

The Carroll County Economic Development Authority held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 7, 2021, at the Carroll County Governmental Complex in Hillsville.

Members present: Chairman Larry Edwards, Martin Slate, Kay Carter, Mandi McCraw, Marty Hall, Greg Hawks, Terry Russell

Others: Michael Watson, Nathan Lyons

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Edwards called the meeting to order and lead in the pledge.

Mr. Slate led in invocation.

MINUTES

Mr. Hawks made a motion, seconded by Mr. Russell to approve the August minutes.

Ms. McCraw told there is a spelling error, under approval of minutes, second sentence on the far-right side. It should be in the event, not in the vent.

Mr. Edwards stated they would note that grammatical error.

Ms. McCraw told there was a motion for Nathan to be our attorney, would it need to reflect the firm or just Nathan.

Mr. Edwards replied, just Nathan. We are not engaging the firm.

Ms. McCraw told that Mr. Durbin it was for his firm and I was just curious about the clarification. If it is Nathan, that is fine, I was just inquiring.

The motion passed with all members present signifying aye.

CLOSED SESSION – PURSUANT TO VIRGINIA CODE SECTION 2.2-3711

Ms. McCraw made a motion, seconded by Ms. Carter to enter Closed Session under Section 2.2-3711 A1

The motion passed with all members present signifying aye.

COME OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Ms. McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Slate to come out of Closed Session.

The motion passed with all members present signifying aye.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Edwards certified the following:

WHEREAS, the Carroll County Economic Development Authority 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 Economic Development Authority 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 certification as follows:

AYES:	Larry Edwards	Kay Carter
	Mandi McCraw	Marty Hall

EDA DIRECTOR

Mr. Edwards told that we have received a letter of resignation from Mr. Bryant as Executive Director and it is up to the Board to accept his resignation.

Mr. Martin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Carter to accept the resignation of Donald Bryant as Executive Director of the EDA.

The motion passed with all members present signifying aye.

Ms. McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hawks to appoint Mike Watson to serve as the Interim EDA Director, with approval pending from the Board of Supervisors to include his check signing privileges.

The motion passed with all members present signifying aye.

PAYMENT OF INVOICES

Mr. Edwards told that it is our intention to post this electronically in the future. We tried today, but there were a couple glitches. The final approved copy will be the archived copy.

Ms. McCraw asked what the reimbursement for EDA for August 2021 for \$2052. It is payroll and taxes.

Mr. Edwards told Ms. West is unable to be with us, but if we have any questions, I can get her on the phone.

Ms. McCraw asked about the charges from the Newspaper. One is for legal, but the other doesn't say.

Mr. Edwards responded, one is from the Gazette, and one is from Carroll News.

Mr. Slate made a motion, seconded by Ms. Carter to approve the invoices as submitted.

The motion passed with all members present signifying aye.

TREASURERS REPORT

Ms. Carter made a motion, seconded by Ms. McCraw to approve the Treasurers Report as submitted.

The motion passed with all members present signifying aye.

OLD BUSINESS

BEAMER LEASE

Mr. Edwards stated that Mr. Beamer signed the lease for the property and a copy of that was given to Ms. West to go in the file.

Ms. McCraw asked if we can get a copy of that at some point.

Mr. Edwards replied yes, she can provide a copy.

VANGUARD

As an update on some of the other items, Vanguard looks like they did not meet their requirements. There will be a clawback and we do have the funds necessary to do that so we will be working with them.

Ms. McCraw asked how much that is.

Mr. Edwards replied I believe it is \$20,000. We will also be working with them on the sewer line and the parking lot.

EDA PROPERTY

Ms. McCraw told that almost a year ago we talked about auctioning off the property on Beaver Dam. Can we go ahead and move forward with that now?

Mr. Edwards replied, I think it is something that the Board should address and look at all properties that we don't think would be developable and develop a system for that.

Ms. McCraw replied, we have done that we just didn't move forward.

Mr. Edwards replied, right. Let's revisit that before the end of the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

MOU / WOODLAWN SCHOOL

Mr. Edwards asked if you have a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding between the EDA and the Board of Supervisors concerning Woodlawn School? This is basically just to codify in writing the give backs to the school.

Ms. McCraw stated that we will need to remove Donald's name.

Ms. McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hawks to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the EDA and Carroll County.

The motion passed with all members present signifying aye.

GRANT

Mr. Watson stated that in the past several months we have received some funding through the American Recovery Act, and we are trying to look at different ways we can use the money. We are looking at a grant for water and sewer. We are looking to provide money to the EDA, and you would be able to offer these grants to the citizens of the county. We would have an application and an MOU to do this. The idea is for the county to provide funds to the EDA and under the memorandum the EDA would be approving the application. The PSA would also make sure the service was available. It would be for people who have water lines in front of their house and are not hooked up. If the citizen had a well and now, they want to get on county water or sewer, this could go towards that. The EDA is allowed to give grants whereas the Board of Supervisors can not do that. The PSA would still be charging the connection fee; however, the recovery money would be allowing us to be giving the grant to the public instead of discounting the cost. Once we get an MOU drafted up, we can align some details. The ARPA money is not the same as the CARES Act funds.

Mr. Edwards asked if it would be a fair statement to say that the benefit is to help landowners get water and sewer, but it is also giving a paying customer to PSA.

Ms. McCraw asked why it has to come through the EDA.

Mr. Watson responded, the EDA is allowed to by code offer grants.

Mr. Hawks made a motion, seconded by Ms. McCraw to approve the EDA to participate in the grant process with the County and the PSA.

The motion passed with all members signifying aye.

Mr. Edwards introduced our new member, Mr. Russell. We also have Mr. Lyons as our Legal Counsel. I apologize for not doing that at the beginning of the meeting.

DAY CARE

Mr. Edwards stated that Ms. Utt is prepared to close fairly soon. The outstanding item at the moment is insurance estimate on hail damage for the roof. As soon as we can clear that up, we can move forward with the closing.

EDA SURPLUS PROPERTY

Mr. Edwards told it would be good for some of the property that is not developable be sold and put back on the tax rolls.

Ms. McCraw asked if we could go back to the list that Cellell gave us, because nothing has changed since then.

Mr. Edwards told the only change would be the Daycare Center. At the next meeting, Mike and I will bring each one of the properties and a recommendation from what Cellell made and if you have recommendations we can include. We will work with Mr. Lyons on that. We do have a person who is interested in the Carbide Plant in Ivanhoe.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Mr. Hall nominated Mr. Slate as Vice Chairman.

Mr. Hawks nominated Ms. McCraw as Vice Chairman.

Mr. Edwards asked if you want to vote by voice or ballot.

Ms. McCraw told she is fine with voice.

Mr. Edwards asked the nominees if you are elected will you accept the position. Both nominees responded yes.

Votes for Mr. Slate

Ms. McCraw Ms. Carter

Mr. Hall Mr. Slate

Votes for Ms. McCraw

Mr. Hawks Mr. Russell

Mr. Edwards told Mr. Slate will be our Vice Chairman.

SMALL BUSINESS

Ms. McCraw told that she has been thinking about this since last spring. Since that time the County and the Town have had some small businesses pop up. While they are not affording us a lot of employees, they are functioning with new jobs. Yesterday I had an opportunity to speak with and visit Lowell Bowman and I toured the old Cat Building. Todd and Lowell do an awesome job at construction, they are great entrepreneurs. They did the roll off dumpsters and they have grown that from 10 to 50 dumpsters.

They are a business that is not just helping themselves, but a lot of folks in our area. Now they have the New River Trailer Company. I would just like to see us help our small businesses a little bit more. Small businesses are important, and Todd and Lowell really need our assistance. We should be focused on big industry just as much as a small business. They were telling me yesterday that with the trailer business by the end of the year they would have 10 new jobs and at the end of three years they will have in excess of 50 jobs. They have had new jobs at the container storage. It should be of high importance to us.

Mr. Edwards said that he met with them about a month ago and had some discussion. We are somewhat limited in what we can do, but we have it on the radar.

Ms. McCraw told if we could just point them in the right direction. That is what we are here for and I would like to see us do a better job of that.

Mr. Edwards told we are having some inquiries. I had one today that is interested in locating in Carroll.

Mr. Hawks told being really new at this and I see the volume of paperwork that we need to consider each meeting, is there a way that we could get the financials the day before the meeting so we have some time to look over them.

Mr. Edwards told that is what we were hoping to do today, but electronics is not perfect. We meet the first Tuesday and if the month ends on Friday or Saturday, she doesn't have time to close that out. We need to think about do we move our meetings to the second week and give her time to close it. We can post it electronically as a draft copy. I would like to move toward that, and it would satisfy part of the request for the public to see that. We were not able to complete that at next meeting.

Mr. Hawks told that I had tried to get with Mr. Bryant to get some background of some of the stuff. Who can help me with that now?

Mr. Edwards told it would probably be good if we set up a meeting and you can look at minutes to bring yourself up to speed on what we are working with. I will be glad to or Mr. Watson.

Mr. Hawks told you can go through minutes and get information, but you can't get context or history and that is sometimes more important than the information.

Mr. Edwards stated let's get together with you two and get you up to speed.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hawks to adjourn.

The motion passed with all members present signifying aye.

