

The Carroll County Board of Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on May 9, 2022 in the Board Meeting Room of the Carroll County Governmental Center.

Members Present:

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

Others:

- Michael Watson
- Crystal Adams
- Justin Martin
- Steve Durbin

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**CLOSED SESSION – PURSUANT TO VIRGINIA CODE SECTION 2.2-3711**

Mr. McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dickson, to enter into Closed Meeting under Section 2.2-3711- A1, A3, A8, A29

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Rex Hill Jody Early Ronnie Collins	Tracy Moore Joey Dickson Robbie McCraw
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NAYS: None

**COME OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

Mr. McCraw made a motion to come out of Closed Session. Mr. 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 (3) Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.

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.

29. Discussion of the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, including interviews of bidders or offerors, and discussion of the terms or scope of such contract, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Rex Hill	Tracy Moore
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Jody Early  
Ronnie Collins

Joey Dickson  
Robbie McCraw

NAYS: None

### **CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION**

Mr. Moore certified Closed Session with the following Resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Carroll County Board of Supervisors convened a Closed Session this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and on the motion to close the meeting in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act;

**WHEREAS**, Section 2.2-3711(D) of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Board of Supervisors that such Closed Session was conducted in conformity with Virginia law.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Carroll County Board of Supervisors hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (I) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act were heard, discussed or considered in the Closed Session to which this certification applies, and (II) only such business matters as were identified in the motion by which this Closed Session was convened were heard, discussed, or considered in the meeting to which this certification applies.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

Mr. Collins led in invocation and pledge.

### **AMEND AGENDA**

Mr. Moore amended the agenda to remove the National Fallen Officers. The Sheriff's Office is going to be able to send officers to Washington this week to honor Curtis Bartlett, who lost his life serving our community.

### **FCCLA RECOGNITION**

Mr. Moore recognized Madison Conner and Gretchen Sechrist.

Ms. Susan Rose told that FCCLA is Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, what you may have known when you were in school as Future Homemakers of America. Gretchen and Madison competed in the State Leadership Conference in National Programs in Action, Community Service. They received silver medals and they did a great job. They planned and carried out a drive through Chili supper that raised over \$1500. We were able to support four families at our school who lost homes to fire, a student whose parent was incarcerated with no fault of her own and was put with a grandparent who had no way to support her and another family who had a crisis. These girls presented that and represented Carroll County very well.

Mr. Moore presented each student with a certificate of recognition. It has been really good for the last three months to honor our kids. It has been a privilege to get them in here and see their hard work. I think Carroll County is in good hands and we want to keep up honoring our kids moving forward. With school getting out, we won't have any kids so we will have one Board member bring in a business once a month throughout the rest of the year and for June I will start with Mr. Early, if you could bring in a business and we will honor them.

### **PUBLIC HEARING – VDOT SIX YEAR ROAD PLAN**

A Public Hearing on the FY2023 to FY2028 Secondary Construction Budget Priority List and the proposed Secondary Six Year Plan for fiscal years 2023 to 2028 for Carroll County was held at the Carroll County Governmental Building on May 09, 2022.

The Public Hearing opened at 6:24 pm with Ms. Lisa Hughes serving as moderator, with the following

opening remarks:

*This hearing is being held today, May 09, 2022 in accordance with Section §33.2-331 Code of Virginia, which requires the joint effort of the County Officials and the Department of Transportation personnel for the tentative commitment of estimated available secondary construction funds, beginning with Fiscal Year 2023. A copy of the proposed Six-Year Plan and priorities for the proposed secondary construction budget for FY 2023 to 2028 have been available for public viewing at the county building; and a copy is on display here.*

*After receiving your requests, the Board of Supervisors and the Virginia Department of Transportation Personnel will finalize the Six Year Plan.*

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

- 1) RT. 620 – COULSON CHURCH ROAD (Advertisement scheduled September 13, 2022)
- 2) RT. 690 – BRUSHY FORK ROAD (Being Designed)
- 3) RT. 898 – SCENIC VIEW ROAD
- 4) RT. 636 – LOAFERS REST
- 5) RT. 838 – BROADWAY LANE
- 6) RT. 608 – MT CARROLL ROAD
- 7) RT. 608 – OLD APPALACHIAN TRAIL
- 8) RT. 683 – MILLSTONE ROAD

Upon the completion of the opening remarks, the following requests were received:

**Route 735, Laurel Mountain Lane (Nebo Road)** One speakers addressed concerns of road conditions and increased traffic. They requested the roadway have a hard surface applied in hope to eliminate potholes and rutting. The traffic count for this section of Route 735 is 10 ADT (2019) RNS.

**Route 908, Park Bridge Road** One speaker requested pavement for Park Bridge Road. He stated this Portion is in good condition and ready for hard surfacing. Considering the use by school buses and mail carriers, the project would not take long. The alignment, both vertical and horizontal are acceptable, and the roadbed could be ready for surfacing with little preparations. Along with cost of transporting maintenance equipment to site verses the reduced maintenance costs he felt this would be a good candidate for the rural rustic program. The traffic count for this section of Route 908 listed in the RNS as 30 ADT (2019).

**Route 706, Glade Creek Road** Two speakers requested pavement for this roadway. Stated potholes and wash boarding are major concerns. Drainage issues with structure over Glad Creek. Supervisor Moore Asked if this was already on the list for next year and Ms. Lisa Hughes confirmed it was on the priority list for paving and expected to complete next year. The speaker requested it remain on the list to which Mr. Moore confirmed it would not be taken off the list. After this discussion with Mr. Moore the second speaker declined to speak.

**Route 633, Groundhog Mountain Road** One speaker asked for pavement on Groundhog Mountain Road from Spencer Mill Road to Little Bit Road, Stating both Groundhog Mountain and Little Bit roads are already hard surfaced and this would be a tie-in. This route is the community's access during winter weather events. Current traffic count along the 0.5 mile of Route 633, 80 ADT (2019) as listed in the RNS.

**Route 922, Hidden Valley Road** One speaker requested Hidden Valley Road be considered for a rural rustic improvement Stating issues with increase in homes being built and additional traffic. The roadway provides an abundance of dust and mud along with potholes and rutting. Speaker plans to submit a request with signatures to the board member requesting pavement. Supervisor Early stated he had received the letter and drove this section of road this past week.

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Mr. Early stated he felt this would be a good candidate for the program. The RNS has listed traffic counts at 120 VPD (2019).

**Route 905, Rocky Ford Road** Two speakers addressed the board regarding the Route 905, Stating there is one family with special needs children and any help to provide a hard surfaced roadway to help this family would be appreciated. The speakers stated they could continue to their property on the gravel roadway but to assist their neighbors with a hard surface they are requesting Rocky Ford Road be considered for the Rural Rustic Program. Supervisor Hill asked the name of the road again and where it was located. The speaker replied it was called Booger Hollow. Current traffic count is listed in RNS as 80 VPD (2020).

**Route 911, Turner School Road** One speaker requested the department fix a pot hole that is approximately two feet by four feet. School buses need to steer around it and is troubling to the community.

After the completion of comments by the public Ms. Hughes reviewed the requirements for using Unpaved Roads funding with the Supervisors. The members of the Board then requested the review of the following projects for future consideration on the priority list.

**Route 762, Waterview Drive**

**Route 765, Sutphintown Road**

**Route 815, Dickey Drive**

**Route 875, Lakeview Drive**

**Route 826, Colonial Road**

**Route 608, Misty Trail** (on plan as #16)

**Route 685, Winding Ridge Road**

**Route 662, Poplar Hill Road**

**Route 664, Silver Leaf Road**

**Route 663, River Road**

**Route 639, Ben Ridge Road**

**Route 830, Walter Branscome Road**

**Route 683, Millstone Road**

**Route 710, Daisy Road**

**Route 661, Marian Road**

The Board of Supervisors asked for spot safety improvements at the following locations

**Route 620, Coulson Church Road at Route 743 Oak, Grove Road, Line of Sight**

**Along Route 775 and Route 97, Warning signs to prevent trucks turning onto Lambsburg Road**

**Route 100 at Route 221, Intersection Improvement, Congestion**

**Route 58 at Route 808 Expansion Drive, Congestion**

**Route 58 Business at the eastern interchange, change of speed limit from 35MPH to 45 MPH**

Using the provided input, VDOT will draft up a plan for the Board’s consideration and approval. The Public hearing closed at 6:54 pm.

**PUBLIC HEARING – DRUG TREATMENT LICENSING ORDINANCE**

Mr. Moore opened the Public Hearing at 6:55 p.m.

David Boatman asked that the Board adopt the ordinance for the Methadone/Suboxone distribution. It is a good step in the right direction. I do realize that it was not on the COPN that they were going to do that but at least if it is another facility or they change their mind, everyone would have to play by the new rules. It is a good move and I thank y’all for it, please pass it.

Sallie Martin told I want to repeat what I have been saying about the safety and being afraid to stay in my own home. I support that we need a fence around that place, I think it would help tremendously. I want to say that I agree with everything Mr. Boatman has said about it.

Teresa Brady told that she agrees with Mr. Boatman.

Mr. Moore closed the Public Hearing at 6:57 p.m.

Mr. Dickson made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCraw to approve the Drug Treatment Licensing to replace the emergency ordinance that is in place.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

**NATIONAL EMS WEEK RESOLUTION**

Mr. Moore read the EMS Week Resolution.

EMS Week Proclamation To designate the Week of May 15 - 21, 2022, as Emergency Medical Services Week

WHEREAS, emergency medical services is a vital public service; and WHEREAS, the members of emergency medical services teams are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and

WHEREAS, access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and WHEREAS, emergency medical services has grown to fill a gap by providing important, out of hospital care, including preventative medicine, follow-up care, and access to telemedicine; and

WHEREAS, the emergency medical services system consists of first responders, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, emergency medical dispatchers, firefighters, police officers, educators, administrators, pre-hospital nurses, emergency nurses, emergency physicians, trained members of the public, and other out of hospital medical care providers; and

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WHEREAS, the members of emergency medical services teams, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of emergency medical services providers by designating Emergency Medical Services Week; now

THEREFORE, The Carroll County Board of Supervisors, in recognition of this event do hereby proclaim the week of May 15-21, 2022, as EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK.

Mr. Hill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Collins to approve the resolution.

Mr. Moore told he would like to thank all of our Emergency Service Responders that take care of our citizens every day. It is a rare breed of people that do that and leave the comforts of their bed at 2 in the morning to help us. They are vital to our community, and we greatly thank them.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

#### **CITIZENS TIME**

David Riggan told I appreciate the time to come talk to you. As a relatively new transplant in your beautiful county. I have been here about 3 years, and I found you from about 3000 miles away. I packed up a business, screaming wife, cats, dogs and horses and have enjoyed every moment of being here. I am a Yankee by birth but a rebel by choice. I grew up in Michigan, joined the military and went to California and visited for 40 years. I was in a Northern California community that houses Lake Tahoe. Forgive me, you guys are intelligent, and I no means want to come here tonight and tell you something you probably don't know. Something I gleaned in my 40 years of living in California, I watched unimaginable growth that nobody here can perceive how much, how immense and how quickly it happened. I want to share an analogy that some wonderful intelligent person exposed me to years ago. Not only did I find you from 3000 miles away, people are finding this area of Southwest Virginia from all over the demographics of this country. Clean air, clean water, and a beautiful place to live, low cost of living. The secret is out and they are coming and a lot are already here. The age demographic seems to be retirement age, I would say 55 and up, which is a very attractive age group in my opinion. We have lived our lives and have gotten past our wants. I have a lovely wife who is used to nice restaurants, many avenues of entertainment. We come without the intention of changing you or dragging you into the new century, but have you understand what I experienced before is happening and will continue to happen at a faster rate in our area. Process is here and it is coming. We have a choice, and I came from the country in Michigan. We never wanted our little area to grow up. We liked it quiet and rural, and we wanted it our way. We can benefit from what is here and what is coming by understanding it and controlling it because if we ignore it, it will still come, and we won't benefit from it. The simplest analogy is a cell tower. Everybody has heard about farmer A that put up a cell phone tower and is getting a check every month. I saw counties that said we are not accepting subdivisions or businesses and if you look over and still see cell towers. A good example is a lot of my entertainment money goes to Mt. Airy. I don't want to change the beauty we live it but somehow, we have to manage it. I think it is important for us to look at ways to incentivize providing positive outlook for this growth. We can make up the incentives with tax revenue and more people coming in. I am here to implore you, don't ignore what is happening because it is going to happen whether we like it or not and we shouldn't miss out in controlling it in a proactive way. Thank you for your time.

Mr. Boatman told in June 2021, Rex Hill instructed the Planning Commission to come up with a Zoning Ordinance to address the Rehab coming. He ordered it to be done within 100 days, this was seconded by Robbie McCraw. It has been over 100 days and I would very much like at least some type of response this evening on where we are with that. I also ask this Board to get a second opinion on another ordinance that is in your possession. It is good that you are looking at it, it is good that you did an ordinance tonight. The county has a right and a possibility to go after the state on the way this sale was handled. It may be happening; I hope it is but as a citizen I have not seen it yet. I would very much like to see some type of action on that. If you remember, I have been coming here for over a year speaking about this and for over a year the County Attorney has instructed you all and the last board that nothing can be done, and the state is handling it. Tonight, I just watched you actually pass an ordinance to protect the citizens on one aspect of it. I ask that you not stop there, that you continue working on it and look at getting a second opinion. Not every person has the answers, I know I don't, but if I hear something I don't like I will ask for a second opinion.

**MINUTES**

Mr. Hill made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCraw to approve the minutes from April 11, April 25.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

**PAYMENT OF INVOICES**

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

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

**ADOPT SCHOOL BUDGET FY22-23**

Mr. Dickson made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCraw to table the adoption of the proposed School Budget FY22-23 until the June meeting.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

**ADOPT COUNTY BUDGET FY22-23**

Mr. McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dickson to table the adoption of the proposed County Budget FY22-23 until the June meeting.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

### **SET TAX LEVY**

Mr. Dickson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hill to set the tax levy as advertised.

Mr. Collins asked, if we set this, we have talked about the vehicle rates. Can somebody explain what can happen with those after these are set.

Mr. Watson told there has been discussion about the rates and the increased values for the personal property. One of the things that can happen is we can direct the Commissioner of the Revenue to use the new legislation that will carve out from personal property the vehicles, such as trucks, cars, business vehicles and those type of things. We can pass an ordinance to establish a new section in order to break them out and then later in the year we can adjust the rate to a lower rate in order to compensate or higher increases. The process that we will be doing is to approve these rates tonight and work with the Commissioner of the Revenue to get the values and hopefully change the rate to adjust in the future to bring the rates down closer to last years. That is one option that could happen.

Mr. Collins asked if those could be adjusted before the taxes are billed for those at the end of the year.

Mr. Watson replied, I believe that it the intent. What would happen is the Commissioner of the Revenue would get the book ready for personal property, present it to the Board, the Board look at the increases that would be sent out to the individuals in the August or September range. I don't know the dates, but we would be able to do that. We could go through the same process as far as advertising the rate, as long as it is done before the book is presented to the Treasurers Office.

Mr. Collins asked if we need to pass that ordinance tonight.

Mr. Watson replied, we will have to develop one. We will work on it and see if we can have it at the next meeting.

Mr. Hill asked if we would have to have a Public Hearing for that.

Mr. Durbin replied, you would.

Ms. Zimmerman asked if that was by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Watson replied, we discussed that this evening. There is a code section that was given to us saying that the governing body shall approve the budget and fix a tax rate for the budget year no later than the day in which the fiscal year begins. There is also another code section that allows the Board of Supervisors to adjust it until the book is presented to the Treasurer's Office.

Mr. Durbin told that used to apply only to Real Estate, but the 2022 amendments include Personal Property and the ability to amend those tax rates as well.

Mr. Collins asked at what point are those books usually presented.

Ms. Zimmerman replied, we have 90 days to complete those books once you set the levy per Code of Virginia.

Mr. Watson asked, do you think you can prepare them and have enough time to make that change in the personal property rate between now and by the time you can find that amount that it increases and do the rate change.

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Ms. Zimmerman told she has been sending updates. We are up to \$1.7 million.

Mr. Watson asked, will you be able to let us know when you are at that finish point. I don't mean to put you on spot.

Ms. Zimmerman replied, we will post to the Treasurer by the middle of September. We have to have the rate of what it is going to be. If I don't have that rate, I can't do the book.

Mr. McCraw asked if she has to have that 90 days before.

Ms. Zimmerman replied, I have 90 days after the levy is set.

Mr. Watson responded, so you need the rate set now.

Ms. Zimmerman stated, no it doesn't have to be set now. I am just telling you we have 90 days from the day it is set.

Mr. McCraw asked, if we set it in the middle of July that still gives you time to be done in September.

Ms. Zimmerman replied, on personal property.

Mr. Early asked, you have up to 90 days to do that, is that what you are saying? How quickly can you get it done?

Ms. Zimmerman replied, it usually takes us right up to the day that we post the book to the Treasurer.

Mr. Collins told the only question is on the personal property vehicle tax.

Mr. Hill told that is the only thing we can change in the personal property category. We can do personal vehicles, but can you do business and separate those as well?

Mr. Durbin told that is a different statute, but yes.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Rex Hill	Tracy Moore
	Jody Early	Joey Dickson
	Robbie McCraw	

NAYS: Ronnie Collins

Ms. Zimmerman asked if that is just on Real Estate.

Mr. Moore replied, that is on everything, Real Estate and Personal Property.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

### **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

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Mr. McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hill to place Jody Early on the Broadband Committee.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: Rex Hill Tracy Moore  
Joey Dickson  
Ronnie Collins Robbie McCraw

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Jody Early

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Collins told the Litter Task Force met for the first time a couple weeks ago and we had planned to meet tomorrow night, but Ronald is not able to meet. The Litter Task Force should get together and come up with ideas to present to this Board. The group decided right out of the gate is to basically an awareness campaign where we can share this flyer through social media and websites. We have already had so much interest in people adopting roads. The program is already done, it is just promoting it. Linda Gains is our contact through VDOT. One of the big questions is, there was a road that was adopted 25 years ago, and they are no longer able to do it, if that is the case we can let Ms. Gains know and they can give it to someone else. This will not cost us any money, just need to know if everyone is okay with it.

Mr. Moore told they are appointed by us, so we are good with it if they are.

Mr. Collins told my hats off to them for going to work and making the flyer. They have done a lot of good work. We have had a lot of trash cleaned up already. We will move forward with that and meet again soon.

Mr. Early asked if VDOT is providing the big orange bags.

Mr. Collins replied yes and Ronald will have some of those.

Mr. Hill told that they also pick it up.

Mr. Collins told we did do a Ribbon Cutting today in Fancy Gap, Blue Ridge Ceramics and more. If you don't know anything about that business, get out and visit with them. Scott has just opened that and he is doing a lot of classes, working with special needs and he is going to offer a wedding venue there. You will be able to rent it out for various different things. Fancy Gap Creamery is set to hopefully open in June. It will be ice cream, coffee and sandwiches. Fonterra Roots, they opened in February. We are working on trying to get some of those business owners together with Whitney and see how we can get more people stopping in those places.

Mr. McCraw told it is exciting to see the FCCLA kids come in and get their recognition. Thank everyone that we here and all the comments that have been made.

Mr. Early told he would like to thank those that came to speak about their roads. It is a pain to live on a dirt road and have to continually wash your car all the time. I had quite a few phone calls and I really do appreciate all that came out tonight.

Mr. Hill told they cleaned up the Buckwoods the other day and it looks bad again already. I also want to compliment the Carroll County School system for having the Art Show at the Intermediate School. It was great. I appreciate everyone that came in tonight and all of the employees for what they have done.

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Mr. Dickson thanked everyone for coming about the concerns on your roads and all of the other business that we had. I also thank the staff for what you do. I would like to take a moment to talk about the budget. We have a budget committee that consisted of myself, Supervisor Early, Mike and Justin. We have worked since January to present a balanced budget without raising taxes. When we did the tax levy, we did not raise taxes. It is the same rates as last year. We were able to do this with the rising fuel prices, insurance rates, rising cost of medicine for EMS, record inflation and so on. We have a tough year ahead with record inflation and all three major stock indexes are taking huge hits, we have a shortage on products, we were just cautioned at our last meeting by Davenport who does finance for a living to be cautious with our spending due to record inflation in the economy. We all remember the recession in 2008 and hopefully we are not headed for another. The fed is raising rates and 11 out of 13 times when the feds raised the interest rates it led to a recession, so it is not looking real good. There has been talk that the county is in the best shape financially that it has been in a long time, and we have more money in reserve than is required. Financially, if we are conservative, we are okay at this time, but we do not have more money in reserve than what is required. We do however have a CIP Plan that we money set aside for projects. This includes money for broadband, EMS vehicles, lights on Cana ballfield, school buses, water and sewer hookup grants, fire trucks, etc. We also have money set aside for our towers and radios that are the lifeline for our volunteers, EMS and police officers. These towers and radios are in bad shape, and we have no choice but to fix this issue. Our last estimate was \$6.5 million, hopefully we can get it done cheaper. If you do not have money set aside for projects and do not fund your CIP, when these costs come up what choice do you have but to raise taxes, which we are trying not to do. We are trying to avoid this at all costs. We have heard Justin; he does a great job. We have financial firms to listen to their advice and also lots of money that is in our budget is ARPA or Covid funds, that can not be used for debt or to balance the budget. The Commissioner was here at our last meeting and again tonight and threw some big numbers based on the inflation and rising cost of used vehicles. She asked to reduce the personal property tax on vehicles. She also stated that 75 to 80% of localities are adjusting their rates but based on the email that she sent this week, out of the 132 localities only 38 have made changes. This equals 29%. If we are going to receive extra on the value of used vehicles, then I have no problem and think we should help the citizens. But, to be good stewards a few things need to be addressed. The rates she is quoting are based off the record high in January 2022. Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> Cox Automotive put out a report that wholesale vehicles have dropped 6.4% since the January 2022 record and taxes are not due until December. Next, she gave a number of \$1.6 or \$1.7, and I am assuming this is based on 100% collection rate, which we average 72% so you are down to \$1 million that quickly. I feel that we need a guaranteed number to work with. I don't want to gamble with money and gamble with what kind of rate we are going to have. We have to have a number because if we cut and take in less than needed then we will have to take it out of our reserve and figure out a way to put it back next year. The other Supervisors and myself feel we should adopt House Bill 1239. This will give us the opportunity to lower the personal property tax on personal and business vehicles if there is going to be a large increase before the taxes are due. This will also give us and the Commissioner more time to finish analyzing vehicles and come up with a concrete amount that we can work with. Thank you to everyone who has helped work on a solution and our budget, especially Mike, Justin and Jody.

Mr. Moore told he does want to thank VDOT and Lisa for coming tonight. I know she lives a ways away but to come and listen to the concerns from our citizens, its good to see a lot of citizens come out and speak. It is always exciting when Crystal sends committee appointments of all the people who want to serve in our county. I want to thank the board for all they do and Mr. Durbin, Mike, Justin and Crystal and all of the county employees. You know they are always willing to do what they need to do. I would like to set up a meeting with EMS and the Fire Department with Mr. Watson. I would like to include myself, Mr. Early and Mr. Collins. If I announce it now do I need to set a time and date.

Mr. Durbin told you do need to because there is going to be 3 members of the Board of Supervisors. I would address it like a special called meeting, you post notice on the

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County's Official website, post on the bulletin boards and I always recommend notifying the press. The only other requirement beyond that is that it be open to the public and you take minutes.

Mr. Moore told if Mr. Early and Mr. Collins want to do it I can step aside.

Mr. Early told that he is willing to step aside and let you and Mr. Collins do it.

Mr. Moore told that it could be just the last minute deal trying to get everything set up with everybody involved. We will direct Mike to set up something with Mr. Bergeron and the Fire Department. I also want to thank the Sheriff's Office for working to get some guys to go remember Mr. Bartlett and the fallen law enforcement officers throughout the United States. They give the ultimate sacrifice for our community and citizens and we do not need to forget them.

Mr. Hill told we lost Mr. Webb back in the early 70's as well.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Robbie McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dickson to adjourn.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

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Chairman