

August 10, 2020

The Carroll County Board of Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on August 10, 2020 in the Board Meeting Room of the Carroll County Governmental Center.

**Members Present:**

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

**Staff Present:**

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

**CALL 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 Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Robbie McCraw to enter into Closed Meeting under Section 2.2-3711- A5, A7, A8

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

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	Joe Webb
	Robbie McCraw	Tom Littrell
	Phillip McCraw	Tracy Moore

NAYS:       None

Mr. Moore lead in invocation and pledge.

Dr. Littrell thanked everyone for coming, I want to add one thing to the agenda just before the adjournment and that is Supervisors Time.

**CITIZENS TIME**

Mr. Danny Cassell thanked the Supervisors for the time to speak. I know with the COVID virus you are trying to throw stuff down our throat like raising the taxes, pay taxes twice a year, talking about closing the market, adding \$0.15 on

the market and I don't think it is right. I believe you need a new County Administrator; I got the feathers if anybody has got the tar and we will send him back to Wythe County. If my last name was McCraw, I would be worried about running again.

### COME OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

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

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

### CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Moore made a motion 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.

Mr. Robbie McCraw seconded the motion.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

### PAYMENT OF INVOICES

Mr. Hill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Phillip McCraw to approve the Invoices as presented.

Mr. Webb told I noticed we are now spending a lot of money with local garages. I understand that this County closed its maintenance garage and I wonder if that is going to save us money. One of the vendors bill was almost \$5000. I wonder if the right choice was made in closing our garage.

Mr. Dalton replied that we had everyone signed up for EVA and we decided that after the first quarter we would compare what we were paying to see how that turned out.

Dr. Littrell mentioned that the PSA brought up the same thing. We will revisit to see how we are doing.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Mr. Hill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore to approve the Consent Calendar as presented with the inclusion of Supervisors Time.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Mr. Robbie McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore to pass the minutes from the previous meetings on July 13, 2020.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

### **BUSINESS RECOGNITION**

Mr. Moore presented Marvin Sharpe with F&M Construction with a business recognition. I thought long and hard about who I was going to pick. I chose one that had been in business a long time.

Dr. Littrell stated that Mr. Phillip McCraw will have the business for the next meeting.

### **PUBLIC HEARING – CARES ACT FUNDS**

Dr. Littrell opened the Public Hearing at 6:10 p.m. This is to amend the FY21 Budget to include \$2,599,150 in Cares Act Funds.

Mr. Dalton explained that Carroll County received notice from the Governors Office that we were in line to receive another \$2,599,150 in Cares Act Funds. We have signed the required certification. Since this amount exceeds the amount, we need to have this amended and appropriated to the budget.

Dr. Littrell closed the Public Hearing at 6:12 p.m.

Mr. Hill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Robbie McCraw to amend and appropriate \$2,599,150 from CARES Act funds to the FY21 budget.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### ***COVID Update – Dr. Karen Shelton***

Dr. Shelton presented a brief update regarding COVID -19. She discussed the metrics and percent positivity. The County needs to continue to do testing and be diligent with following social distancing guidelines, wearing face coverings, and washing hands frequently.

Mr. Webb asked if the schools are safe enough to open up on the schedule as presented.

Dr. Shelton responded that she has been talking with the Superintendents in all of the districts. Opening up schools is vital to our children but there is the danger of contracting the virus. There are pros and cons in both directions and those were discussed.

#### ***Smart Scale Support Resolution***

Mr. Robbie McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hill to approve the Smart Scale Support Resolution.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

#### ***Health Insurance Credit***

Mr. Dalton stated that we don't participate in the Virginia Retirement System Health Insurance Credit which is a credit once you retire you get based off the years' service a few dollars a month up to a maximum. I would ask permission of the Board to send a letter requesting they conduct the study that is required so we can bring the information back to the Board for consideration.

Mr. Hill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore to approve sending a letter to request an actuary study for the Health Insurance Credit.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

#### ***EDA Request***

Dr. Littrell stated that the EDA has requested to be included in the County Administrator selection. Unless someone overrules me, we will take that under advisement because we are not quite there yet.

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Mr. Webb replied when you say we are not quite there yet, we have already taken applications.

Dr. Littrell replied, as far as the selection.

Mr. Webb stated, I thought we were going to discuss that tonight in closed session and we didn't.

Dr. Littrell explained, I have asked Rex to be with me and we are going to go through the list and narrow down the selection.

Mr. Webb asked if he is not going to include the whole Board in the selection process.

Dr. Littrell told this may not be the final selection, but it will get us down to where we have a more manageable group.

Mr. Webb replied, there again you are letting two of six people decide who we get to choose from. I don't agree with that. All six of us represent people.

Dr. Littrell responded, if everyone else agrees with that I don't mind. This is just the way we have done it in the past and it worked well to eliminate those who were not qualified.

Mr. Phillip McCraw stated that he is not in favor of including the EDA, I think it should be the Board that picks the County Administrator.

Mr. Webb replied, I am going to counter you on that. Whoever we pick as County Administrator is their Executive Director. I understand what they are saying, they should have a say so in who is going to be their Executive Director unless we change it to where the County Administrator is not the Director.

Mr. Phillip McCraw responded, they are appointed by the Board.

Mr. Hill told that last time we did this everybody evaluated it, well most everyone. They can do that and send them in. We can look at all candidates. We had two last time and then the other group did the initial interviews and then the full board did the final interviews.

Dr. Littrell asked if everyone could look at the candidates and come up with 6 or 7 that you think are the best of the bunch.

Mr. Robbie McCraw told that Michelle had prepared a scoring spreadsheet and we made a list to pool from.

Mr. Dalton ask that the Board recess tonight and come back to a closed meeting to go through the applications as a group. Michelle can provide a matrix to grade those.

Mr. Moore suggested Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

Dr. Littrell stated that the second request from the EDA is a request from the Board for funding in the amount of \$703,704 for payment of to the PSA.

Mr. Hill responded that it is a bill that has never been paid by the EDA and has been in effect since 2008.

Mr. Robbie McCraw told I feel like some responsibility of this fee should fall back on BRCEDA on the Exit 19 agreements.

Mr. Dalton requested that the Board ask the County Attorney to review Virginia Code and see if there is a means to develop a capacity fee that can be charged

on a monthly or annual basis to BRCEDA as part of the billing system. I think it would require a public hearing, but he needs to determine if it is legal, how you go about it and make a recommendation back to the PSA because they would have to set that rate.

Mr. Durbin stated that he has the direction he needs.

Mr. Robbie McCraw asked if he was right in understanding that BRCEDA assumes no responsibility in this previously, but if a business ever does come to Exit 19 they will receive part of the revenues.

Mr. Dalton replied they will receive 100% of the revenues.

### ***Delinquent Tax List Request***

Mr. Hill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Phillip McCraw to request the Treasurer to provide a list of delinquent taxes pursuant to VA Code Section 58.1-3924.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

### ***PSA Invoices***

Mr. Dalton explained that we act as the payroll person for the PSA and at the end of the month we bill the PSA for the actual expenses. They have not been paid since last July.

Mr. Hill asked if we have sent a bill.

Mr. Dalton responded, these are copies of the actual invoices.

Mr. Hill replied, they can either pay or do their own payroll.

Dr. Littrell stated that his understanding is they paid the June bill and would pay the rest this budget year.

Mr. Moore asked if the \$700,000 in the budget for 2019.

Dr. Littrell replied it was.

### ***Robinson Farmer Cox Engagement Letter***

Mr. Hill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Robbie McCraw to approve for the County Administrator and the Chairman to sign the Engagement Letter with Robinson, Farmer & Cox.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

***United Way Memorandum of Agreement***

Mr. Robbie McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hill to accept the Memorandum of Agreement with the United Way.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS:       None

***End of Year Financial Report***

Mr. Dalton explained this is a report from the Treasurer. Last year, June 30, 2019 we had \$6.8 million and this year we have \$14.3 million. In June we collected a little over \$3 million in taxes. This total amount includes the extra \$3 million in taxes and \$2.5 million in COVID money.

Mr. Hill told it looks like we are close to being on target for collections.

Mr. Dalton explained that it has exceeded what we had anticipated collecting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

***CARES Act Funding***

Mr. Dalton shared a handout showing the requests that have come in for the Cares Act funds. The County has received over \$5.1 million that must be spent by December 30<sup>th</sup> on eligible items. At the top of the list is an ambulance rebuild for Carroll Fire & Rescue and all requests and designations are listed on your sheet. The biggest questions are the ambulances to get ordered, the telework and servers have a long wait time and I would ask the Board to approve the items with long lead times. The Board has delayed purchasing ambulances, and this will start us into a progression of getting new ambulances.

Mr. Robbie McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hill to move forward with purchasing the two ambulances, telework equipment and servers.

Mr. Hill commented that the rest of the list is pretty much just expenditures as they come in I am assuming.

Mr. Moore asked if any of the Town's items need to be ordered.

Mr. Dalton replied, I believe. Some of the items listed are part of what the Town requested. We intend to send a request to and ask the Town to sign the original agreement that we sent over so that they can order as well.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS:       None

Mr. Dalton explained that we had a discussion with the Volunteer Rescue. We are looking to put a first responder in every rescue squad and do some things to increase the coverage. Hopefully by the next meeting we can have that back to the Board.

### ***Storage Tank Closure Report***

Mr. Dalton stated that DEQ has accepted the report for the storage tank closure.

### ***Committee Appointments***

Dr. Littrell stated that he has asked Mr. Moore and Mr. Webb to be members of the Hillsville Liaison Committee that will meet with Town council members.

Mr. Robbie McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore to reappoint Mary Leonard to the Regional Library.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS:       None

Mr. Robbie McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Phillip McCraw to appoint Rex Hill to the Public Service Authority.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS:       None

ABSTAIN:   Rex Hill

Mr. Hill stated that he would like to interview the people who have applied for EDA.

Mr. Dalton asked if the applicants can be interviewed in Closed Session.

Mr. Durbin replied yes.

### ***Land Use Ordinance***

Mr. Durbin explained that we have had some discussions in the past about changes to the ordinance. Regardless if the County wants to make changes, there are some tweaks that need to be made such as timelines for filing. We are asking to have a Public Hearing to adopt those minor changes at the least.

Mr. Dalton asked if we can add the Public Hearing for the Real Estate Tax Exemption for the Elderly and Disabled as well.

Mr. Hill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Phillip McCraw to hold a Public Hearing during the September meeting regarding the Land Use Ordinance and the Real Estate Tax Exemption for Elderly and Disabled.

Mr. Hill stated, this is not to redo the Land Use Ordinance it is just to make the specific changes.

Mr. Durbin replied that is correct. Because we have gone to twice per year tax collection some of the filing deadlines will need to change. This would be for the filing dates and filing fee. This is not to repeal the Land Use Ordinance.

Roll call vote was as follows:



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

NAYS: None

## **POLE PROJECT**

Mr. Moore stated that he would like to see something done with the Pole Project in the coming weeks and get the County Administrator involved. With all of the kids that are going to be at home doing school we need to look at it. Maybe we can bring them in to discuss franchise agreements.

Mr. Dalton responded that we had a virtual meeting last month with Mt. Rogers, VIAA, Broadband group from TROF and Gigabeam. They are working on an application to move that forward and coming up with a schedule to maximize the current grant. We are supposed to meet again next week to see where we are on the estimates. They are also doing an analysis to see where the poles need to be to serve the maximum amount. Under the current regulations you can not duplicate current broadband services.

Mr. Moore asked if Xfinity is giving free hotspots.

Mr. Dalton replied there is a map that shows the locations of the hotspots.

Mr. Moore asked if we could get that posted.

Ms. Adams replied, it is already on our website.

Mr. Dalton stated that we sent the information to the school system so that all of the kids are aware.

Mr. Robbie McCraw asked if Xfinity is going to have a representative here for the franchise agreement.

Mr. Dalton told we can request it.

Mr. Moore asked if we can speak to Citizens too.

Mr. Dalton replied, I can call them.

## **SUPERVISORS TIME**

Mr. Webb stated that this Board set aside some money for nonprofits because we didn't include any nonprofits in our budget. We amended that and set aside an amount of money and was told they would be able to apply. Has anything been done because they are not aware of it. I got a call from Laurel Fork Community Center wanting to know about the money, how to apply so has anything been done.

Dr. Littrell replied, it was \$25,000 and my understanding was they were to make application after July.

Ms. Adams stated that it is on our website and we have received four applications to date so it is out there and people are responding.

Mr. Webb told so many people don't look at the website. I also received a request from Galax Fire Department. I will read it, we have heard some talk that the County is going to request that the fire departments that get reimbursed are going to have to submit what their annual allocations are spent on, do you know if this is the truth. I don't know what to tell them.

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Mr. Dalton replied, we discussed that during the budget. We did request that everyone on the volunteer side provide some kind of a budget with financial documents where they had spent the money that the County had sent them.

Mr. Webb responded, evidentially they didn't get that information. I will get back in touch with him and tell him yes. There is a lot of stuff that has been rumors to me floating around that the prices that the farmers are going to have to pay this fall at the Farmers Market have been increased and I would like to know if that is true and why.

Mr. Dalton responded, the boxes that we buy, we have increased the price of those. We discussed that as we were going through the budget. Mr. Semones gave us a low end, a middle end and a high end. We had not changed the price in the reimbursable boxes and we were actually losing money on boxes and services. We were keeping people over there working overtime and loading for them and doing their work for them and we didn't include an overtime rate to use the equipment center. We will have to eventually replace that stuff and there has always been rates for that, we just never charged them.

Mr. Hill stated, I suppose those rates haven't been updated since it came under the County.

Mr. Dalton replied, I don't know if they have ever been changed at all. We buy the boxes in bulk and they are still cheaper than if they bought them directly.

Mr. Webb asked if there is a rumor out there that the Market is for sale.

Mr. Dalton replied, the Market is not for sale. We have asked and Kevin is looking to see if there is a group out there to make a proposal to run that on their own. There has never been a formal request or anything else. Mr. Semones is talking with that group to see if they are interested in forming an association and see if they would want to do that.

Mr. Webb asked what is going on with GIS right now.

Mr. Dalton asked what do you mean.

Mr. Webb replied, we closed our GIS department and you informed us that Twin County 911 was going to service the County but it is my understanding, a rumor that they are not going to and that we have had to hire a consultant to come in and do the work, is that true.

Mr. Dalton replied, we have hired a consultant to come in and train the Commissioner of Revenue as they asked that they be trained. E-911 does issue the 911 addresses and keeps up the county map and sends us updates, that is part of the E-911 agreement and I have one in the office if you would like to see it.

Mr. Moore asked if they the ones doing the training for the Commissioner.

Mr. Dalton replied, we have hired someone to do the training, Jolena is not a certified trainer.

Mr. Webb stated, I am just going to be blunt because that is the way I am. All this stuff is done behind this Board's back. We are getting second hand information that this is being done. If we hired a consultant firm shouldn't it have been out for bid. We are spending county taxpayers money. If we were going to raise prices at the Farmers Market shouldn't this Board have had a say so in doing it instead of just being done behind our back. I just don't understand how business is being conducted now. Maybe I am totally wrong but I have a lot of people in the Laurel Fork district that is not happy with what is going up here right now, especially farmers. These people are betting on using that market this fall

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and now their prices have gone up and rumors out there that they are trying to sell it and get rid of it. I don't think the whole Board is being included in some of this decision making. I want to send my condolences to Tracy in the sudden loss of his father. I want to thank the people that did come out tonight and I hope you are not having as much trouble making sense of this thing as I am but I am really struggling with what all is going on. Hope everyone survived the earthquake yesterday. I wanted to talk about broadband but Tracy covered that.

Mr. Robbie McCraw thanked everyone for being here tonight. I went through these minutes tonight and looked at the PSA and where we are with it. Ultimately the County has that financial responsibility and moral obligation to oversee the debt that falls on the PSA. I think we need to consider or have staff to begin looking at maybe making a department for the County and do away with the PSA and make it a public service department.

Mr. Moore reiterated what Mr. Webb said about the Farmers Market. I know there were three different things back in the spring when we were going through the finances and budget, low end, middle end and high end and we went to the high end and maybe we should look at the rate there and see if we can back it down some to a point where it would help the farmers, especially all of the sudden. You plan stuff and budget and you think you can dictate your finances. With the pandemic, we really need our farmers to feed us. Also, thank everyone for the condolences, cards and prayers. It has been humbling and continue to keep us in your prayers. I do owe the citizens of Pine Creek an apology for the last couple of weeks it has been hard but hopefully I can get back in the game.

Mr. Phillip McCraw told Cana Convenience Center has been a hot topic. I have practically been called a liar because they lost \$60,000. The landfill does not belong to Carroll County. It costs us \$50 per ton to take it there, we pay help, borrow the landfill truck to bring it up here. We have been blessed to have the convenience center; the other districts don't have one. I can not run it and I thought about putting our salaries for being a supervisor but that is a lot less. We opened it up at \$4.00 a bag and some are unhappy about that. We did it for a quarter to see what it took to break even. Some cannot lift the bags and the worker said that he could lift it for the citizens. I've looked at everything I can, but it is not fair for the other districts to pitch in. We have a problem, help me solve it.

Mr. Hill thanked everyone for being here. Everyone needs to wear face coverings, social distance and wash their hands. This is going to get worse and we must be careful. Pray for everything and for this to go away. I paid \$29 to go to the landfill. I appreciate all the staff that has worked. How we have made it through this far without having our folks contaminated.

Dr. Littrell appreciates everyone that came out. We can have 23 people in the room. As things get better, we will try to increase that number. We do need to social distance and we can stop the transmission. Rhiannon Powers is going to be here from District III at the September meeting. It is amazing the opportunities and services they offer.

## **RECESS**

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Robbie McCraw to recess until August 12, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS:       None

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Chairman