

November 9, 2020

The Carroll County Board of Supervisors held a meeting on December 14, 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

Others:

Michael Watson
Crystal Adams
Steve Durbin

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Littrell called the meeting to out of recess at 4:30 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION – PURSUANT TO VIRGINIA CODE SECTION 2.2-3711

Supervisor Hill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, to enter into Closed Meeting under Section 2.2-3711- A1, A 5, A8.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

COME OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

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

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

A (8) Consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to permit the closure of a meeting merely because an attorney representing the public body is in attendance or is consulted on a matter.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Rex Hill	Joe Webb
	Robbie McCraw	Tom Littrell

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Phillip McCraw

Tracy Moore

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	Joe Webb
	Robbie McCraw	Tom Littrell
	Phillip McCraw	Tracy Moore

NAYS: None

Mr. Robbie McCraw lead in invocation and pledge.

CITIZENS TIME

No one was signed up for citizens' time.

PUBLIC HEARING – CONTINUITY ORDINANCE

Dr. Littrell opened the Public Hearing at 6:04 p.m.

Mr. Durbin explained the purpose of the ordinance.

With no one to speak, Dr. Littrell closed the Public Hearing at 6:06 p.m.

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

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

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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, seconded by Mr. Moore to approve the minutes.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

NEW BUSINESS

TWIN COUNTY AIRPORT

Mr. Aaron Brummitt gave an update on the Airport. As of right now all of the hangars are full. Last week we lost an airplane and the next day I was able to have that spot filled just because the demand is so high. We have a waiting list of 5 people. Our primary flight instructor has six active students, and they fly for a couple hours each time. We also have a new mechanic shop on site, and they work on higher end airplanes. Our traffic has been interesting. Our weekend warriors have picked back up to about normal, but our corporate has not really come back. They are the ones that make the larger fuel purchases, so we have lost a lot of revenue in that department. We have seen an increase in the utility companies and they are able to use the hangar space.

Mr. Robbie McCraw asked how many planes they can store.

Mr. Brummitt said right now, 21. That varies on the size of each plane. We do have some tie down space that is available.

Dr. Littrell mentioned that they have two kinds of fuel.

Mr. Brummitt replied that is correct. Most helicopters are using jet fuel. The smaller the plane is, they get down to using the avgas which is 100 octane loaded fuel. The increase in revenue is on the jet fuel size.

Mr. Hill asked if there are any plans to increase space.

Mr. Brummitt stated that they do plan to make a request for a grant to add more hangar space, but that will be 2 or 3 years out.

Dr. Littrell told that we appreciate your time.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Robbie McCraw to approve the Consent Calendar.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Rex Hill	Tom Littrell
	Phillip McCraw	Tracy Moore

Robbie McCraw

Joe Webb

NAYS: None

REASSESSMENT

Mr. Colavecchio stated that he works for Wampler Eanes and he was the job supervisor. We have done the last two reassessments in Carroll. Our company does most of our work here in Virginia and by the end of this year we will have completed 120 reassessments in about 53 different localities. I have been doing this for 40 years. The reason we do reassessments is because the state law requires it. Counties can go as long as 6 years between reassessments if they have a population of less than 50,000. I think you have been doing it every 4 to 5 years. We began in September of last year and we visited every property that we can get to. The county has GIS maps for large parcels that we could use or if we were not able to access the property. We changed our policy to allow for COVID. We completed the primary inspections in September, and we worked on new construction throughout the process. The main thing we look at besides the property are the sales and we looked at 2019 and 2020. Between the two there were around 750 sales. We also look at where the property is in the county. It has been stratified into neighborhoods and there are approximately 34 throughout the county. The ratio after our assessments came out to 96.3%. On a reassessment your goal is to assess at 100% of market value and that is almost impossible. In most years we would use just the prior year. COVID gets blamed for a lot of things and I think it has affected the market somewhat. When it started, I was concerned it was going to affect negatively, but it didn't, it did almost the opposite. Interest rates were dropped and that helps the market. Building costs and the demand for housing have gone up and all of those factors have contributed to the assessment. This is the first reassessment in 12 years that has created an overall increase in the assessed values. We did the reassessment in 2012 and those dropped about 12%. We did the reassessment in 2017 and that dropped the values about 1%. This is the first time you are really seeing an increase in 12 years. Notices were mailed out on December 1st and appeals will begin on December 15th. Taxpayers have until December 21st to file an appeal. The appeals will not be in person due to coronavirus. We will do some over the phone if it is required. We should complete the reviews by the end of the month and the results should be mailed out by mid-January. If there is additional new construction that will be included. As of today we have about 217 that are being appealed. We try to help the people as best we can. The perception is that an increase in the assessment is an automatic increase in taxes and most people are concerned about that.

Dr. Littrell asked how much the total value went up.

Mr. Colavecchio replied about 10%. Residential was the biggest part of that at 13%, agricultural at 6% and commercial at 2%.

Mr. Robbie McCraw stated that it seems the homeowners in the county are the ones bearing the largest part of the burden. I have some open land where there was no change in value at all and my homes goes up 30%. People are concerned, you say it is about 10% across the board. If we adjust the tax rate it will still affect the homeowners tremendously. I don't know what would have made a difference.

Mr. Colavecchio replied that a lot of the open land is in land use. Our market data showed that really the only place in the county where we raised in general open land values was in the south western part of the county.

Mr. Moore asked of the sales how many were open land.

Mr. Colavecchio replied about 10%. That was land but not all of it was agricultural.

Mr. Hill asked if you employed county residents.

Mr. Colavecchio replied I do not know if they worked on this job, but we have several that work for the company.

Mr. Hill stated that citizens cannot see what others property are to compare.

Mr. Colavecchio replied there are two lists, one is alphabetical order, and the other is by map number. We also have a printed copy in the Commissioners Office.

Dr. Littrell thanked Mr. Colavecchio for the presentation.

TRAINING CENTER – DAVID BOATMAN

Mr. Boatman stated that he lives in the Woodlawn community. It has been brought to my attention that the Life Center is looking to move into the old Training Center building. I did not know the facility was for sale or if there had been a public hearing. Once I found that it had not been listed with a real estate firm I started investigating. My local supervisor was unaware of this move as well as some delegates. Mr. Hill sent me an email from the previous administrator stating that this project is moving forward. They are looking to sell the property to Acadia Health. I checked with the neighbors and with the current employees with the Life Center in Galax. I found that there is a large amount of crime and problems associated in the community directly surrounding that facility. I have spoken with my neighbors and we all agree that we want people to get help and that rehabilitation is a good thing and jobs are welcome. We don't want the issues that are associated currently with the Life Center in Galax. I spoke with the Police Chief in Galax and the calls are 8 to 10 per month to the facility and 20 plus to the surrounding community. These crimes involve trespassing, breaking and entering, home invasion while families are home and that worries me because I have a wife and six children. These are not speculative numbers, they are actual. It is my understating is this deal is in the final stages and waiting to be signed in Richmond. BRCEDA had an option and were unable to fulfill it and that was changed to be able to sell. I am asking the Board to become involved in this. There could be an ordinance or zoning for these types of facilities that may have a problem of crime where they fence it and make sure that it is secure. I have spoke with the Sheriff and if he has to dedicated deputies' other areas of the county will suffer. The business should incur the brunt of those costs. We ask that there be a public hearing on the use of this property. The Sheriff explained that he would like to rent a security building at the Training Center to have an office. Acadia Health is looking at 125 beds and the people coming are not exactly people just trying to get help. The people coming will be ordered there as a prison reduction. Those people may not want to voluntarily stay there with no fence. That is not positive for this county. If our crime rate goes up everyone in the county pays and it makes us less attractive to business prospects. I ask if there is anything the Board can do. We as a community would like to know that we have safety at our own home.

Dr. Littrell replied that we will take it under advisement.

PARADISE ROAD ABANDONMENT

Mr. Newman stated that you have a request from four landowners along a discontinued portion of Paradise Lane. The Planning Commission has reviewed this and the recommendation from them is since this actually does connect two ends that are state maintained is for it to remain as a discontinued road in case there is a future need to be able to get through that area. One of the landowners has been a key contact and would like to speak with you about this issue.

Dr. Littrell asked if this is a VDOT right of way.

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Mr. Newman explained that once it is discontinued, it is turned over to the county and is no longer considered a VDOT issue. The request is to have it abandoned.

Dr. Littrell asked if it is a county position at this point.

Mr. Newman replied yes.

Mr. Durbin asked where we are in the process.

Mr. Newman stated that we are at the point where the Board decides whether they are going to accept this request or not. If they accept the request, we get into the Public Hearing and those types of things.

Mr. Craig Cadero thanked the Board for being able to address regarding this issue. This road is less than ½ mile and it has never been maintained because it is more like a carriage path and it is extremely dangerous. All the navigation apps show this as a way to get from Whitney Lane to Poplar Knob. Many people have tried to access the road and halfway through there is a creek that you have to cross. The dangerous part is one side is an abrupt cliff and someone is going to get hurt. The road has also become a dumping ground. My neighbors have asked us to speak on their behalf and they have signed a petition. There are no driveways off the road and there are other roads to use.

Mr. Robbie McCraw asked if this will land lock anyone if it is abandoned.

Mr. Newman replied they would still have access.

Mr. Hill asked where the Whites access.

Mr. Newman replied their property fronts on Rainbow.

Dr. Littrell asked if there are thoughts on gating.

Mr. Newman told it is illegal to gate a discontinued road.

Dr. Littrell asked for the reasoning for the Planning Commissions recommendation to not abandoning the road.

Mr. Newman replied in case it is needed for future access because it is connecting two end points that are both state maintained.

Mr. Webb asked if we abandon it what is stopping these people from going through there anyway.

Mr. Newman replied then there is no longer a right of way and the landowners can gate it.

Mr. Hill asked if the homeowners would be willing to allow the county to have an easement.

Mr. Cadero replied he would check with neighbors but that would not affect our concern.

Mr. Phillip McCraw asked if there could be signage put up not to travel the road.

Mr. Cadero replied that there are signs.

Mr. Newman responded, no one pays attention to signs. If you accept this request next we will have a public hearing.

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hill to hold a Public Hearing in February regarding the abandonment of this road.

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

NAYS: None

SHERIFF RESOLUTION

Mr. Robbie McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore to approve the resolution as presented.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

LITTER GRANT APPLICATION

Mr. Hill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore to approve and appropriate \$9077 for grant funds from DCR.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

3rd QUARTER APPROPRIATION

Mr. Hill asked if we have looked at the revenue.

Mr. Watson replied that there are some that are down, but it appears that we are fine to approve these appropriations.

Mr. Robbie McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore to approve the 3rd quarter appropriations.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

SCHOOL APPROPRIATION

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hill to approve and appropriate a security grant in the amount of \$98,400 from the Department of Education.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

PSA GRANT APPROPRIATION

Mr. Hill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Robbie McCraw to approve and appropriate \$9276.76 for a grant from DHCD and to authorize the County Administrator to sign all supporting documents.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

SET ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Mr. Robbie McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hill to set January 11, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. for the Organizational Meeting with the regular meeting to follow.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

OLD BUSINESS

VDOT PIPELINE PROJECT

The Board discussed potential projects that had not already been submitted and a list will be provided to VDOT for their consideration.

Dr. Littrell stated that if anyone had additional projects to get those to Mrs. Adams.

CARES ACT FUNDS

Mr. Robbie McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hill to appropriate the remaining Cares Act Funds as presented.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Hill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Robbie McCraw to appoint Jerry Sturgill to CPMT.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Rex Hill	Joe Webb
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Robbie McCraw
Phillip McCraw

Tom Littrell
Tracy Moore

NAYS: None

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Robbie McCraw to table the remaining appointments until January.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: Rex Hill
Robbie McCraw
Phillip McCraw

Joe Webb
Tom Littrell
Tracy Moore

NAYS: None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Phillip McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Robbie McCraw to authorize the County Administrator or County Attorney to address the situation at Hardy Boys with DEQ.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: Rex Hill
Robbie McCraw
Phillip McCraw

Joe Webb
Tom Littrell
Tracy Moore

NAYS: None

Mr. Webb thanked all of our staff for doing a good job this year, it has been tough. I want to wish everyone a happy holiday, but I say Merry Christmas. I want everyone to be aware of the COVID situation, we are in a hotspot. Stay safe and enjoy the holidays.

Mr. Moore thanked everyone for coming out tonight. I thank Ronald and the Planning Commission for their hard work and the opportunity to make decisions as best we can. I thank Mr. Watson for the time he has put in and also the County Attorney, we didn't get to tell him when his daughter was sick and we are thankful that she is doing much better. I look forward to spending time with family and think about those less fortunate.

Mr. Robbie McCraw reiterated what everyone has said. Be mindful of what is going on in our community. I thank staff for what they have done. Merry Christmas and I hope you enjoy spending time with families.

Mr. Hill wished Mrs. Adams a happy birthday. I thank all of the employees for the work they have done this year. I want everybody if at all possible, to get their vaccine. Can Mr. Durbin look into legal methods to address the sale of the Training Center.

Dr. Littrell replied we need to see where the process is and what we can do about it. This has been a challenging year, we like to hear from our citizens. Be wearing your masks, we need to stop this virus. We have had departments shut down due to quarantine, but we have been able to keep the wheels rolling. Everyone have a Merry Christmas.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

Mr. Watson asked if the Board wishes to cancel the meeting on December 28th.

The Board consensus is yes.

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ADJOURNMENT

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

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

Chairman