior to the hearing for addition to the SYP.

Route 764, Panther Creek Road RNS has listed traffic counts at 60 VPD (2013).

Route 608, Misty Trail RNS has listed traffic counts at 60 VPD (2013).

Route 905, Rocky Ford Road Rural Addition.

Route 951, Stillview Road Rural Addition.

Route 757, Duncan Mill Road RNS has listed traffic counts at 40 VPD (2013).

Route 726, Mill Creek Road RNS has listed traffic counts at 90 VPD (2013).

Route 735, Laurel Mountain Road RNS has listed traffic counts at 10 VPD (2013).

Route 742, McGhee Road RNS has listed traffic counts at 27 VPD (2013). Ms. Hughes addressed that rural additions had greater restrictions than the rural rustic program and would go into detail with the members requesting the action. Old Wagon Trail along with Rocky Ford Road and Stillview Drive would need reviewed.

Ms. Hughes proposed sending the list of new projects requested for the rural rustic improvements along with the associated traffic counts for consideration before the next meeting.

The Public hearing closed at 6:35 pm.

PUBLIC HEARING – LAND USE FEES

Dr. Littrell opened the Public Hearing at 6:35 pm.

Mr. Durbin explained that you have two alternative versions of an ordinance. The advertisement covered both subsection C and D and we also prepared one that just covers the fees under D. Essentially the proposed ordinance would be to clarify when a separate application fee would be required and under D it is changing the application fee. This is not to repeal land use or to any way change the way the program functions.

Kathy Patterson thanked the Board for letting her talk tonight and for working with the roads. Laurel Fork roads are terrible, but that is not my topic. We need land use really bad in Laurel Fork district. We are a land of many farms and most of

May 10, 2021

Carroll County's farms are there. It is very competitive to have a farm. The timber or lumber use, that is also included in it and I was not aware of the changes that timber is going to have. I am not a farmer farmer and some folks say don't get everybody mixed up on that. We have 150 acres of trees. We need to know when and how we need to do our plans. We have trees that are ready to be harvested, but we are getting into the issue of taxes. It is a big deal, and we don't know which way to go yet. Keep land use and timber use as they are and that gives us some security.

Danny Cassell said that he farms and should be out in the field farming, but I have to come babysit the supervisors. I thought we had put this to bed a year ago. You dug up old bones, you need to leave agriculture and the fees alone. If you keep packing on a mule, sooner or later it will break his back. Agriculture is the largest industry in this county. It should be easy enough to see that farmland requires less service. Based on what I hear you guys are trying to balance the budget with raising land use fees. This is the 3rd time I have come up here and you haven't changed a bit. I think a couple of you is keeping Dalton in your mind and if you don't do something about Dalton. You got him out, but you are still taking advice from him. Until we tar and feather him things are not going to get better in the county. I guarantee you if you raise land use there will be some new faces.

Greg McGady told once again we are here to defend land use. Agriculture is still the largest industry in Carroll County. Land use pays more than its fair share of taxes. Even with land use my farmland costs less than residential does. I thought a year ago we settled this. Then we were told that we didn't need to come to these meetings, all they were going to do is change some wording, but they forgot to tell us about the last part where you can change the taxes without a public hearing or public comment.

John Farmer told I have worked a lot of places and they have land use. If they want to raise taxes they do it on developers. They do this to protect the farms and I can't believe this county does not want to protect farmer land. It makes me sick to my stomach that we elect people like you who want to stab us in the back. My gripe is you are going after the farmers who have had family roots here for hundreds of years. I guess you like the people who come here for 10 or 12 years and make a mess and leave. I look at an industrial park that is doing nothing to bring anything in, but it costs us. If we were going to put something like that in you should have known that somebody was coming. Any good planner knows when there is going to be a return. If I don't have a return on the farm I am taking away from my family. You want to raise my taxes on land use and it is wrong. They are struggling more now just because of politics. We are paying more for tools, labor and everything else. Either you start caring about people because you want to care or you just let us know that you want to drive a stake in everyone's heart.

Mr. Phillip McCraw clarified that we are not trying to take away farm deferred, that has already been settled. What we are discussing is the fee for signing up a parcel which is reasonable and the fee per acre. All of the speakers so far have dwelled on that we are wanting to take it away. It lasts 6 years so it breaks down to \$8.60 an year so it is not a big deal.

Benny Quesenberry told in the current uncertain economic unrest it is important to have local food supplies. The USDA is facing shortages on many fronts. The farmers feed the world, no farms, no food. The more locally produced, the more likely to have a food supply. Save the farms and the farmers. Please keep land use tax as it is now. Robbie, when you came to the Carroll County Farm Bureau picnic some time back you said that you would support farmers. Please keep your word.

Debbie Goad told that her father was very instrumental in getting land use for this county. He fought for it for years before it was ever enacted in 2004. I went back

May 10, 2021

and pulled records from 2004. It is hard to speak if you don't know something. Wages on the farm have gone from \$6.00 to \$13.15 an hour. Fertilizer has gone from \$235/ton to \$545/ton. Chemicals have gone completely out of this world. My health insurance has gone from \$350 to \$1250. I really think that this Board has got some cost in 17 years in administering this program. I don't want anybody on this board or in this room to think that I don't like land use taxation, I like it. I would like to see it stay in its present form and if there has to be a rise in our application fee and per acre fee to keep this program, by all means do it.

Danny Carrico thanked the Board for the opportunity to express our opinion and absorb some ideas on what we need to do. I think our biggest program here tonight is everybody understanding exactly what it is that you want to do. I came here understanding the fact that they was wanting to hire a person to administer the situation over the land use system. If I have been misinformed, I am sorry. I would like to be enlightened on what you are trying to do. If we have created confusion or if we have created a situation that nobody understands, I think now is the time for us to understand it and maybe some ideas and opinions would change. The people in Carroll County was smart enough to vote you guys in to respect us and to honor our opinions. I am not here to land blast anybody, I am here to offer solutions. If the County needs money why didn't they to Remington Firearms, why didn't they give them tax free land for 5 or 8 years and collect sales tax on every fire arm that went out. Please explain to our friends and neighbors what we want to do.

Dr. Littrell explained that we are not messing with the Land Use Tax Rate at all. The matter under discussion is to raise the fee where people sign up. It is currently \$0.25 per acre and we are looking at the possibility of raising that to \$0.50 per acre. The application fee is currently \$25 and the discussion is to look at raising it to \$50. If someone submits an application for 3 tracts and 150 acres, they would see their cost going up from \$37.50 to \$70.50 for the acreage and from \$75 to \$150 and that is over 6 years.

Mr. Phillip McCraw asked if he had seen the map for the area we have for Land taxation. We went into assessment year and it will be an extra load on them downstairs so raising the fee you are still going to be saving about \$14.75 per acre in being in Land Use. It is a good bargain. Our neighboring counties don't have it. I thought some farmers would sign up to run and we are trying to do the best we can.

Mr. Webb told I don't understand why do we need that extra revenue. We have \$20 million in reserve as of the end of April. Why do we need to tax these people to get \$50, we don't need to do it. There is no reason they are wanting to do that to do other than they want more money.

Mr. Carrico thanked Joe for his comment and the Chairman for explaining the situation. I understand that they are wanting to double the rate and double the rate on the application. The application is one thing but doubling the rate.

Dr. Littrell told that is incorrect, it is just the amount per acre.

Mr. Carrico told when you increase the rate per acre.

Dr. Littrell told it is only on the application, not the rate.

Mr. Phillip McCraw told that it is once in 6 years.

Mr. Moore told we have a balanced budget right now.

Mr. Webb told I don't understand why we need the money, we took care of it last year.

May 10, 2021

Mr. Carrico told I understand what we are doing. What I don't understand the increase per acre.

Dr. Littrell told if you were to sign up you pay \$0.25 per acre and we are talking about moving that to \$0.50. That is an increase, but it is not the tax itself.

Mr. Carrico told before anything happens with this please call, take the list you have and talk to them. Find out where their heart is and they may have some solutions that would give the County more money. Give the farmer some kind of incentive to have more crop. We don't want to be railroaded, we need to negotiate and solve the problems.

Ms. Adams read the following from citizens who submitted by email:

Mike Goldwasser - Agriculture has been the most reliable engine for the Carroll economy for many years. It is also an essential part of the Carroll culture and it provides much of the scenic beauty that makes the area so attractive both to those who live here and to outsiders, and it does this with a minimum of services from the County. It therefore seems odd that an increase in land use application fees is being proposed with the "justification" that administrative costs are not fully covered by the fees. Not only is there doubt as to whether the administrative costs for collection are being accurately counted, but this is really a case of cherry-picking expenses—there is income generated for the County by agriculture which far exceeds these costs. The total return on County investment in agriculture is very high, not only in economic terms but also in terms of its contribution to the fabric of the County. Instead of looking for ways to nickel and dime the fees for land use, why not wholeheartedly commit to the County's support? Furthermore, this "business" standard of paying its way can be useful, but it is not applied to many other government expenditures. How much has been and continues to be spent on the Wildwood Commerce Park, which after a decade has yet to attract a single occupant? How about the many years when the PSA has received million dollar subsidies from general funds, whereas many County residents receive no County water or sewer? The alleged "deficit" in land use administration is barely a drop in the bucket in comparison to those huge expenditures. Farming is an essential part of the County. Land use taxation has provided meaningful support to agriculture, it is a statement that farming is valued and that the County wants to help farmers, an investment that is greatly appreciated by the farming community. To have it repeatedly questioned is a penny wise but dollar foolish approach to budgeting.

Elizabeth Cruise - I am writing on behalf of the partners of Pine Dale Farm, located at 797 Brannon Road [State Road 625], Willis, VA 24380. We respectfully oppose any increases in the Carroll County (Agricultural) Land Use Assessment application and renewal fees. As the program currently stands, its fees are in line with, or higher than, those of surrounding counties; in fact, a total of \$13,500 in fees was collected in 2020 to administer the program. In addition, according to the American Farmland Trust, farms use an average of 32 cents per tax dollar paid in county services, whereas residential properties use an average of \$1.16. Land use assessment fosters farming, the #1 industry in Carroll County, and provides an incentive for the maintenance and growth of the farming sector. To add more fees to the load that farmers already bear will directly threaten their long-term stability. Carroll County lost 72 farms, or nearly 15 farms per year, between 2012 and 2017. This loss amounted to a total of 17,848 acres or 3,570 acres per year. Pine Dale Farm has been in our family for over 200 years and continues to be a productive working farm that provides prime pasture for cattle, regularly yields good crops of quality hay, and produces a crop of fine timber every 40 years or so. The farm also provides regular local employment for haying, bush-hogging, and routine maintenance. The land use program has been an invaluable asset to us. Our roots here run deep—our parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents lived on and worked this land. We all feel strongly that Pine Dale must remain intact in opposition to all forces that would result in it

May 10, 2021

being divided up and developed. The proposed fee increase, on top of last year's tax increase, is just one such force, and it is an insidious one at that. Thank you for all that you do for Carroll County, and thank you for your careful consideration of our request to please not upset the (Agricultural) Land Use Assessment Program in the County.

Jane and Doug Hill - We own a small farm in Carroll County. We have owned this farm for more than 25 years. We love this beautiful place and the people who live there. We stay in Carroll County for about 6 months of the year.

We cannot attend the meeting tonight, but I had a few questions.

1. What is the purpose of this meeting?

I remember that there was talk earlier of getting rid of the land use fees. That would be tragic for Carroll County's effort to attract new residents.

2. The loss of 72 farms in 5 years - did those farms become residential? What happened to them? How, exactly, does that affect land use fees?

3. In Carroll County the land use fees are paid repeatedly, but in Lenoir County, NC, where we are also residents, we pay farm use fees only once.

4. I have also noticed that Carroll county is sending out tax bills twice a year. I am wondering why. Administratively, sending out bills twice a year is costly. Is there a problem with tax collection?

I would surely suggest that you do not raise the land assessment use fee, nor abandon it. In these most unusual times, doing either might be a short term solution to a financial problem, but the long term consequences could be much more serious. Perhaps there is a need for close examination of the budget for other possible solutions. Everyone is feeling pinched financially because of Covid, closings, and the potential for higher taxes from our federal government. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter, Jane and Doug Hill

Norman and Ruth Coble - We want to express our support for the land use assessment program. Although we do not reside in Carroll County, we do own property there and it is in the program. Most of our land is woodland and is a precious commodity in this day and age. We strive to be good stewards of the land by planting trees and food plots to feed wildlife and prevent erosion along Little Reid Island Creek, which runs thru our property. Since we do not live on this property, we cost the county very little in services. The taxes we pay help to pay for the services that non farmers do require. Please continue to give farmers a tax break so that they can provide food and products for the rest of the country. Thank you for your support.

Rebecca McGrady - I would like to voice my opinion on any additional fees or taxes on farmland in Carroll County. I do NOT agree with additions to fees or taxes which would further burden the farmers in the county. As we have all experienced increases in this past year in everything we need to continue in farming, any increases continue to take away from our ability to provide a living for our families. If the farmers can no longer afford to produce crops, then all the land will be sold and developed into housing projects and the whole country will suffer. I regret having to have these conversations at every turn and hope that the governing bodies of our county will listen to our voices and take the actions to help us continue as farmers.

Franklin Webb - We won't be able to attend the meeting May 10th but would like to make a couple of comments. We own a small farm in Dugspur jointly with our brother HD Kemp. HD also has a farm there and between us there are approximately 220 acres mostly under the Land Use program as actively farmed. We, certainly, hope the property remains taxed as farm property rather than as development property. We would not be able to retain our farms if there is significant change in the taxation. Thank you for your consideration.

Susan Clark - Thanks so much for the opportunity to comment for the public Hearing to Participate in Land Use Assessment. The following facts are critical

May 10, 2021

to any discussion and conclusions on fees to participate in the Land Use Assessment.

- Land use taxation is the most effective method for preserving farmland. Agriculture is the No. 1 industry in Carroll County
- Current fees for the program are in line with, or higher than, those of surrounding counties; \$13,500 in fees was collected in 2020 to administer the program
- According to the Census of Agriculture, Carroll County lost 72 farms, or nearly 15 farms per year, between 2012 and 2017. The loss amounted to 17,848 acres, or 3,570 acres per year.
- Farms use an average of 32 cents per tax dollar paid in county services, whereas residential properties use an average of \$1.16 per tax dollar paid in services. The need for services funded by tax dollars is greater when farmland is developed (American Farmland Trust)

I sincerely appreciate the your concern and responsiveness to this issue which affects so many individuals in our County!

Ken Miller - I appreciate the opportunity to have my opinion on the subject to be read into the record this evening. It should NOT be the position of this board to take any action or have any program or policy that hurts the farmer, particularly when the farmer makes his living from a farm right here in the county. It should ALSO not be a position of this board to have any program or policy that offers a particular benefit to one group at the expense of the rest. The county requires buckets and buckets of money to operate. Buckets filled primarily by the tax paying citizens of this county. Those buckets don't get any smaller if the board decides to have programs that allow for some to pay less into those buckets than others.

I would like to see a Land Use program continue to be available for farmers in this county. I would also like to see the program continue the strictest guidelines and reforms possible. In addition to any and all regulations in place today regarding this program:

1. Land use relief should only be available to County land owner that make a living farming. The land owner should be able to demonstrate that at least 50% of the family income comes directly from the sale of farm products raised on the land provided with land use relief.
2. Only actively farmed land qualifies for land use relief. A crop or livestock must be raised on every acre qualifying for land use relief in the year land use relief is provided without exception
3. Only land owned and operated by the farmer qualifies for land use relief. No leased land or land held in the name of family members that wouldn't qualify as farmers on their own should be granted relief under this program.
4. Deploy resources to provide oversight; make public and publish the dollar value of relief provided in each application and review annually.

Thank you for this consideration and my hopes for this program to continue with reforms and regular review.

Karol Hill – Carroll County cannot afford to lose any more farms. My ancestors have owned land here since 1792 (when it was part of Patrick County); therefore it I vital to pay the fees for land use assessment. The fees are in line with other counties in Southwestern Virginia. Also the Farm Bureau acts as a clearinghouse to keep me abreast of the latest information about farming in Carroll County. I have had many offers to buy my land, but I refuse as I believe once the farm land is gone, we all suffer the after affects.

Kristina Banks – I am attaching a link of “The Methods and Procedures: Determining the Use Value of Agricultural and Horticultural Land in Virginia”. The

May 10, 2021

purpose of this document is to explain the underlying assumptions behind the use value assessment program and the processes in used calculating use value estimates for agricultural and horticultural land in the cities and counties participating in the program. I am asking that you look at this manual when estimating the value of Agriculture in Carroll County before you completely decided based on financial needs. I would agree that some of the land in the county may not fit in the description for Land Use, but I think we can all agree that farms fit in that description. I understand that some homeowners feel that this is not fair action, but I too own land and a residence that I pay taxes on, and no not receive a deferment. One speaker at the last meeting brought up an issue with farmers not paying taxes on tractors...Does anyone pay taxes on 4 wheelers, side by sides, motor cross bikes, zero turn mowers, riding mowers, or personal yard tractors? These may be used for pleasure or personal, tractors are used to plan, spray, harvest and ect, they are a tool for the trade. Farmers use the Land Use Deferment as an incentive to do business in the County, to live and farm here, bringing back money into the county. Southern States in Hillsville and Galax are farmer owned, with several farmers giving more than 500,000 a year to those businesses. In turn they employ more than 20 people, supporting their families. Also, there is Galax Farm Supply which is locally owned, and Troyer Farm Supply, both where farmers spend their local money, thus supporting more families. Another business is W.O. Hill in Cana, which is another provider to farms for supplies and farmer supported. The definition of a local food is within 100 miles, Regional is 500 according the USDA. Our farm supplies food within the county that you can purchase from Food Lion, and in Galax: Super Dollar, and Walmart. The farm gives jobs to 40-50 local people a year, in which those people support their families and spend their earnings back into the community. VPC in Hillsville, employs an average of 150 local people. They too spend their dollar back in the community. I know from history of working with local farms, such as Bradys Produce, Painter, Snake Creek Farms, Light Farms, Cassell Farms...that a large portion of their produce says local and is accessible. Our country, our state, including our county is in a crisis right now. Not knowing if you are able to buy groceries for your family safely, is a very scary feeling. Produce is needed more now than ever to do well. Farmers have a job to do, supplying healthy, safe produce to their consumers. I am asking that you not abolish the Land Use Tax Program, I am asking that you support your local farmer. This year may be one of the hardest seasons to start for a farmer. We borrow money on faith of the system that the produce we plant will be harvested, to provide safe produce for the consumer. The county is already on a shortage of many necessary supplies to live comfortably every day, please help ensure that we will not have a produce shortage as well. I believe that your jobs are hard, and you do what you believe is bes for citizens, so please include the farmers in your future decisions you will be making. In talking with many tax paying citizens of Carroll County, there is a lot of confusion. People have honest questions and concerns that could and should be addressed. We are in a very difficult place right now financially in our county and we are in a very uncertain place with the economy during this pandemic. People are understandably very unsettled right now. Due to the encumbrance of these circumstances, I would respectfully ask the Carroll County Board of Supervisors to postpone any action to change the Land Use Tax, until such time as the citizens and our county leaders have a better understanding of where this pandemic will leave us. I also am suggesting that the county create an Agriculture committee to help direct and make the decisions with educated skilled professionals in the Ag field.

Ms. Horsley told that I understand that you are just waning to increase the fee that we pay every 6 years. So instead of paying \$0.25 per acre we would pay \$0.50 and the application fee would be \$50 instead of \$25 every 6 years. It is still double no matter how you do it. I would appreciate it if you would leave Land Use alone. It makes it hard on people around here and everything is going up. It would be nice not have to worry about having to come up with the extra money.

May 10, 2021

Dr. Littrell closed the Public Hearing at 7:27 pm. and called a 10-minute recess.

Dr. Littrell told he appreciated everyone who spoke this evening. I have had several calls and emails. It is my opinion that we do not take any action tonight unless the Board overrules me.

Mr. Moore responded that with the amount of people that has come out, I think we should act on it.

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Webb that we do not make any amendments to the Land Use Ordinances.

Mr. Robbie McCraw told that he doesn't have an issue leaving the fees how they are. I would like to see us enforce the ordinance to its fullest extent.

Mr. Moore told that he doesn't want to see it be changed without a public hearing.

Mr. Robbie McCraw told he doesn't want to change that.

Mr. Durbin told I think you are talking about where there are separate parcels that are not connected being submitted under one application.

Mr. Robbie McCraw told that from what I have read if the parcels are adjoining it counts as one but if they are not adjoining it should count as two. That is the kind of thing I want to see enforced.

Mr. Durbin told it is state code so it should be enforceable.

Mr. Webb asked who ever allowed that to happen? That is way before my time.

Mr. Durbin responded; I think it goes way back. I am not sure when that practice began.

Mr. Webb told whoever did it should be held responsible, not these people out here.

Mr. Robbie McCraw replied, I am not saying go back and charge a penalty. We need to start from this point forward enforcing it the way it should be enforced.

Mr. Webb replied, again who is going to enforce.

Mr. Durbin told the Commissioner of Revenue when they accept the application.

Mr. Webb replied, obviously they haven't been doing that.

Mr. Durbin replied, I haven't conducted an audit. My understanding is it was a long-standing practice. I don't know if that is the case.

Mr. Hill told we cannot change the fees without a Public Hearing.

Mr. Durbin told that is correct, it is set by ordinance.

Mr. Moore asked what if it is a resolution.

Mr. Durbin told if you are changing a resolution, you would still need a public hearing. You couldn't do a standalone resolution to change fees because it is an ordinance.

Mr. Moore told he would keep his resolution with the understanding that whatever the law is, is abided by.

May 10, 2021

Mr. Robbie McCraw asked if there is a way to validate this as we go along.

Mr. Durbin replied, I would start with a follow up conversation with the Commissioner to see if it is an old practice or if it is still going on. Dialogue is the place to start.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

PUBLIC HEARING – COUNTY BUDGET

Dr. Littrell opened the Public Hearing at 7:45 pm.

Mr. Watson told we are looking at the proposed budget for FY22. In the advertisement it stated that the Public Hearing will be held today. An expenditure and revenue budget were proposed. Within this there was a total revenue of \$86,188,636 and expenditures meet that for a balanced budget. This year the only proposed tax levy change was to go from \$0.73 per \$100 assessed value to \$0.64 per \$100. Revenues were based on experience and expenditures matched.

Ron Jenkins told he represents Virginia Loggers Association. I am here tonight on behalf of logging businesses in Carroll County. Not long ago we were in Wythe County and they did approve this. What we are asking is that you approve a tax exemption on forest harvesting which is usually subject to personal property or machinery and tools tax. The state had already approved and recognized farm machinery and they placed that into the tax code which exempted farm machinery. With the full support of Farm Bureau, they say forest harvesting is another form of agriculture. Virginia Association of Counties also agreed with us. We are asking for the forestry equipment to be placed under the same exemption that you do now. Last year was a tough year for loggers with COVID. We ask for your approval and support.

Dr. Littrell told we can look into that and see what kind of impact it will have.

Mr. Watson told that we have about \$10,500 worth of tax dollars for this exemption.

Mr. Jenkins told they are not asking for exemption on trailers or trucks, only the equipment that is used like chippers, loaders and things like that.

Dr. Littrell closed the Public Hearing at 7:53 p.m.

CITIZENS TIME

Jeff Pickett told at the last School Board meeting he addressed the bathroom issue where boys go to boys and girls go to girls. Bob Martin made an accusation that it would cost \$40,000 to fix the bathrooms. I talked about the blessing of God on our county and our leadership. You have the authority in our county to take a stand for what is right and what is wrong regardless of what the state does. That is why you are here and leaders of our county, to do the best thing for our county. I love everybody and we open our church for the county, schools or anything going on but it is time to take a stand for what is right. I really didn't get anything out of the School Board and I am looking to you guys to stand up and do something about it. If you find in the word of God in chapter one of Genesis, he created male and female. We need to quit trying to look at it like science or whatever. Love the people and teach them right from wrong. That is

May 10, 2021

in anything in life. I'm battling parents right now in our church and half of the county don't even know about this. If the word gets out there and people get to pushing it is going to be pretty rough. I had kids coming in church saying the wrong sex was coming in the bathroom and now they don't even want to go to the bathroom. There is one girl who is battling depression and is 13 years old that won't even go to public school now. She is suffering tremendously and is seeing a professional psychiatrist and it is doing no good. If we want God's favor over our county and our country, we need to do the right things. When we were kids, we understood which bathroom to go to and we need to continue that. I just want to show the love of Christ, but wrong is wrong and right is right. I ain't bashing nobody. I am here to love them and introduce them to Jesus. I just wanted to express our concerns for the kids.

Mr. Wayne Pickett told he has been on the radio for 36 years and I just wanted to express my concern about parents and their children and what is taking place with putting transgender boys in bathrooms with girls. I think that it is wrong. When I grew up it was girls' bathrooms and boys. God created us male and female, in his image and his likeness and he instituted the form of marriage. I am here on behalf of the children tonight. Children are being impressed to make decisions about transgender and these thoughts are being placed in their minds at a young age where they don't need to be dealing with these kinds of things. These children are very impressionable right now and I am concerned about the things we are teaching our children in the schools. There are a lot of things that need to be cleaned up in our county and in our state. Thank you for allowing me to share with you and I pray that we consider our children.

Mr. Terry Simone told he works at Volvo and graduated from Carroll County in 1990. I had a son who graduated also and a daughter who is going to Carroll County, at this time she is homeschooled. I am a member of Clergy and I just want to see what is right come to pass. You guys sit before this sign on the wall that says In God We Trust, and you have been voted into these offices. I want to share a testimony with you about a young lady whose father would take her and sell her. The father became this child's pimp and he would take her into bathrooms and drop her off and another man would come in the bathroom and pick this child up and take her with them for a time. Are we promoting criminal activity in Carroll County School right now? Carroll County School should be a safe place to go. Are we currently building a system that promotes current criminal activity and future criminals or are we going to open a gateway that says we are going to restore Carroll County. We have an opportunity to change this and we plead with you to go in favor of a solution that a boy can not go in the girls bathroom and a girl cannot go in the boys bathroom. My daughter will not return to school because she is afraid that some boy is going to walk in that bathroom, and I understand that to the fullest. If we promote this type of activity in our school system, then shame on us. Do you have a resolution for this situation?

Mr. Moore stated that he has spoken with Senator Suetterlein on this topic. This was passed to take affect in August and some of the Senators were disturbed that it was done being instituted in Carroll County.

Mr. Simone stated that instead of following we need to lead the way.

Ms. Tammy Pickett told that Pastor Jeff is my husband and we pastor the Hillsville Pentecostal Holiness Church. I am really focused on protecting our kids, our kids, our grandkids and the children at the church. We have implemented cameras, we do back ground checks on anyone who works with our children. It is not to protect the adults, it is to protect the children. We have to stand up and protect our girls from being harassed by boys or what they want to call themselves. As a young child I was betrayed by my biological father and we can not stand and let this happen to our kids. They are our future. You are sitting here now but the kids who are in school will be sitting here one day taking

May 10, 2021

your place. If we don't teach them what is right and what is wrong. We would love for you to do whatever you can to help us make this stop.

Mr. Doug Goad stated as the rest said we are concerned about what is going on with the bathroom situation. Both have come home complaining to dad about boys coming into the girl's bathroom. We look at the transgenders but all of you on this board were teenage boys at one time. I know when y'all was in high school you would have been tickled to get to go in the girl's bathroom. Its not all about the transgenders tonight, it is about the safety and well being of our kids. I ain't got to draw you no pictures. I nose around and ask a lot of questions because that is how you find out things and it is my understanding that you have to approve a budget for the school. I am sure the School Board would be more inclined to listen to the citizens if the Board of Supervisors were on board with the rest of the county. We appreciate what you do, and we love y'all. I am proud to be from Carroll County. Being a follower isn't always the best way. I would love to see Carroll County be the first county to say we are not going to stand for this. I spoke to a School Board member and he pretty much said that they were muzzled and scared to say anything and afraid of a lawsuit. Eventually, something has got to give. Do we roll over and play dead and just let the world teach our kids whatever they want? You can lay religion to the side, just do what is right. God has blessed this county and blessed us with a good Board of Supervisors. I pray for you and pray that you can help us out.

Mr. Chris Burnette said that he is the pastor at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church and also a father of three daughters. I have had a child in Carroll County Schools now for 20 years. There is nothing I value more than my children and how do we get to the point of where we value the rights of 2 or 3 percent verses 97 percent. A young girl loses her liberty, her security and those things have an effect not only on them mentally but there is the risk of physical issues. What happens when a biological male at 200 pounds tries to take out frustration on a 100 pound biological female? If you remove the speed limit sign, some cars run 25 and some run 95 and you are going to have a mess. When you remove that boundary between male and female or any of God's boundaries you end up with a mess. I am just expressing concern for my children. If we trust in God then we trust in God to define male and female. This bill does not represent the people of this county and doesn't represent the views and we need to challenge it in some way.

Mr. Josh Leath told he is pastor of Freedom Baptist Church. This issue to me is very dear. The Bible tells us what we sow, we reap. We are already seeing in our country what has been sown and what we are reaping, it breaks my heart. We have these situations coming to our children and what is being sown is not going to be a pretty harvest. I would much rather see the harvest of the love of God and the blessings of him. I come to you with a real broken heart, because not just the bathrooms but what curriculum is being taught. That influences the mind. If that child starts thinking this is okay and it is totally against the word of God. We are going to start reaping some really tragic things. Our only hope now is to turn back to God and ask for repentance and get our hearts right. I pray for our schools and our children. Please let's stand under the words In God We Trust.

Mr. William Bowers told that he used to work as a mental health specialist for Mt. Rogers and also as a human rights advocate. My concern for the people of Carroll County is the movement of the Life Center in Galax to the facility in which Southwest Virginia Training Center was located. Nobody in this county wants to harm anyone. We want to see people prosper, grow, overcome difficulties and overcome drug and substance abuse. The security of the individuals live in that area, including myself and my elderly mother who will be speaking after me. I am concerned because a lot of the people in the residence area around there are at least the age of 50. Are they being told what is coming? This was also a big issue back in the 70's when the Training Center was first built. I have been given firsthand knowledge that the facility of the Life Center has promised Galax and

May 10, 2021

the Blue Ridge Economic Development Authority that the entire facility will be moved out of Galax the old Training Center. In doing so, a foster care facility will be placed where the Life Center is currently located. How will the Life Center obtain the license to distribute suboxone and methadone? That is a key concern for me. Are they doing what they say they are doing, is transparency really being given to you. The county has the ability to put measures in place that can stop this. In Bland County there was an ordinance written within 60 days banning a nuclear waste facility that was coming there and they stopped it. In Grayson County there was an ordinance put against a medical waste facility because they didn't know what was going into the atmosphere. In Carroll there is an ordinance against anyone that wants to be a fortune teller. Ordinances can be passed to help secure what needs to be done and not let things fall through the cracks. The police and ambulance service is going to be strained extremely hard. The lack of transparency in the community about this is a great concern. Elected officials and the County Administrator have a duty to protect and preserve the county's residents. I find it hard to believe that this conservative area is being manipulated by Richmond and the politics being played behind the scenes.

Dr. Littrell stated he wanted to clarify two points, Grayson and Bland both have zoning and Carroll does not.

Ms. Jewel Debolt told that she was an employee of the Training Center and I realize what it takes to keep the residents and community safe. What is our security? These people need help, and I would be the first to try to help them but you have to listen to reality too. I agree with my son, it would make a wonderful senior citizen's place. Is there any way the county could ask that they not sell it to do addiction? We should have the right to say what goes there.

Mr. Webb replied if we owned the land, but we don't.

Mr. Durbin told the options are speaking with representatives in Richmond to address it or through the process of zoning.

Mr. Webb stated that maybe the county can write a letter to our representatives expressing the concern. I can make a resolution to do that.

Dr. Littrell told that we will keep looking for avenues.

Mr. Jackie Poe told that he can not believe some of the things we are seeing. It is tearing our nation apart but politicians somewhere don't care. It is such a serious thing when we talk about the transgender issue and the bathroom. I do get how upset parents are. It really breaks my heart, there is no patriotism anymore, police are the enemy and the only answer we have is God. In the state where is our representation, we have none. We have zero voice and you don't have a voice. We need to stand up and say no and we will stand behind you to do that. I would hope Galax and Grayson would do the same. I grew up in the 60's and there was no confusion in any of the boys I knew. This is being pushed on our kids and young children will believe anything you tell them. If you tell a boy over and over that he is a girl, what is he going to do. We are in such danger and the only thing that will save us is a real revival and prayer. Thank you so much for still praying. Thank God somebody still cares about our country.

Ms. Adams read comments from Mike and Julie Combs; This letter is a follow up to our correspondence read during citizen's time one year ago on May 11, 2020.

We would like to highly commend Michael Watson, County Administrator, for the following actions concerning health insurance premiums to county employees:

First, for recognizing the mistake made by acting county administrator, Celette Dalton, and the Board of Supervisors when the recommendation was made, voted on, and approved to flatline the employer paid portion of the health insurance

premiums across the board for single, dual, and family policyholders. I am sure this took some time watching previous meetings and reading minutes to discover as no one likes to openly admit it should not have happened. Secondly, for listening to your employees and hearing their pleas for revision of the vote. After numerous calls and/or conversations with board members from many county employees, it was never brought up to change or amend the vote taken on April 27, 2020. We appreciate the time you have spent evaluating the current offering of health insurance (or lack of) to county employees and making changes to make it more affordable especially to those employees who carry family coverage. We have been covered under the county insurance for years and realize that Open Enrollment used to be done by April 15 annually. After receiving the Open Enrollment materials packet this week, we appreciate that time was taken and dates were extended until a rational decision could be made to benefit the employees and hopefully raise the employee moral as it hit a rock bottom low this time last year. It certainly is encouraging to know that you are an advocate for the employee and not against the employee. Not only is it difficult to retain employees after actions such as this, but it is almost impossible to recruit new employees with benefits so lacking in this regard. To reiterate, we commend Mr. Watson for recognizing mistakes, listening to employees, evaluating the need and making changes for the benefit of the employees of this county. You have been here only a short time. However, realizing the severity of the need and making a change so quickly is certainly encouraging to the employees of this county. We appreciate you and wish you the very best as you continue to move Carroll County in a more positive direction.

PAYMENT OF INVOICES

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

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

MINUTES

Mr. Hill made a motion, second by Mr. Robbie McCraw to approve the minutes as presented.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

Roll call vote was as follows:

May 10, 2021

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

NAYS: None

BRCEDA RESOLUTION

Mr. Hill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Phillip McCraw to approve the BRCEDA Refinancing Resolution and Agreement.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

VRS RESOLUTION

Mr. Watson told this resolution will allow us to provide employees with Carroll Fire & Rescue with hazard duty. This is the same benefit that is offered to the Sheriff's Department. This is a good tool to help with recruiting. It enables the employee to retire at an earlier age. I would recommend this and it is included in our budget this year.

Dr. Littrell asked if this includes volunteers.

Mr. Watson replied no.

Dr. Littrell asked what the cost is.

Mr. Watson replied \$133,000.

Mr. Robbie McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore to approve the VRS Resolution for hazard duty for Carroll Fire & Rescue.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

OLD BUSINESS

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Robbie McCraw to appoint Joey Dickson to the Social Services Board.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

May 10, 2021

Mr. Robbie McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Webb to appoint Mr. Hill to BRCEDA and Mr. Moore to serve as the alternate.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Phillip McCraw	Joe Webb
	Robbie McCraw	Tom Littrell
NAYS:	None	
ABSTAIN:	Rex Hill	Tracy Moore

EDA

Mr. Durbin told at the last meeting the Board ask me to look into the process for the hiring on the EDA Director. I looked at the hiring process, when applications were received, when interviews took place, the process of making an offer to the employee. I reviewed the allegations and I have spoken with Mr. Gregson. Based on my review I don't see any violations of law. This was a confusing process and I think it is fair to say there was some confusion. Mr. Gregson has some additional documents he wanted to share but I do not see any violations of law. I don't see any violations of county policy. It appears to me that the county employment manual was followed. Most critically, I want to address the concern about this Board having an illegal closed meeting under the Freedom of Information Act. That claim is utterly mistaken, it is false and incorrect. I understand that there was some confusion so I am not casting aspersions at anyone, but that claim is false. It was claimed that the Board of Supervisors conducted an unauthorized closed session on February 22, 2021. It is further alleged that someone from the EDA brought in a new employee in a closed session on this date. It is alleged that the Board of Supervisors was encouraged to ask questions, it is stated that there is no way this was acceptable because closed session was never called number one and it is not allowed under the Code of Virginia for that particular purpose. That is utterly incorrect. That is basically a synopsis of what was reported in the press and it is not correct. These are serious claims and unfortunately, they are based on a serious misunderstanding of what happened. The truth is that on February 22, 2021 there was about a three-minute Board of Supervisors meeting to approve payment of some county bills and that was it, there was no closed session on this date. It seems that the member of the public in question was confused on the dates and that he was actually referring to the meeting on February 8, 2021. At that meeting there was a properly conducted closed session, in accordance with Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 A1 for Personnel. It is not appropriate for me to go into the details of what occurred in Closed Session but I can state emphatically that the claim that the Board of Supervisors conducted an illegal closed session to meet with the new part time EDA Director is false. To underline the point, there was no illegal Closed Session. I am happy to follow up on this once I have the additional discussions with Mr. Gregson on some of the other concerns, but I think at this point there were no violations of policy and no violations of law.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY REQUEST

Dr. Littrell told that the Historical Society had ask us last year to consider moving the tree in front of the old courthouse because it has grown rather large and blocks quite a bit of the building. We differed that discussion until later so the question before the Board is does the tree stay or does the tree go. I think it is beyond trimming at this point.

Mr. Watson told this has been a sticky situation and when I began with the county it was being considered. I have had an opportunity to talk with maintenance and they are not able to decorate the way it should be done. Also, after talking with the Historical Society they suggested placing a removable stand

May 10, 2021

that we could place in that area during the holiday season and get a real tree and bring it in for that time. We could still have the ceremonies and during the summer months it is more usable space. I recommend that we allow staff to remove the tree.

Mr. Hill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Robbie McCraw to allow the County Administrator to deal with the tree as he sees fit.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Webb thanked everyone for coming out, I know it has been a terribly long meeting. In listening to the Ministerial Association, I am in total agreement. I don't know if we can buck it or not but I think this county should go down saying we don't want that here. I agree with what they all said, one talked about the School Board being afraid of a lawsuit. They better be afraid of a lawsuit when something does happen. I would like to see us as the Board of Supervisors make a motion or a resolution and vote on it tonight that Carroll County Board of Supervisors is in total agreement that they are not going to follow the states recommendation on transgender bathrooms. If we catch it from the state lets just buck up boys. I would like to make that in the form of a motion please.

Mr. Moore seconded the motion.

Mr. Watson told he feels like he needs to do his duty. Whether not you agree or disagree on this subject and I told everyone when I interviewed, I am going to tell you what you don't want to hear. I am just trying to protect this Board and Carroll County and do what I feel is best for them. You might want to consider more of a formal statement that you don't agree with it, that you will move forward and try to prevent it, request from legislatures in this upcoming general assembly to support changing it or even finding a way if it means construction to solve the issue without the ultimatum of saying that you will not follow state code. It is one of those things that puts you out there and I understand sometimes I like to fight those battles too, but in my position, I just need to recommend you work on caution.

Mr. Durbin told that School Division is a separate division that makes its own decisions in this regard. We can't as a Board of Supervisors tell the school what to do. We can prepare a resolution for your consideration expressing your views on the subject and asking the School Board to consider action on the subject, communicating with our legislatures in Richmond and even directing staff to go so far as to consider working with the school for facilities changes that would keep us in line with state code while at the same time addressing the concerns. That would be a more prudent way to go and it would be my suggestion to amend the motion to direct county staff to prepare a resolution for your consideration at the next meeting.

Mr. Webb told he would amend his to what was suggested.

Mr. Moore seconded the amended motion.

Mr. Robbie McCraw told this is a great motion. We have to stand for the kids of this county. A few years ago, we did a resolution for the 2nd amendment and we have talked about doing another one to protect our gun rights.

May 10, 2021

Mr. Webb told I agree with what you are saying. We were the first for the 2nd amendment, why can't we be the first to express our opinion. We may have to abide by it but we need to send a message to Richmond and to our legislators that we don't approve of it as a board or a county and we would appreciate anything you can do in Richmond to at least put an option in there for the different people. People are tired of everybody shoving stuff down their throat. I would like to see something come out that says Carroll County is against this. I am totally against it; I have two granddaughters up on Campbell County and if things don't change they are going to be homeschooled. I think we will lose a lot of students to that. That will be detrimental to the money that is received, and it will be detrimental to the kids education. Hopefully, we can do something as a county. I would like to see a resolution next month.

Mr. Hill told there is a district court ruling on this as well.

Mr. Durbin told there is a 4th circuit decision, this is probably the Gavin Grim case ruling that directing him to use a neutral facility violates his constitutional rights. There may be ways to construct facilities that would work around that, for one example if everyone had an individual bathroom that is not discriminatory.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

Mr. Webb told it is good to see people getting involved with the county. My goal for the next 7 months is for that to continue.

Mr. Phillip McCraw told he is in total agreement with everyone that spoke on the bathrooms. The topic was misunderstood tonight, I went back and talked to some of them. It was not anything to do with a change in the land use, it was only the fee to sign it up. What does Carroll County do for the farmers, the land use is costing the county about \$1.4 million, no tax on farm equipment. We got hit tonight, no tax on logging equipment, where are we going to stop on taxing. The Farmers Market budget was \$573,908 and there are 34 famers in the county that use it. If you divide that out it comes to \$16,879.64 per farmer. We are doing pretty good for them. The Board is elected to serve all of Carroll County, that is the homeowners, the small tract owners and everybody. They are having to pick up the tab to cover some of this. Our tax rates are higher than Patrick, or Grayson because we have what they don't, Land Use. Our revenue neutral should have been \$0.67 and we went back to \$0.64 which has made a tight budget. It has to equal out somewhere. I am concerned about the \$2.30 for personal property, we have got to do something to lower that.

Mr. Hill told this has been a good meeting. The transgender thing really bothers me, but we will do what we can do. I think we should look at setting out policies of what can be certain places. If we can't tell businesses that hurt the county we need to look at it so we can stop things like that.

Mr. Robbie McCraw thanked everyone for being here. I want everyone to be involved and for us to be open and transparent. Benny Quesenberry made a comment about me supporting farmers. It is good that we can still talk about things. Farmers are the back bone of this county and we are not trying to take anything away from them we just want to make it fair for everyone. This transgender situation has taken over our country and with it comes a lot of other issues. Our unemployment rates are high and everyone is looking for someone to work. We have to look for ways to get people back to work.

May 10, 2021

Mr. Moore reiterated what everyone said. I always thought people didn't care, but I found out they do they are just quiet. Thank Mr. Gregson for working hard on issues and making sure things are right. In Floyd there is a Christian school and there are already 100 kids signed up. It is a tough situation and when I talked to Senator Sutterline he gave me a lot of news on it. I believe in the bible and if we do the right thing God will bless us. There are differences in opinion, but we are able to work through them. Last year I struggled for a lot of information but ever since Mike has come on it seems like I get plenty of information that I don't have time to go through it all. Saturday morning at 11:00 at the Recreation Department we are having opening day for Dixie. They are going to serve hotdogs and let the kids play ball.

Dr. Littrell told we had an exciting meeting. I think there was some misunderstanding about the Land Use. We got the tree taking care of. No matter our personal beliefs we do have to follow the law, so I appreciate counsel looking at that for us. I hope everyone has a good evening.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

Mr. Watson told that it has been a good meeting. It has been six months since I started, and I look at the people that came in and people I have met. Carroll County has a lot of good people. We will stand together no matter what we believe. I have an open-door policy if anyone would like to come by. I have had a really good Board to work with through the budget and I have learned a lot. Thank everyone for all you do

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Robbie McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore to adjourn the meeting.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

Chairman

May 10, 2021