

October 12, 2021

The Carroll County Board of Supervisors held a meeting on October 12, 2021, 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 – By Phone
Joe Webb

Others:

Michael Watson
Crystal Adams
Justin Martin
Steve Durbin

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Littrell called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

SCHOOL DISCUSSION

Dr. Burnette told that we have Mr. Powers here to show the drawings for the high school. We got about \$6.6 million in COVID money, and we are trying to get the most out of the money that we can get. We have a 50-year-old building and still have some things we need to do. There are some things that we can't spend this money on that are needed like the football bleachers and baseball lights. Mr. Powers has a presentation and I hope you like it as much as we do.

Mr. Powers told that we have a set amount of funds, but we have a wish list so we have prioritized those things and as other funds become available, we will address those items. We have had surveyors there and mechanical, electrical, and plumbing have been on site. The construction market is in a very strange time right now, so we are looking at the best option to get this done in the time frame we have. When we first started talking, we were looking at a metal building for the gym, but those things have a long lead time now. Images of the proposed addition were presented. Some restrooms will be added to the auditorium, and we will be reworking the auditorium itself. There will be a classroom that will also be used as the wrestling room. There will be two locker rooms and a gym that is large enough to turn either direction. There are sets of doors on each side so that you can close them off. The restrooms are individual and have full height walls and doors.

Mr. Phillip McCraw asked what is bringing all this on, why are we needing all of this.

Mr. Powers explained that part of it is spreading out the kids and having more classroom space. There will be 4 additional classrooms plus the auditorium. With the auxiliary gym it is the same thing, you will have additional space.

Mr. Phillip McCraw told the payments will not be paid off until about 2054.

Mr. Powers told the instructions we were given is to work with the Cares money that they have. We have prioritized the things for the money that we have. Originally we were approached about the fish bowl and utilizing that space but that is going to be a costly project.

Dr. Burnette told we were given the Cares Act money and 80% was to be used to provide additional space or HVAC upgrades to help prepare for future pandemics.

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Mr. Powers told we are working with other school districts and their main goal is to make sure they have proper ventilation and a place for the kids. This is just about giving the kids more space.

Dr. Burnette told when Phase III first started, this is what the original plan was but there was not enough money, so we have been wanting to do this for a long time.

Mr. Phillip McCraw asked if they have the money.

Dr. Burnette replied yes, well we have \$6.6 million and we will go as far as we can with that. Under normal circumstances we would have enough to do the entire project.

Mr. Powers told everything has increased and that is why we had to prioritize. We know the gyms and the classroom is the priority.

Mr. Phillip McCraw told progress is great but it scares me that come budget session, I want to make sure we are not talking about trying to get more money out of the county.

Dr. Burnette told we have talked about bleachers and lights. At some point in time that is going to have to be done. That is something that is going to incur some debt service but it also something I can't pay for out of the Cares money.

Mr. Webb told you are going to take almost all of the senior parking lot. What are you going to do with those cars?

Mr. Powers explained that they will restripe and repave and pick up all the spaces we have lost.

Mr. Webb told the juniors spots they took away for parent pickup.

Mr. Powers told the parking for the students is going to go farther and farther behind the football field.

Mr. Webb told looking at the enrollment, it is going down. I don't understand the need for this.

Dr. Burnette told we moved the 9th grade to the high school and we doubled PE classes and we only have one gym. We are probably the only school around that has one gym. You are trying to run double PE classes through one gym.

Mr. Webb told you have auxiliary gyms at every elementary school.

Dr. Burnette told we don't have one at the high school. That is where your student numbers are.

Mr. Webb told his understanding is this is going to be a \$25 million project.

Dr. Burnette replied, no way.

Mr. Powers told he has not seen anything that shows the \$25 million range. It is around 19,960 square feet. If you add the corridors, it is 23,000.

Dr. Burnette told even if you figure at \$300 a square foot which is a lot that comes up to \$7 million. I don't know where you heard those numbers.

Mr. Hill asked what the yearly operation cost would be.

Mr. Powers told we have not gotten to that point yet. Once we pick the mechanical systems, we will have some idea.

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Mr. Robbie McCraw asked what has been suggested for a mechanical system.

Mr. Powers told we are looking at two different kinds of systems. We are looking at 2 big package units that would serve two classrooms each. We would have to have energy recovery and exhaust air on the weight room and two package units serving the gym. I understand your concern, things price wise are getting higher and higher. We know we are working to a set budget.

Mr. Webb told he understands that. The hallway connecting the main building, I am totally in favor of. We have kids walking in the weather and exposed to the public.

Dr. Burnette told we have never had a wrestling room or a place for JROTC to practice inside.

Mr. Powers told we may be missing the mark with things going up, but I just don't see it coming it at \$25 million. Pictures were shown of what this will look like.

Mr. Webb told you are investing a lot of money, even \$6 million. The building was built in 1968. In how many more years are you going to be asking for a new school.

Mr. Powers told if the school district is wise with their funds, this school has a lot of life left in it. You will need to replace HVAC and electrical. The school was also designed to have additional space above the dining room. The school has been well taken care of.

Mr. Webb told the county spent \$42 million renovating all the schools and now we have to renovate again. That buildings HVAC was renovated then.

Dr. Burnette told we did part renovations in the office area and changed over to natural gas.

Mr. Powers told just like at your house, air conditioner doesn't run for 25 years. Boilers and chillers have to be replaced.

Mr. Phillip McCraw told it is a beautiful addition. We toured the schools to see Phase I and II and we found issues. I have problems with Phase I & II.

Dr. Burnette told I have problems with Phase III. The fishbowl is ridiculous and we have tried to find ways to make it practical.

Mr. Webb told before the county spends this kind of money it needs to go on a referendum and let the citizens decide.

Mr. Powers told if the funds are not spent by a certain date they have to be returned.

Dr. Burnette told this is not county or state funds. This is a federal relief and if we don't spend by 2024, it all goes back. I don't like giving money back to the federal government.

Mr. Webb replied, I don't either but can that money be spent somewhere else to better educate.

Dr. Burnette told 20% is going towards learning loss. The original was \$8.3 million. We have hired tutors and programs for the students to use.

Mr. Powers told that there are strict rules on what the funds can be spent on.

Dr. Burnette told that every school division in the state received money so there is a lot of competition.

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Mr. Moore told a lot of people in my district have questioned the kids walking in the weather. With the students parking farther way, is that going to be a safety issue.

Dr. Burnette told that it will just be two times a day and there will be more staff on duty.

Mr. Powers told they will be farther way from the school, but there will be entrance points that are covered closer to where they are parking.

Mr. Phillip McCraw told we have all the debt we can handle.

Dr. Burnette told at some point we are going to come to you and ask you once the debt service gets down to do some things like replace the bleachers and replace the lights. There is a lot of maintenance with a 50-year-old building. We have some debt service, but there is a lot coming off.

Mr. Hill told he still wants to know the operational cost.

Mr. Powers told that those things are being figured out. We will provide that; it is just a little early.

Dr. Burnette told next month we have a solar energy company coming. There is a lot of benefits and there is no upfront cost. That is something the community needs to weigh in on. We have another meeting in about 30 minutes.

CLOSED SESSION – PURSUANT TO VIRGINIA CODE SECTION 2.2-3711

Supervisor Robbie McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hill, to enter into Closed Meeting under Section 2.2-3711- A1, A5, A7, A8.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

COME OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Hill 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 (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	Phillip McCraw
	Robbie McCraw	Tracy Moore
	Tom Littrell	Joe Webb

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	Phillip McCraw
	Robbie McCraw	Tracy Moore
	Tom Littrell	Joe Webb

NAYS: None

Mr. Robbie McCraw led in invocation and pledge.

Dr. Littrell told that Mr. Moore is joining us by phone.

PUBLIC HEARING – CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT

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Mr. Durbin explained that this is the same ordinance that we had adopted as an emergency at the last meeting. When adopted as an emergency it can only stay in place for 60 days. This ordinance, if adopted will stay in place for 12 months or until the emergency ends and it is not needed.

Dr. Littrell opened the Public Hearing at 6:19 p.m.

No one was signed up to speak.

Dr. Littrell closed the Public Hearing at 6:20 p.m.

Mr. Robbie McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hill to adopt the Continuity of Government Ordinance.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

CITIZENS TIME

Mr. Noboli told that he has closed the Campground but are still being charged for the commercial water service. The campground has been closed for over 3 years. Is it possible to change the meter from commercial to residential?

Dr. Littrell responded, that would be a question for the PSA.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

VACo VOTING CREDENTIALS

Mr. Hill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Robbie McCraw to appoint Dr. Littrell and Mr. Watson with voting privileges while at VACo.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

SWVA REGIONAL RECYCLING & SOLID WASTE WORKING GROUP

Mr. Watson explained that this is a request for an appointment to a new committee. We will advertise on our website.

Dr. Littrell told we will table the appointment until next meeting.

WOODLAWN SCHOOL DEED

Mr. Hill asked Mr. Durbin if this all looks good.

Mr. Durbin explained that the Board requested this back in the spring and I prepared the deed back in April. It transfers all of the property at Woodlawn School except the portion that was deeded to Landmark.

Mr. Hill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Phillip McCraw to approve the transfer of the Woodlawn School property back to the Board of Supervisors.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

WATER AND SEWER GRANT AGREEMENT

Mr. Watson explained that this will be a grant provided with ARPA funds to provide water/sewer service connections. The grant will be ran through the EDA, in the total amount of \$100,000. Citizens will make an application to the EDA, and they will work with the PSA to determine eligibility. This will make it more affordable and provide better water and sewer services.

Mr. Robbie McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Phillip McCraw to approve the Water and Sewer Grant Agreement.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

ARPA APPROPRIATION

Mr. Hill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Robbie McCraw to approve and appropriation the ARPA Appropriation in the amount of \$1.3 million.

Mr. Webb asked about the \$1.2 million for Covid Response Vehicles.

Mr. Watson replied those will be used to respond to COVID cases. It is an engine for two departments, one in the Cana area and one in Hillsville. The cost has gone up around 13%.

Mr. Webb asked if the vehicles would still be able to be used after COVID.

Mr. Watson replied yes.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

CIP FUND SET UP & TRANSFER

Mr. Martin explained that we have a General Fund, and ARPA fund, but we have never had one for the CIP. Some projects take longer than a year and this will help us keep better track. We will be able to have a better picture of where we are.

Mr. Watson told that the funds being allocated are out of last years fiscal budget so they are prefunded for the next year. He told that it might be a fire truck for this year but if we don't spend it, it will still be there. This is a way of making sure that we have the funds.

Mr. Hill told it will make us more accountable.

Mr. Watson told this is last year's funds.

Mr. Robbie McCraw told that this will also help us with debt.

Mr. Hill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Robbie McCraw to set up and transfer \$1,666,023 from the General Fund to the CIP Fund.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

CIP APPROPRIATION

Mr. Watson explained that these items are for past due maintenance.

Mr. Hill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Phillip McCraw to approve and appropriate \$368,000 to the CIP Fund for the projects presented.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

HVFD APPROPRIATION

Mr. Watson told this is to replace a vehicle that was totaled. The fire department had a vehicle that was in an accident. They have the insurance money and the \$300,000 from the county will cover the vehicle. The ALT funds will be used to repay the county over the next 10 years. The total cost is \$471,850.85 and we will have an MOU in place.

Mr. Robbie McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hill to approve and appropriate \$300,000 for the HVFD replacement vehicle.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

TOURISM APPROPRIATION

Mr. Watson explained that this is for two part time positions. We have continued to have the Visitors Center for the last year with no staff. Our staff has been working to put out brochures with no presence. We have been working with the state to keep our status. Our hope is to develop a better Tourism for the county, we should market much better than we do.

Mr. Robbie McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Phillip McCraw to approve and appropriate \$45,000 for two part time Tourism positions.

Mr. Webb told that Tourism hasn't done much for Carroll County. Should we do this on a trial basis and see if it is working?

Mr. Watson told the purpose is to save the designation. We hope that it will grow and become a full-time position.

Dr. Littrell told that the appropriation is limited to \$45,000 so it will have to be revisited at budget time.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

RUNWAY EXTENSION REQUEST LETTER

Mr. Hill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Robbie McCraw to approve preparing a Letter of Support for the Twin County Airport Runway Extension Grant.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

PAYMENT OF INVOICES

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

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

MINUTES

Mr. Hill made a motion, second by Mr. Phillip McCraw to approve the minutes as presented.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

OLD BUSINESS

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Robbie McCraw to table the committee appointments.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

Mr. Robbie McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hill to begin interviewing the candidates for both the EDA and the Planning Commission before appointment.

Mr. Durbin explained that interviews can take place during a regular meeting during Closed Session.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Webb thanked everyone for coming out. We have a lot going on. It sounds like we spent a lot of money tonight, but it is there. I thank the staff, there is not a time I have called and asked a question that I haven't gotten an answer. I am a part of the Shriners and Emily, who is 8 years old decided she was going to raise money for the Shriners Children's Hospital. Her goal was \$600, and she came to our meeting last week and gave us \$1800 that she had raised. The Shriners also participated in the cruise in Galax last weekend, and we raised an additional \$2255 and \$1000 worth of toys for the children at the hospital. I want to thank the people of Carroll and Grayson County for their giving.

Mr. Phillip McCraw thanked everyone for the work they do. It is good to see my replacement here tonight and he has my full support.

Mr. Hill asked if we could have Human Resources write a letter to colleges to see if we can get some interns. We may have to pay some, but it would be good to have. Thank everyone for coming out tonight.

Mr. Moore told that we live in a great community, but like Mr. Watson said, we don't market ourselves well. I am also a Hillbilly through the Shriners and they do great things. I want to thank Mike and his staff, they work hard to help us down the road. November 2nd is election day and I encourage everyone to vote. We should invite the new members into Closed Session during the November meeting.

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Mr. Robbie McCraw thanked everyone for their participation. The good think about tonight is we didn't have to go in debt with what was spent tonight. I had someone contact me about a support letter in opposition of the new DOJ classification. Also, can we reach out to VDOT regarding Lambsburg Mountain. There is a tree that has fell at the bottom and it is still hanging over the road and there is one that looks like it could fall easily. We need to have better signage or look at getting an additional sign so the truckers can see before it is too late.

Dr. Littrell told he appreciates everyone being here. I recommend that everyone vote on Election Day. Lovers Leap Mountain is going to be changed to a four lane and get straightened out. Thanks to all the staff.

COUNTY ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Mr. Durbin told that we will be adding to the agenda for the next meeting a discussion on the Opioid Litigation and a discussion on the Zoning Ordinance.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

Chairman

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