

November 7, 2022

The Carroll County Board of Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on November 7, 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. Hill, to enter into Closed Meeting under Section 2.2-3711- A3, A7, A8

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 (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	Tracy Moore
	Jody Early	Joey Dickson
	Ronnie Collins	Robbie McCraw

NAYS: None

COME OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

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

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

RETIREMENT RECOGNITION

Mr. Moore presented Glen Edmonds with a Retirement Plaque. Mr. Edmonds served with the Carroll County Sheriff’s Department for 24 years.

Mr. Edmonds thanked everyone and told that this is an awesome place to work. I have been represented by good Sheriffs. He thanked Sheriff Kemp who serves currently.

BUSINESS RECOGNITION

Mr. Hill recognized Harmons Western Wear, who is not able to be here today. The business was first started by Cleves Howard and Marie Harmon, and everyone knows him as Gooch Harmon. He was a very special person, and he was also called the Mayor of Woodlawn. In 1970 he opened his original business known as Harmons Men’s Store. Later in 1980, he expanded the business, and the new shopping complex became Boot World. In the late 1980’s a woman’s store was added to the complex. Mr. Harmon was a student of local history, and he opened his expansive museum in 1981. He has the finest collection in the world with items from the Carroll County Courthouse tragedy and Baldwin Felts Detective Agency. The museum has Civil War relics, Indian relics, and pioneer tools. Harmons is one of the largest private county employers with over 20 employees. According to his family, his secret to success was to be nice to people. We will recognize Harmons Western Wear with this Certificate.

Mr. Moore told that in December, I asked that each Board member come up with one more business to recognize and we will do all six at that meeting.

VETERANS RECOGNITION

Mr. Moore told Veterans Day is this Friday and I would like to recognize a couple members on the Board. Both Mr. Early and Mr. Hill served and were presented with a

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Certificate of Appreciation for their service. Mr. Moore also recognized all veterans who are with us tonight.

LITTER TASK FORCE UPDATE

Mr. Goad gave a brief update of the Litter Task Force. They meet every 4th Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. We have some members with us tonight. We have a really great group who is committed to cleaning up our county. We have focused on four main goals, first is to have a more active Adopt a Highway Program. We also want to focus on community outreach and education. The third thing is partnering with our law enforcement first offender program. The fourth thing is trash convenience sites, we have a successful one in Cana, and we are hoping with your help we can place one in all five magisterial districts. We would like to generate a resource kit for citizens. We do encourage you to look at what Grayson County has, as well as Wythe and Floyd. We hope to enhance on these four goals.

Mr. Moore thanked everyone who has been working on this to come back with recommendations.

Mr. Hill asked if they will continue to meet.

Mr. Goad replied yes.

Mr. Dickson asked as far as securing trash, have you talked about that.

Mr. Goad told that we have not talked about that. That is a good idea that we can address.

Mr. Early asked if he could talk about the welcome package.

A member told it would be information regarding the landfill and who picks up trash in the county.

Mr. Early asked how we could get that to people.

Mr. Goad told that it would be available at the welcome center.

Mr. Early asked if anyone has thought about countywide trash pickup through GFL and what that would cost and if it could be included in the budget.

Mr. Goad told they do have numbers for Grayson.

Mr. Early asked if someone could look into that.

CLERK OF COURT UPDATE

Mr. Goad gave a brief update of the Clerk's Office. As a Constitutional Officer, I feel you have a right to know what is going on in our office. We were Covid ready with all of the technology we have, and I am very proud of that. Never once did we shut our doors during the pandemic. Mr. Goad reviewed the numbers of his caseload for the year. We have all of the technology that we can possibly have through the Supreme Court. We lost an employee, Carla Anderson to Covid. Her family donated \$1000 towards historical preservation in her memory and that was very special. Everyone except one clerk is certified Deputy Clerks and we are very proud of that. We have hit the \$100,000 mark in grant funds towards preservation. We are almost finished with our Archives Room. I created a handbook for wills and estate planning at funeral homes. We felt like this was a good outreach. We recently had a group of middle schoolers come visit and they were able to have a good experience. It is an honor and privilege to serve as your Clerk.

PUSH MINISTRIES SERVICES

Jill Burcham told she is the pastor of Push Ministries, which is an Outreach Ministry that was started in Galax in 2007. We started out doing the normal food banks and clothing and they learned there were some great needs and those are homelessness and addiction. First of all, you have the best Sheriff, he is so easy to work with. We spent

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the weekend here at the Motel 6 with different people and challenges. We find that a lot of these people don't have ID's and if they don't they cannot be put up in a motel. The Ministerial Association in Galax has funded us to help put people in motels and we have special rates. We will be coming to Carroll County and through the generosity of Hillsville Christian Church, we are going to have offices there three afternoons a week. We are finding that the need in this area is great. We had a phone call from Lambsburg from an older gentleman who was sleeping in the car in the Dollar General. We have people who have left addiction programs and don't know where to go. This is where we work closely with the police and make sure they are not wanted somewhere. We help people get jobs, find them apartments, get bank accounts. We do a lot of counseling, and I brought our team with us. I am excited about coming to Carroll County. I think that it is going to be a great mesh. We have already developed relationships with DSS, Mt. Rogers and the area churches. We will do what we can do and do our best to make sure that Carroll County is great.

Mr. Moore asked where you get most of your funding.

Ms. Burcham told that they do not get paid. We depend on churches for most of our funding and at \$70 a night for a hotel you can imagine the money we go through. We look forward to working with you and if you have any questions feel free to call us.

CITIZENS TIME

Delilah Brady thanked the Board for allowing her to speak. The last time I was here I asked for a place to scan historical digital images and I think you would be very proud of what we have done. We started with the newspapers, and we have scanned those back to 1873, and we have done several different ones. We then went to yearbooks and have tried to digitize as many as we could find. We converted microfilm so you can now see all the Carroll County census from 1850, WWI draft registrations, Civil War exemption records, post office applications. Some how we got into audio and video, and we have digitized VHS, mini dvds and 8 mm. A gentleman brought me a 16 mm reel and asked if I could convert it. I had no way to convert it but the High School had an old projector that didn't work and they were going to put on GovDeals. I asked to borrow it to see if I could fix it. I got it playing backwards so I projected it onto the wall, put a video recorder and flipped it to get it going forward. It created a real big curiosity and people have brought me 40 reel to reels. It is hard for us to convert. I applied for the grant that you are offering because we have purchased every bit of the equipment we have used. I am here to ask when you are discussing the grant to think about us. I also want to say thank you for everything you have done for us.

Mr. Moore thanked her for everything you are doing for our area.

John Noboli told let freedom flow from Beamer Knob to Crooked Creek just like the water that flows to the ocean. Free, without chain. Don't put restrictions on us, don't put zoning law on us or similar ordinance. Today you are coming after my land, tomorrow you are going to take everybody's land. Some people want to take freedom from order. Freedom is sacred, like it or not. We want to maintain our identity of mountain people, farmer, or businesspeople. Freedom is in our DNA, do not strip us of another freedom with these additional ordinances. Let's shout freedom from the mountain to the valley of Carroll County. You may ask me what freedom has to do with this, our property is our castle and our pride and joy. This is why I keep trying to avoid this. I also feel discriminated, why don't we do it for everyone. I know the reason, I was in on this from the beginning, it is Acadia. You can not control Acadia with the ordinance similar to the zoning rule.

MINUTES

Mr. Hill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dickson to approve the minutes from October 3, 2022.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

PAYMENT OF INVOICES

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

Mr. Early told he had some questions, there is \$112,649, what is that for.

Mr. Dickson told it is the 911 Regional Commission.

Mr. Early told there were a couple fire departments that were pretty hefty.

Mr. Martin told that includes the fuel reimbursements.

Mr. Early told there is one that just says design.

Mr. Martin told that is on the Splash Pad.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

NEW BUSINESS

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Mr. Watson told this is a memorandum of understanding, this is a vehicle for Laurel Rescue. It was appropriated in our CIP. They are going to put camper shells on them and use for a First Responder Vehicle. This creates an understanding if the property is no longer being used or if they decide it can be turned back into the county.

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

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION VIRGINIA PRODUCE

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Mr. Watson told this is a resolution of support for an application to the Tobacco Commission for Va Produce to buy equipment.

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

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

OLD BUSINESS

NON-PROFIT/COMMUNITY CENTER GRANT APPLICATIONS

Mr. Dickson made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCraw to table until the Budget Committee can review.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

VACATION OF PLAT

Mr. Durbin told this is the same matter I brought up during the last meeting. I have prepared an instrument that abandons this plat and vacates the rights of the public body.

Mr. McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dickson to vacate the plat.

Mr. Early asked if the current owner subdivided the plat.

Mr. Durbin told that they think he did not.

Mr. Hill asked if this was under the old recreation subdivision.

Mr. Newman replied yes.

Mr. Early asked if there are any internal roads now.

Mr. Newman replied no.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Early wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. I encourage everyone to vote tomorrow. I want to thank all the volunteers who do things behind the scenes, most without recognition and thanks. We saw some of those here tonight. Also, thank the staff for their hard work. You all put in a lot of hours and provide information that makes our job much easier.

Mr. Collins told that several people have asked about going back to once a year taxes. I would like to see that put on the agenda to talk about. I would like to have the Treasurer come talk to us about pros and cons, about the issues we had this year of the tickets not coming out on time. A lot of people were frustrated plus Davenport Financial told us that it only benefited the county one time. I would love to have that conversation in the public arena and let the public comment on doing that, the cost for doing it is substantial. We had an issue that came up with the Animal Shelter and a board issue, we received that in an email. What happened with that.

Mr. Watson told that he sent out an email several months ago. It has been brought to me that the Carroll Grayson Galax Animal Shelter was originally formed by all three partners. At one time from my understanding, we did have a board that managed the facility. It has been mentioned to establish that board again. As we go through the budget this year we will have to look at our contribution. If we are going to increase our contribution, there needs to be a board that manages the facility.

Mr. Collins told the agreement says that there has to be one.

Mr. Watson replied, that is correct.

Mr. Collins told we are out of compliance and asked who is managing the facility.

Mr. Watson told the City of Galax employs that person and they do pay all of the bills and all of the things that go along with it. We really do not have any input or influence on it at all.

Mr. Collins asked how much we pay into it.

Mr. Watson replied about \$30,000 a year.

Mr. Collins told I would like to see us get in compliance with that. I want to thank the Litter Task Force team. I would like us to begin discussion on with the public is how can we provide a better service for their tax dollars. If it is convenient sites or green boxes, I don't know what the answer is, but I would like for us to have that discussion. It was mentioned tonight about Acadia. They have been in operation for a while now. Are there any updates? I know we were concerned about crime rates and issues involving law enforcement. We are running calls for EMS, that I am sure of. I don't know the effect it has had so far but I can try to get an update.

Mr. Hill thanked the Litter Task Force and I hope that they continue to meet. I thank everyone that came tonight and also for our staff. They do all the work and provide it to us.

Mr. McCraw thanked Gerald and Delilah for the work to preserve our history and they have several that help them. I would like to thank our Veterans for their service. Election Day is tomorrow, don't forget to vote. Also, thank staff for all they do and Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Dickson told that he had the opportunity to ride around with Wade and help the Commissioner of Revenue Office as they go out in the field and access new construction. I enjoyed getting to ride to parts of the county I have never been and it also gave me an understanding of the additional duties that the office does. I was glad I was able to help and learn new things. I thank the staff for all they do, Sherriff's Office, Fire and Rescue. I wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

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Mr. Moore told next month will be his last month as Chairman of the Board so I am going to go first so I don't have to ditto what everyone else has said. I greatly appreciate our employees and Mr. Durbin thank you for your service to this Board. I thank our Veterans; without them we don't get to enjoy the things as far as freedom. I appreciate the Board and their effort. Everyone is always willing to step up. Hope everyone votes tomorrow and everyone has a good Thanksgiving.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

Mr. Watson gave a short update on the Splash Pad. We are working on quotes and we are looking at doing some grading work to keep the water off. We have placed the initial order for the Splash Pad so hopefully in January, February or April they will start construction. We are working to get it done in March and we will do what we can to get there. We are also getting drawings of a floor plan for restrooms and we will bid out the foundation and do a split block walls and the rest we will do in house. I will bring the estimates to the Board. We are also going to do some tree trimmings to keep the leaves off the pad and to provide sun. Hopefully within the next month we will be able to give you some good estimates. Thank you for everything, I have a great group of staff and I hope everyone has a great Thanksgiving.

COUNTY ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Mr. Durbin told that we in the last 12 months have collected \$110,000 on delinquent taxes and we do have a sale coming up in November that will be held here in the Board Room. I want to compliment Bonita and her staff on how well they have been working with us to provide data. I feel like we have a good system in place now and I want to thank her.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

Chairman

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