

January 10, 2022

The Carroll County Board of Supervisors held a meeting on January 10, 2022, in the Board Meeting Room of the Carroll County Governmental Center.

Members Present:

Ronnie Collins
Joey Dickson
Jody Early
Rex L. Hill
Tracy Moore

Others:

Michael Watson
Crystal Adams
Justin Martin
Steve Durbin

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Tracy Moore called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION – PURSUANT TO VIRGINIA CODE SECTION 2.2-3711

Supervisor Ronnie Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jody Early, to enter into Closed Meeting under Section 2.2-3711 – A(1), A(8).

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: Ronnie Collins Rex Hill
 Joey Dickson Tracy Moore
 Jody Early

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: Robbie McCraw

COME OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Ronnie Collins made a motion to come out of Closed Session. Mr. Rex Hill 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:	Ronnie Collins	Rex Hill
	Joey Dickson	Tracy Moore
	Jody Early	

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Robbie McCraw

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Rex Hill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ronnie Collins to certify 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: Ronnie Collins Rex Hill
 Joey Dickson Tracy Moore
 Jody Early

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Robbie McCraw

Mr. Ronnie Collins led in invocation and pledge.

AMEND AGENDA

Supervisor Rex Hill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Joey Dickson, to amend the agenda to add appointments under Old Business.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: Ronnie Collins Rex Hill
 Joey Dickson Tracy Moore
 Jody Early

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Robbie McCraw

ROBINSON, FARMER, COX – MR. GORDON JONES

Mr. Jones introduced himself to the new members. You should have a couple documents in front of you. I will start with the reports on your financial statements. Those reports are our communication to the users of the financial statement, so it is important that you know what we are telling the users. The first report is the independent audit report. It is a clean unmodified report, the highest level of assurance you can receive and there is no room for improvement. It does talk about a new pronouncement GASB 84. The next report is referred to as the yellow book report. Last year there was a finding related to adjustments, this year there were none. We did report one compliance issue that has to do with checks that were issued to employees that should have been run through payroll but were issued through accounts payable. I think you have been made aware of that finding. Next is the uniform guidance report, this is required when you expend federal funds in excess of \$750,000. It is a clean, unmodified report. The county's books are kept on two different bases of accounting. One is full accrual, and one is modified accrual. The financial report was reviewed. Over the past 5 years the county has made great strides in improving their financial position. There were some increases in expenses and most of that was due to Coronavirus

Relief Funds. Fund balance increased about \$6.3 million this year. We are often asked how much fund balance too much or how much is too little. We usually recommend about 15-20% of operating expenditures. We calculate that including the county's expenditures and we add the school boards. The fund balance as a percentage of that is about 31% and cash balance at about 26%. There is a report at the end that has some useful information about estimates, what we have requested, and it is a clean report. There are also management comments that do not have to be included in the report. There are a number of comments this year, the county did not have a finance director for 9 months of the year. I expect next year we will have very few. The new Gatsby 87 will have to be adopted by the county in this fiscal year. The audit went well, the county is in good shape. We wrote up several things but that is to be expected when the county didn't have a Finance Director.

Mr. Collins said that several people in his district have asked about when we went to twice a year taxes, as we have went from \$8 million to \$24 million. You made the statement tonight that collecting that one extra time helped us to go up to that point. That is a one-time fix, is that correct?

Mr. Jones replied yes sir.

Mr. Collins told it is a one time fix so if we spend that money we go backwards minus the interest. The only way we can do it is to go to three times a year, it is just a one time fix.

Mr. Jones replied correct. It also accomplished a couple different things. It not only increased your fund balance to probably an acceptable level, it also provided for better cash flow. You are getting half of the year in June helps you make it until the end of the year. It is an easy fix for a county, but you can't go back.

CITIZENS TIME

Nelson Montgomery stated he wanted to explain the water situation he and others have in Dugspur. He lives 4 miles north of the elementary school and has lived there for over 30 years. They have a spring that they have used for all this time, and it was used by his father before that, and it has never run dry. Right now, it is not absolutely dry, but the trickle of water they are getting forces them to come to town to shower, get water for flushing and drinking. This happened a couple years ago, but not as it is now. We are currently in a drought, and it has worsened each year. We are just here to ask for your assistance in trying to get County water down our road in Dugspur. I think the water system goes to the elementary school, and we live 4 miles beyond the school. He states he appreciates any help that can be given.

Rebecca Phillips states she has exactly the same problem as the previous speaker. We have to buy water to flush the commode and senior citizens live on fixed incomes. Buying water is not something I had in my budget for the year. She explained that it affects cooking and cleaning house. She states she knows we are spending millions of dollars on internet, and it's important,

but you can live without internet. You cannot live without water. I am hoping you can get others to understand that basics need to be met, and then we can worry about luxuries.

Jean Hughes states she is here for the same reason and to attest to the need and interest that extends throughout Dugspur. It's a long route we are talking about, which is a main road from here to Roanoke. We are not asking for something way out in the sticks; this is straight down the main road. I moved back here after being gone for about 30 years and was surprised we still do not have water in Dugspur. We live 7 miles from Hillsville down 221. We are now on our second well; third drilling; we got water, however to use it and drink it, we had to put in a \$7,000 water filtration system. That systems costs about \$500 per year to maintain. My father went to every home in Dugspur on 221 several years ago, and they said yes, they would like water. Whether they would connect, I don't know. But they are looking at their children, and if you want to look at progress, you have to look ahead. It can open up so many things for that whole 17 miles from Hillsville to Willis, stores, a gas station, irrigation, all kinds of things. Have to look at return on investment; it's not cheap, but it's doable. I hope you seriously consider.

Tracy Moore reported that this is a Public Service Authority issue and that board meets at 4:00 p.m. A lot of us are members of the PSA, and it can be brought up there to see what possibilities there are.

David Boatman welcomed new board members. He stated that on December 14, 2020, Mr. Hill asked the County Attorney to look into legal matters to address the sell of the Training Center Facility. On 6-14 Mr. Hill seconded the motion by Mr. McCraw instructing the Planning Commission to provide an ordinance addressing safety issues on the Training Center Facility and any facilities like this in Carroll County in 100 days. It's past 100 days, and I haven't seen this ordinance and would very much like to see something followed up on that. On 7-12, Mr. Hill made a motion, and it was passed, to ask for the land back. I understand we have sent a letter to the state; I don't know where that is; I don't know that we have an answer. If we don't have an answer, when people don't answer me in a legal matter, I instruct my attorney to file a motion in court, and the judge tells an answer. Hopefully we'd like to see something like that and have the state take a position on: we're giving it back or we're not giving it back. Today, I picked up the Galax Police Department report for the facility only at the location of The Life Center at Galax, 112 Painter's Street. We're still looking at 80-100 patients there in the last year. We're looking almost 350-400 calls in a year's time, medical and police. This year got a little out of hand; we're now looking at assault, drugs, larceny, suicide attempts, mental TDO's, fights. You have wanted persons, animal problems, trespassing, disorderly conduct, sexual offense; we're now adding rape. This is printable, you can ask for it. If you'd like for me to stick around at the end of the evening, you can look at it. We're now adding rape to those people coming into that facility. Everybody needs help. You know I am asking to try to keep my County safe, my neighborhoods safe; a lot of women live over there. I don't want to ever see something that could have been avoided on a rape printout because this facility was allowed to come in without putting up a heck of a fight. Mr. Durbin gave a pretty long spill last time of his legal opinion; it is that, his interpretation of the law. You all know that law is not black and white, it is an interpretation; you ask three attorneys, you get three different answers

sometimes. He was leaving out the two parcels that were given back to us last time in his interpretation until I brought it up, which he asked for. At that time, with him not bringing it up, he brought up in his statements that the land we can't ask for, for whatever reasons, because they have made improvements. There's 98 acres there; there's not improvements on all 98, which leaves 40 maybe 50. There's a lot of woods; a lot of land we could ask for under his interpretation. If we just asked for that land back because there are no improvements, that would be something for the County, and something's better than nothing. Thank you for your time.

Paul and Jennifer Barker - A statement received by the County Administrator's Office was read by Crystal Adams

I come before you tonight in written form to express some thoughts to you regarding an issue in our county that I have observed over the last few years. The issue is the safety of motorists traveling along Old Appalachian Trail. It is used as an access road for the Parkway for all commercial traffic and used as the main Thoroughfare for traffic when the Blue Ridge Parkway is closed. Let me first say I am aware you have extremely limited say so if any regarding the numerous closings of the Parkway during inclement weather. If you inquire your residents in that area, they will tell you that if it even looks like snow or bad weather the gates to the Parkway are closed. During these closures, Carroll residents are forced to utilize the access roads that crisscross back and forth over the Parkway, such as Old Appalachian Trail. It is not uncommon for closures to last weeks at a time. These access roads in the best of conditions can be difficult to navigate. It is important to mention that the largest portion of your fellow County residents that live along the Blue Ridge Parkway are proportionately older retirees who are drawn to the mountains of Carroll County and the Blue Ridge Parkway. For instance, my wife and I live in the Chalet High community on the Parkway and in our 50's, we are one of the youngest couples in our neighborhood. The vast majority of our neighbors are older. This raises significant concerns for them to travel along Old Appalachian Trail, which currently has many safety concerns in my opinion (as a 29yr veteran of Law Enforcement).

Some of those concerns are:

1. Unpaved portions of Road - A significant portion of Old Appalachian Trail is unpaved. This makes it probably the worst part of the entire road.
2. Width of Road - During inclement weather even when plowed for snow, it is extremely dangerous in several places when meeting another vehicle both drivers have to almost stop to safely pass each other.
3. Blind curves - Several locations with blind curves.
4. Muddy conditions - Inclement weather turns the unpaved portion into a muddy mess.
5. Poor road drainage - Standing water due to no or insufficient road drainage.
6. Long term issues - Bad conditions remains for days and weeks due to above mentioned issues, the situation is exasperated by the road traveling through wooded areas not allowing sun to dry road.

Old Appalachian Trail, especially the unpaved portion is not designed for significant amounts of traffic. I also remind you that all commercial vehicles are required to travel the access roads by

law. Additionally, and most importantly any Emergency Vehicles responding to Medical, or Fire related calls are required to utilize these access roads. I and others in my community are aware this has been brought before the Board of Supervisors before. Quite possibly none of you were serving in your current capacity at that time. We are also aware of a list of roads that VDOT works on by county. On behalf of numerous residents in this part of Carroll County we are asking you as a board to prioritize this issue on behalf of many of your constituents that live in the Fancy Gap area. We would ask you to request from VDOT that Old Appalachian Trail to be widened according to VDOT standards and pave the remaining unpaved portions of Old Appalachian Trail. I am sure several of you are aware and have traveled Old Appalachian Trail during inclement weather. For those of you that haven't, I would be more than willing to provide to you pictures of the road conditions. If needed, we can obtain for you an extensive list of names and signatures of your fellow Carroll County residents that are being negatively affected by this issue and ask for your action in this matter. However, we feel confident that upon learning of this issue you will help us work toward a solution. I want to thank you for taking the time to hear us out regarding this issue and we look forward to hopefully seeing some action taken in 2022. Thank each of you for your dedicated service to our County.

PAYMENT OF INVOICES

Mr. Joey Dickson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rex Hill, to approve the payment of invoices.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Ronnie Collins	Rex Hill
	Joey Dickson	Tracy Moore
	Jody Early	

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Robbie McCraw

MINUTES

Mr. Jody Early made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ronnie Collins, to approve the minutes as presented.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Ronnie Collins	Rex Hill
	Joey Dickson	Tracy Moore
	Jody Early	

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Robbie McCraw

NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mr. Ronnie Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Joey Dickson, to approve the Consent Calendar.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Ronnie Collins	Rex Hill
	Joey Dickson	Tracy Moore
	Jody Early	

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Robbie McCraw

VDACS – SPOTTED LANTERNFLY

Kyle Rhodes, Crew Supervisor for the Spotted Lanternfly Program with the Office of Plant Industry Services, spoke to the Board about spotted lanternflies, an invasive species. The presentation is on file in the County Administrator’s Office.

Supervisor Early asked if aerial spraying is a possibility. Mr. Rhodes stated he thinks they are looking for a similar solution to this as they are the gypsy moth. Right now, there is no pheromone or broad scale available.

REGIONAL LIBRARY – TRISH FORE

Trish Fore with the Galax-Carroll Regional Library presented fiscal year 2021 statistics and current programs. We invite all of you to swing by the library and get a card. On February 8th the Galax Carroll Regional Library will celebrate its 40th anniversary and we are going to celebrate big. You can visit our website, social media and YouTube site. On September 7th we began following CDC guidelines. We do have outside Wi-Fi that was made available through covid funds. The Regional Library Board of Trustees has voted to try going fine free for one year in celebration of the 40th Anniversary. We would like to ask the Carroll County Board of Supervisors to proclaim February 7-11 as Galax Carroll Regional Library Week. The desire of the library is to be an active county department.

Mr. Moore read the following resolution:

A Resolution proclaiming February 7-11, 2022 to be Galax-Carroll Regional Library Week;

WHEREAS, the Galax-Carroll Regional Library has been serving our community in myriad ways for forty years; and

WHEREAS, said library is an excellent resource in the community because of its excellent staff, services, and facilities; and

WHEREAS, our library serves as a great equalizer of knowledge by providing free access to all; and

WHEREAS, our library works to meet the changing needs of our citizens, including building collections, expanding outreach services, and increasing programming; and

WHEREAS, our library provides a forum for diverse ideas and points of view that help us better understand each other and ourselves; and

WHEREAS, our librarians are trained professionals, helping people of all ages and backgrounds find and interpret the information they need to live, learn, and work; and

WHEREAS, our librarians design and offer programs to meet the community's economic needs, providing residents with job-seeking resources; and

WHEREAS, our libraries are places for education, opportunity, and lifelong learning; and

WHEREAS, libraries, librarians, library workers, and supporters across America are celebrating National Library Lovers Month.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Carroll County Board of Supervisors that:

SECTION 1. This Board hereby proclaims February 7-11, 2022 to be Galax-Carroll Regional Library Week in the County of Carroll and urges all residents to visit the library during this week to take advantage of the wonderful resources available.

SECTION 2. The Board also recognizes that 2022 is the 40th Anniversary year for the Galax-Carroll Regional Library and encourages citizens and visitors to engage with the celebratory activities throughout the year in support of the library's continual support and uplifting of the community for the past forty years.

Supervisor Ronnie Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Joey Dickson, to approve the Regional Library resolution.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Ronnie Collins	Rex Hill
	Joey Dickson	Tracy Moore
	Jody Early	

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Robbie McCraw

HOPE, INC – JORDAN STIDHAM

Mr. Jordan Stidham, the Director of Real Estate, Housing and Development for Hope, Inc., presented information to the Board about the non-profit. He told he grew up in Grayson County and went away for college. I am in the career field of accounting and business and want to help give back to non-profit groups. I proposed a state law recently to change the way they determine funding for counties based on the percent of land use that is agricultural. I submitted to Supervisor McCraw an idea to do a property tax refund for all first responders that live and own property to help with retention. I also do volunteer accounting and business structuring for nonprofits. I accepted a job at the beginning of September with Hope as their Director of Real Estate, Finance and Development. We are a 501(c) (3) nonprofit. We offer housing security and food security. On the food side we have the Open-Door Café, and we also do Hope packs. On the housing side we help people who are homeless or critically at risk of being homeless. We place them in temporary housing and find them long term rentals. We pay their security deposit and a couple months' rent. We also provide rental property. We keep rent set below market value. We have 14 low-income units in Carroll County, Hillcrest Apartments. I am running a feasibility study on a 16-acre piece of land and also looking at a quadplex. Hope is a little over 90% funded by grants and donations. On the Carroll County property, we are currently paying real estate tax. As a 501 (c)(3), I am here to request that our property be made tax exempt. I believe it is just under \$4000. I hope you will consider removing the tax status on that property

Mr. Hill asked Mr. Stidham if he had contacted the Town of Hillsville regarding tax status. Mr. Stidham reported this is the first step and board he has spoken to.

Mr. Dickson asked Mr. Stidham if he is planning to build additional facilities in Carroll County. Mr. Stidham said he is currently looking at a 16-acre plot of land and a possible quadplex.

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER – ASHLEY MANUAL

Ashley Manual told that she is with the Family Resource Center which is a nonprofit agency that provides services to the community and survivors of domestic and sexual violence. We are bringing a new program to the Sheriff's Office, the Lethality Assessment Program. We discussed it last year because there is a need, but because of COVID restrictions it has been up and down trying to have meetings. The Lethality Assessment Program is sanctioned by the Attorney General's Office and is sponsored by the Department of Criminal Justice. They decided a few years ago that it would be a good idea if our law enforcement had a screening tool that would help them access victims of intimate partner violence that were at the highest risk of being killed or seriously injured. They brought this program out of Maryland down to Virginia and we started piloting this program in 2019 with the Grayson County Sheriff's Office and we have now expanded to Galax, Independence and now Carroll County. When we

talked to Sheriff Kemp, the year before they had received over 300 domestic violence calls. This program gives the officers a screening tool to see who the victim is. I carry a cell phone with me 24 hours a day and have for the past three years. When they are on scene and in need to emergency shelter, hospital accompaniment, and we are able to talk to the victims. Victims are more likely to take help if they get it in the first few minutes of contact with law enforcement verses waiting. The first year of this program, I was getting married and the week of my wedding I received 10 calls alone. To date we have had about 150 calls come in and this is strictly on intimate partner violence incidents. We are very excited to get this program going in Carroll.

Regina Eller told I am the Community Response Director. We have been around since 1983, and I have been with the program for almost 35 years. We were started by a group of citizens in the community. We are always trying to do what we can to take the services out into the county. We offered specialized therapy and assessment. We provide legal and court accompaniment. We do medical accompaniment, and we have a 24-hour hotline. Our services are provided to individuals and families of all ages. Last year in Carroll we provided shelter to 193 people, and we provided general services. Our shelter request went up 200% last year. Previously we received \$6000 in the budget, and we have to bring in local match dollars. If we do not have the percent of local match dollars our funding will be cut on grants. We didn't receive anything this past year and the truth is we need \$7000 to cover the lap services in this area. That would bring us to a breakeven point with the lap money, but it still would not bring us back up with the \$6000. We are trying to keep people alive.

Mr. Ronnie Collins asked about the number of clients served in Carroll County. Ms. Eller responded that 63 were served in calendar year 2021. They expect that number to increase because of the assessment program.

Mr. Collins asked if referrals are accepted from anywhere, to which Ms. Eller responded yes, from anywhere. I am asking you to consider the funding.

Mr. Moore asked the County Administrator if the Resource Center can apply for funding through the County's non-profit grant application. Mr. Watson replied he thinks we would have to increase the grant value, but yes, they could apply.

Mr. Watson pointed out that the 990 Form from the Resource Center shows they have less employees than volunteers and asked if that is correct. Ms. Eller said that is correct, and DCJS requires this. It has been more difficult with COVID to utilize volunteers.

At this point, 8:20 p.m., Chairman Moore called for a break. The meeting resumed 10 minutes later.

TWIN COUNTY E-911

Chuck Edwards told they are here to discuss the Radio System. This is a shared system with the Sheriff's Office, Carroll Fire & Rescue as well as the volunteer squads in the county. Much of the current system was built over 20 years ago and some of the equipment was refreshed with the Homeland Security Grant in 2008. Agencies are individually pursuing grants to improve coverage which threatens interoperability during multi-agency responses. The Radio Task Force was formed containing Carroll, Grayson and the City of Galax. The task force was able to secure a grant through VDEM to conduct a needs and assessment plan. That was conducted and assigned to federal engineering. They came in and looked at all our sites and did interviews with users. They determined that much of the equipment was at the near end of product life cycle. They came up with two recommendations. Alternative one is upgrading the Carroll, Grayson and Galax land mobile radio system to a VHF P25 conventional, digital, simulcast system. That is the primary recommendation. Alternative two is upgrading to a VHF DMR. Currently we are weighing out how to make short term repairs in a way to minimize short term expenses. In your package you will see some cost estimates. There is a substantial amount of difference between the alternatives. Once the assessment was complete, we were able to have a joint board session to disclose the findings. It was agreed on as importance to continue to offer interoperability to public safety, commit to find funding for digital radio system whether it be grants, ARP, Opioid Lawsuit settlement, vendor leasing or public safety tax. The next steps, we have been able to submit a grant but there is a low chance of receiving. The RFP has been issued and proposals are due back in March. We know the county is currently in budget cycle, so we wanted to get information to you.

Mr. Rex Hill asked if this is based off our current towers. Mr. Edwards replied yes. They did look at adding additional towers, but the sites that were suggested did not show any value. We pretty much have the best sites; we may just have to work on doing more elevation. Most of the towers in Carroll we do own or have a long-term lease.

FEDERAL GRANT POLICIES

Justin Martin, Carroll County Finance Director, presented federal grant policies to the board. Steve Durbin stated he has reviewed them and has offered a few edits. He stated this is to have a policy document in place so the auditors will have something to refer to, but it is policy the County has already been following.

Supervisor Rex Hill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Joey Dickson, to adopt the Federal Grant Policy as presented.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Ronnie Collins	Rex Hill
	Joey Dickson	Tracy Moore
	Jody Early	

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Robbie McCraw

CARROLL RESPONSE TRUCK

Mr. Watson told we received a request from Pipers Gap. They have a 2008 GMC response truck. All of the vehicles that are used for Emergency Services are titled through the county and we pay the insurance. They are wanting to trade that vehicle in for a newer model response vehicle. Our records do not show us paying for the original 2008 vehicle.

Supervisor Joey Dickson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ronnie Collins, to transfer the title of the Pipers Gap Rescue Squad response truck to Pipers Gap Rescue Squad.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Ronnie Collins	Rex Hill
	Joey Dickson	Tracy Moore
	Jody Early	

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Robbie McCraw

OLD BUSINESS

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Joey Dickson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ronnie Collins, to appoint Freddie Bobbitt to the Social Services Board.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Ronnie Collins	Rex Hill
	Joey Dickson	Tracy Moore
	Jody Early	

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Robbie McCraw

Mr. Ronnie Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Joey Dickson, to appoint Donnette Moore to the Planning Commission.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: Ronnie Collins Rex Hill
 Joey Dickson Tracy Moore
 Jody Early

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Robbie McCraw

Mr. Rex Hill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Joey Dickson, to adopt a policy to require that at least one Twin County Airport Commission member be a sitting member of the Carroll County Board of Supervisors and to direct the County Administrator to prepare a resolution to this effect.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: Ronnie Collins Rex Hill
 Joey Dickson Tracy Moore
 Jody Early

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Robbie McCraw

Mr. Ronnie Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rex Hill to appoint Supervisor Jody Early to the Twin County Airport Commission to replace Dr. Tom Littrell, effective immediately, and with that to thank Dr. Littrell for his service.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: Ronnie Collins Rex Hill
 Joey Dickson Tracy Moore

ABSTAIN: Jody Early

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Robbie McCraw

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Joey Dickson thanked the citizens and everyone who came out; it was good to see everyone. I look forward to working with everyone. I learned a lot tonight. Two things I noticed: Hope House and Family Resource are not asking for a lot of money for the services they provide, and I would like to see if we can help them. We definitely need to do something with the towers. They were a problem when I dispatched years ago, and it hasn't gotten better obviously. I appreciate you all working on something for that, and we need to work with you so hopefully you can get it fixed soon.

Mr. Ronnie Collins stated he wanted to reiterate what Joey said and thank everyone who came out, all of the citizens who came, and the ones who presented, the passion you have for what you do; I appreciate that very much. On behalf of the audit presentation that was made, I want to make a point. Where I was elected to serve in the Fancy Gap district, we have gone from \$8 million to \$24 million, and if I heard him (Mr. Jones) right, it is recommended that you have a high end of \$25 million with 31% (fund balance). That being said, I have heard citizens say the County is probably in the best shape it has been in many years, but its citizens feel like they have been neglected the most they have been in many years. So, I want to change that. One of the things I see in this report is, we spend money on education, and we have to do that; we spend money on public safety, and we have to do that; I hope we can spend more. Community and economic development; parks and recreation; there are things I want to see us focus on and put some resources into and put some planning into. I want Carroll County to be a place where people want to come and live and raise their families, and where people want to retire, and where people want to come and find recreation. It is a great place to live as far as I am concerned, but we can offer more. We put out an RFP to see about getting the Cana Convenience Center back online. That was one of those things that was taken away, so I hope we can do that. I appreciate these board members; I believe we will all work together to do the best that we can do. I appreciate Mike Watson for the job that he does. I worked with him a short time, and on the EDA Board we got to work together some too, and I just appreciate the job that he does. I just believe Carroll County's best days are before them, and I am excited about that.

Mr. Rex Hill thanked everyone for coming and participating. Like always, it's good when citizens come and speak with us.

Mr. Jody Early stated he would like to echo what has been said previously by other board members. I consider it a privilege to be able to serve the County and look forward to the challenges we have and working towards solutions. And again, the passion that everyone shows is greatly appreciated. I apologize for the length of the meeting tonight. Being the first meeting of the year, that's kind of to be expected. Mr. Collins brought up the fact that our fund balance is where it is, and that's really good. It's higher than it needs to be, and some people in the County do feel like they've been neglected. Parts of the County that have been neglected are in my district and the Dugspur area of Pine Creek, and I want to see that change. Part of that is the PSA, the water, the sewer, where a major artery like 221, and the water stops at the

elementary school, less than one mile outside of the town limits of Hillsville. I find that unacceptable, and I challenge the PSA to try to work solutions, to find grant money, whatever they need to do to give people the option to be able to have better lives. The reason our kids leave is because of infrastructure, things like water, sewer and broadband. I have a hot spot at my house, and the only reason I can use that is because Sprint, now T-Mobile, put up a tower within 3 miles of my house. It's way past time that we have broadband throughout the County, and I know Mr. Watson is working on that, and I greatly appreciate his efforts. I want to see something happen to where we stop talking about this. In 1999, Centurylink told me they were going to bring DSL out past my house; it still isn't there. If you read the survey Design Nine did, and I think they did a decent job, residential customers responded, businesses - not so much. I think the underlying theme is: broadband in this County is non-existent. "Providers like Centurylink," I am quoting a comment, "suck," and that's in the survey. So it's time to put that behind us and start providing our citizens with the tools they need to bring business here, to keep our kids here so they can make decent livings. Water, sewer and broadband are big priorities while I am here.

Back in December, there was a motion to abandon a section of Route 683, Stonewall Road in the Fancy Gap area of Carroll County. It passed, and there was an amendment made to the motion that the County reserve the right for easement for future growth in water and sewer. After looking it over, that is not necessary on this particular abandonment.

Supervisor Jody Early made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rex Hill, that we delete the requirement for an easement for future growth of water and sewer on the property of the Route 683, Stonewall Road abandonment.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Ronnie Collins	Rex Hill
	Joey Dickson	Tracy Moore
	Jody Early	

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Robbie McCraw

Mr. Tracy Moore stated he wanted to ditto what the board, his colleagues, have said tonight. It's an exciting time to see a new board, a new opportunity to grow, and I look forward to that opportunity. I am very thankful and honored that you put your faith and trust in me to be the chairman this year and hope I can serve the board and citizens within the best of my capabilities. One of my goals as chair this year: we have a budget goal questionnaire that Mr. Watson has fixed, and I would like to see it go a step further. By the 24th budget work session, the Board come with their goals and things they would like to do because every district has something different. I would like to see staff take them and prioritize them and not only come up with a list of objectives for the Board and the County Administrator to work on, but maybe

put it on Facebook or the County website so citizens can interact with the survey to see what their needs are. As Mr. Early said, internet/broadband is one of the reasons I chose to run and take up the office. I feel like we are so underserved in our community. I guess we are all on Embarq/Centurylink, but they got a grant from the federal government to run fiber optics down 221, and it goes near my house. It is just sitting there; no one has hooked to it. It covers a lot of the trunk of Laurel Fork and Pine Creek without a single customer on it. It is frustrating. I appreciate Mike and all his efforts to work on this. We are trying a lot of different options. I know Mr. Durbin and the Board worked a lot on the Training Center property, and we hope we can eventually get some resolution to that.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

None

COUNTY ATTORNEY COMMENTS

None

BUDGET WORK SESSION

Supervisor Ronnie Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rex Hill, to hold a budget work session on January 24, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Ronnie Collins	Rex Hill
	Joey Dickson	Tracy Moore
	Jody Early	

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Robbie McCraw

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ronnie Collins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jody Early, to adjourn.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Ronnie Collins	Rex Hill
	Joey Dickson	Tracy Moore
	Jody Early	

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Robbie McCraw

Chairman