

The Carroll County Board of Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on, June 11, 2018 in the Board Meeting Room of the Carroll County Governmental Center.

Present were:

- Rex L. Hill
- Dr. Tom Littrell
- Bob Martin
- Phillip McCraw
- Joe Webb
- Steve Truitt, County Administrator
- Nikki Cannon, Assistant County Administrator
- Steve Durbin, County Attorney

Mr. Hill called the meeting to order at 4:39 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION – PURSUANT TO VIRGINIA CODE SECTION 2.2-3711(A1, A5, A7)

Upon motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Phillip McCraw, and passing, the Board convened a Closed Session for the discussion, as authorized by Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A1, A3, A5, A8).

Mr. Durbin explained the reasons for entering Closed Session.

1. Discussion or 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.

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.

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.

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.

VOTES

- Mr. Webb Yes
- Mr. Phillip McCraw Yes
- Mr. Hill Yes
- Mr. Robbie McCraw Not Present
- Dr. Littrell Yes
- Mr. Martin Yes

(Order)

COME OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Upon motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Phillip McCraw and passing, the Board came out of Closed Session.

VOTES

Mr. Webb	Yes
Mr. Phillip McCraw	Yes
Mr. Hill	Yes
Mr. Robbie McCraw	Not Present
Dr. Littrell	Yes
Mr. Martin	Yes

(Order)

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION

Upon motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Webb and passing, the Board adopted 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.

VOTES

Mr. Webb	Yes
Mr. Phillip McCraw	Yes
Mr. Hill	Yes
Mr. Robbie McCraw	Not Present
Dr. Littrell	Yes
Mr. Martin	Yes

Mr. Martin lead in invocation and pledge.

Mr. Hill thanked everyone for coming and told that we have a good crowd and he hopes that everything goes smooth and we can get you out of here quickly.

(Order)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon motion by Mr. Phillip McCraw, seconded by Mr. Webb and passing, the Board approved the agenda.

VOTES

Mr. Webb	Yes
Mr. Phillip McCraw	Yes
Mr. Hill	Yes
Mr. Robbie McCraw	Not Present
Dr. Littrell	Yes
Mr. Martin	Yes

(Order)

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion by Mr. Dr. Littrell seconded by Mr. Martin and passing, the Board approved the Consent Agenda.

VOTES

Mr. Webb	Yes
Mr. Phillip McCraw	Yes
Mr. Hill	Yes
Mr. Robbie McCraw	Not Present
Dr. Littrell	Yes
Mr. Martin	Yes

(Order)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by Mr. Dr. Littrell seconded by Mr. Martin and passing, the Board approved the minutes of the meeting on May 14, 2018.

VOTES

Mr. Webb	Yes
Mr. Phillip McCraw	Yes
Mr. Hill	Yes
Mr. Robbie McCraw	Not Present
Dr. Littrell	Yes
Mr. Martin	Yes

(Order)

ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Upon motion by Dr. Littrell, seconded by Mr. Martin and passing, the Board approved a budget transfer to cover increased cost of accident insurance for Fire Departments with unexpended reimbursements to the EMS agencies.

VOTES

Mr. Webb	Yes
Mr. Phillip McCraw	Yes
Mr. Hill	Yes
Mr. Robbie McCraw	Not Present
Dr. Littrell	Yes
Mr. Martin	Yes

(Order)

TRANSFER

Upon motion by Dr. Littrell, seconded by Mr. Martin and passing, the Board approved a budget transfer from IT to Nondepartmental to assist in covering the expenses for the culvert repair in Cana.

VOTES

Mr. Webb	Yes
Mr. Phillip McCraw	Yes
Mr. Hill	Yes
Mr. Robbie McCraw	Not Present
Dr. Littrell	Yes
Mr. Martin	Yes

(Order)

VISITORS CENTER

Upon motion by Dr. Littrell, seconded by Mr. Martin and passing, the Board approved an additional allocation for the Visitors Center for the increased sales in artisan crafts since moving to the Retail Farmers Market.

VOTES

Mr. Webb	Yes
Mr. Phillip McCraw	Yes
Mr. Hill	Yes
Mr. Robbie McCraw	Not Present
Dr. Littrell	Yes
Mr. Martin	Yes

(Order)

SIX YEAR ROAD PLAN RESOLUTION

Upon motion by Dr. Littrell, seconded by Mr. Martin and passing, the Board approved the Six Year Road Plan Resolution.

VOTES

Mr. Webb	Yes
Mr. Phillip McCraw	Yes
Mr. Hill	Yes
Mr. Robbie McCraw	Not Present
Dr. Littrell	Yes
Mr. Martin	Yes

(Order)

FLOW CHART

Upon motion by Dr. Littrell, seconded by Mr. Martin and passing, the Board approved the Flow Chart as presented.

VOTES

Mr. Webb	Yes
Mr. Phillip McCraw	Yes
Mr. Hill	Yes
Mr. Robbie McCraw	Not Present
Dr. Littrell	Yes
Mr. Martin	Yes

(Order)

TWIN COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCCCE

Ms. Dixon told that she said she would keep you abreast of the Chamber happenings since you are stakeholders and that is why she is here this evening. She told over the last 5 months they have accomplished several things, the website is near completion and they are pleased with it, there is also a policy and procedure manual underway and the move to the new location will be complete. She told the new location is in Dr. Tucks old office and it is a much better space. She told they have outlined their plan of work and they will be focusing on workforce development and will be holding workshops and programs. They are going to be creating a young professional network group, and having a junior entrepreneur program where they will learn to make a business plan. She told there is also a youth program for grades 5 – 7 and the theme will be based on the Wizard of Oz and they will teach them about leadership characteristics. She told they will also have the

Dolly Parton Imagination Library and she has been involved with it for 20 years and there are tremendous effects on it. She told a story that she had experienced with this program. She told that it will be open to all children and this is important to the Chamber because it puts us in the center of community. She invited everyone to a blood drive on Thursday at the Farmers Market and they are also going to be having a business breakfast. On the 21st is their open house and she hopes that you all can attend.

Mr. Hill told that the Chamber does great work for the Twin Counties.

(Order)

BRIDGE NAMING – TINA BULLINS

Ms. Bullins told that the picture on the front is the bridge that they are proposing to name. She told that her family has owned land in the area and they still live there today. She told there is no signage for the bridge that was constructed in 1950’s and her grandfather actually ran the ferry until the flood. She told they wanted to come get your support and she understands there is a petition and signatures needed and also the expense which they are willing to cover.

Mr. Hill told that you had asked about electronic signatures.

Mr. Durbin told that he would have to look at the code on that.

Mr. Hill told he thinks it is 100 or 150 signatures.

Mr. Martin told he doesn’t think you would have any problem getting 100 signatures and he thinks it is a great idea.

Mr. Durbin told that it doesn’t specify so he doesn’t see any reason why we couldn’t.

Ms. Bullins asked when they have all the information where do they bring it.

Ms. Cannon replied to the County Administrators Office.

Mr. Martin told anything that preserves history he is for.

Ms. Bullins told that they are very proud of the book that her mother published.

Ms. Cannon told that you could also sell those at the Tourism Office.

(Order)

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Upon motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Phillip McCraw and passing, the Board reappointed Clinton Willie to the IDA.

VOTES

Mr. Webb	Yes
Mr. Phillip McCraw	Yes
Mr. Hill	Yes
Mr. Robbie McCraw	Not Present
Dr. Littrell	Yes
Mr. Martin	Yes

Upon motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Webb and passing, the Board reappointed Janet Crowder to the Library Board.

VOTES

Mr. Webb	Yes
Mr. Phillip McCraw	Yes

Mr. Hill	Yes
Mr. Robbie McCraw	Not Present
Dr. Littrell	Yes
Mr. Martin	Yes

(Order)

PUBLIC HEARING – SALE OF PROPERTY

Mr. Hill opened the Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m. and told the purpose.

Mr. Martin told he can give a little background information, this is the Crooked Creek that was originally purchased to service the Woodlawn and Gladeville area for water and sewage and at that point we didn't use the facility at Galax so that was the logical choice. He told he thinks it was about 14 acres and the purchase price was \$100,000 and after we purchased it the Galax option became a reality.

Mr. Hill told the property was taken out of the tax base so it will be sold and put back into the tax base because we no longer have a use for it.

No one was signed up to speak.

Mr. Martin told that he would hate to have a sale and sell it for half price.

Mr. Hill closed the Public Hearing at 6:35 p.m.

(Order)

CITIZENS TIME

Mr. Gerald Melton told he lives on Coulson Church Road and when they were putting the water through the lady came into his house and his wife was there and he told them he wanted water and his son lives on the same property. He told that he called when he got water and his son didn't he still pays for it because the water is on the other side of the road. He told he called several times and it looks like his word would have been good and he told them he wanted water too and he kept calling to tell them that he wanted it. He told that he doesn't know what happened. He told that he doesn't have his hearing aid in, he can't hear good.

Mr. Hill asked if he would check with one of these ladies and get Jessica?

Mr. Dillon told that he spoke earlier about the PSA non user fees but he is going to say three things. He told there are three words if you go home and look up that describes the non user fee and that is communism, extortion and discrimination. He told that you have discriminated against him until he has got interested in politics and he has some things he needs to say. He told that one of them is your budget, you just passed a \$85.7 million budget and if his calculator is right that figures up to \$234,794 every 24 hours, we are a poor county he doesn't know where the money is going. He told for every citizen in Carroll County that is \$8.10 a day if you are a family of four it is \$32.40 every day and \$280 weekly then you have to pay federal income tax and disability and that don't leave much. He told there is a lot of things going on in the County, the parking lot is full. He told we need to start spending what we make. He told we are 30% higher on our tax rate than Wythe County and he saw where there were 20 jobs created at Wildwood. He told that several people told him Gary Larowe was the worse County Administrator they ever had and I don't know him but he is on tv and he has created 1000 jobs, where is our jobs. He told why do we need three School Superintendents.

Mr. Robert Patton asked, as Board members who do you serve the state government, other Board members or the people of Carroll County. He told before you start these large projects spending millions of dollars he thinks the residents should take more part in how the money is being spent because they are carrying the burden. He told that he

thinks it is a conflict of interest having people serve on more than one board in local government. He told he doesn't think there should be any more closed door meetings, it needs to be more transparent so the people know what is going on and anytime you are going to be passing laws everyone should be notified in advance.

Mr. Robert Mabe told he is really upset concerning the water non user fee, he doesn't have a meter but you are charging him a fee along with the majority of the people in the community. He told it is sad you want to charge people for something they are not using. He told he has a good well and doesn't have a thing in the world against someone that needs water but the people that are paying and not using is bologna. He told it people want to pay it that is their purgative. He told you shouldn't be putting the burden on people. He told he has had several people that they have talked to and they are upset to and he would like some answers.

Mr. Martin told the whole reason it came about was Carroll County was getting grants to put in water and they were basically getting it for less than half through the federal government. He told originally they didn't do the user fees but later on Travis Jackson with USDA came back to the Board and said we can no longer do that, if you want a low interest loan or grant then it has to be mandatory hookup so that's what the County did to get the loans. He told some people have good wells or springs but their neighbor has iron or sulphur and they can't drink it. He told everybody on Shorts Creek had red hair because they had so much iron. He told what is really good for one is bad for someone else. He told one benefit of putting in water lines is it helps with insurance rates. He told the word mandatory, the citizens voted out 6 board members at the time and he would say the feeling has reversed, there may be a handful of people don't want it, but most do. He told also the water is guaranteed to be good.

Mr. Mabe people have talked about the chlorine in the water and they can't drink it.

Mr. Martin told that he will tell you the same thing he told his mother, if you ever had your water tested you might think when the test came back and you found out what was in your water. He told some people have a well in the front yard and septic in the back.

Mr. Mabe told you still are not telling me why you are charging me a fee and I am not even using the water, why should I have to pay my neighbors water bill.

Mr. Martin told his mother was paying for a water bill and she didn't have water close because we have to subsidize PSA, atleast you have a line that you could hook to.

Mr. Truitt told that water is something you can't live without and decisions were made by the leadership of this County. He told that water infrastructure is tremendously expensive and there are some people that would not have water without the decisions that were made to develop that infrastructure. He told to get the most economical money we got loans where there were strings attached to it. He told everyone needs to pay the fee to do the financing. He told if we didn't have that financing we would have to go borrow it and raise taxes. He told that it is really no different than people paying for other peoples children to go to school, no different than paying for roads that you don't drive on. He told if you don't agree with that, that is fine we are allowed to disagree and protest and we respect that. He told the leadership decided that the people should have the water that they need to live and they went ahead and made arrangements to pay for it.

Mr. Mabe told he is not arguing the fact that people need the water, what he is saying is he don't have a meter or nothing and he is getting charged.

Mr. Martin told we have a responsibility for the wellbeing of the citizens.

Mr. Hill told that is what is required. He told there are people on the Board that are for it and some are against it. He told that it will probably be addressed in the future. He told he knows people who don't like the user fee on the Board now. He told that he has been looking at contacting USDA to see if it is in fact mandated. He told that if it changes it may not change those who are already paying and that is the reality of what we are looking at.

Ms. Lisa Montgomery told that she is a school bus driver for Carroll County Schools and she is here to speak on behalf of the school bus drivers and special needs aides that are contracted but with no benefits better known as newer contracts-non benefits. She told the following. We receive no benefits at all even though they have the same responsibilities and do the very same job as the full time contract drivers who have full benefits. First, we would like to thank you for your time and consideration of our concerns. Also, we appreciate the service that the Supervisors provide to the citizens of the County. We are well aware that you may be thinking this is a School Board matter. However, we have discussed this with the School Board on May 8. I was told in a lil conversation prior to the meeting that the budget had already been completed and basically nothing could be done for the upcoming year. Personally, having worked for many years in upper management in the corporate setting and having experience with numerous budgets, no budget is etched in stone. If nothing else can be done we suggest utilizing the category line item of discretionary spending which typically is included in all budgets for unexpected occurrences, emergencies, etc. Also, we are aware of the fact that the Board of Supervisors have the responsibility of oversight of taxpayer money which does include our tax dollars, to which we say thank you. Therefore, we respectfully request that as our elected representatives, please take the time to hear our concerns and requests. We are unsure if the Supervisors are aware of the fact that in July 2015 the School Board voted to cease offering any benefits to all new full time contracted bus drivers. Basically, all the new full time contracted drivers received a piece of paper for all their hard work. This decision creased 2 classes of bus drivers, the haves and the have nots. All other full time contracted drivers have full benefits and new full time contracted drivers have no benefits at all even though we have the very same duties and do the very same job. My question is what do you think in your mind and reasoning would be the right thing to do. On May 8, 2018 we requested of the School Board the same contract, same benefits package for the same job. We are told that the budget is already done and nothing can be done to give benefits to the new full time contracted drivers. So, I would emphasize that the new full time contracted drivers are a small group in number. I would implore you to help give us benefits while the number is small and is financially feasible, then all drivers are equal. As new drivers are hired they can be added one at a time. The second problem that was created by the decision is an extreme shortage of bus drivers. Before this decision, most drivers had to start by being a substitute because full time contracted routes were few and far between. Each of us had to substitute while praying for a full time route to open and that is not true today. The shortage of bus drivers is a reality and is evidenced in many ways, however let me say the shortage is snot due to retirements and personal illnesses it is primarily due to no benefits. Bus garage mechanics have to cover bus routes on almost a daily basis which takes them away from working on the buses. Also, never ending advertisements for school bus drivers needed such as local newspapers, school website and most of all the huge signs at the red light. And even if potential drivers do inquire, not just anyone can crawl in a bus seat and drive a school bus. At least not legally and professionally. This is a CDL license with a school bus endorsement. Obtaining this license is not easy and much time must be invested in obtaining and maintain this license. Also, this license is monetarily expensive. Just to mention a few things that we must do to obtain it is 40 hours in the classroom, 10 hours of driving bus without students and 10 hours of driving the bus with students, pass DMV test, pass required physical and annually thereafter, pass a background check and all this is done with no compensation. A school bus drivers life must be planned around school bus routes such as a second or part time job, one or two hour delays and early dismissals, we are on call at all times. We can say without any doubt, there is a shortage of bus drivers in our school system and without any reservation we believe this is due to the new benefit issue. However, we may say that our Transportation Manager, Transportation Secretary do an excellent job under very difficult circumstances to cover all routes and still manage to treat all of us with dignity and respect not to mention appreciation. To the Board of Supervisors, we are confident that you all are always striving to attract new business and new industry to our county. Also, we only want the best for our county and school system. One of the very first thing that any new possible business looks at is our schools. Is this the image we want to project, that we have a problem recruiting bus drivers as evidenced by the newspapers, website and the huge banner advertisement at the busiest intersection in our town, the red light. We, as school bus drivers take on a tremendous responsibility each and every day to

safely transport the students of Carroll County which is not always easy. However, we are proud of who we are and what we do. In conclusion, we respectfully request that our Supervisors help us to make this situation right. Thank you for your time and attention.

Mr. Webb told you are preaching to the choir because he knows what you go through. He told the he made it a point to talk to the School Board about transportation during the budget meeting and he brought it to their attention. He told that he doesn't think we can designate their line items. He told that he asked them to go ride a route.

Ms. Montgomery told that on the line items, she wrote a letter and asked them to use the miscellaneous expense because every budget has them and the only reason she looks at you all is because you are taking care of the taxpayer money.

Mr. Phillip McCraw told that at that same meeting he told that they should have the same benefits and they can't have another job. He told they are the first ones that see the children in the morning and the last in the evening.

(Order)

SUPERVISORS TIME

Mr. Webb thanked everyone that came out tonight and brought up the issues, he is new and is still learning. He told he appreciates citizens input. He told this Board didn't raise taxes and didn't take away services and he is proud of that. He told that you have to spend money to make money. He told they will be working on spending the tax dollars wisely. He told that we need to work on it, there is a lot of things that need fixing that can't happen overnight but we are aware of them. He thanked everyone for coming and thank the staff for the job they do, he had no idea until he came into office, it is overwhelming.

Mr. Phillip McCraw thanked everyone for coming out and talking about taxes, he thanked everyone for working with us for cutting where they could. He told that he is a total opponent of the non user fee and has been since day one. He told if he goes to the Chevrolet place and try them out, if he don't sign paperwork he doesn't owe anything. He told that he knows people need water. He told that it has created some problems and solved some.

Dr. Littrell told that it has been an interesting meeting. He told that he would like to shine the spot light on the fact that we have our first business coming to Wildwood. He told that it is a bright spot for the county. He told that our staff works hard to get people into our Industrial Park at Wildwood.

Mr. Martin told that he would like for us to take a look, we have mobile home requirements in the county and he wonders if we need to revisit for the next meeting. He told several have sprung up in the County. He told all of you have gotten an invitation to the White House Conference and you can take your wife. He told he intends to go. He told he knows how much time has been put it to bring in industry. He told her greatly appreciates the job Steve has done.

Mr. Hill told that there could be some policies and procedures that we need to go through. He told he appreciates everyone coming out and all the information that we get. He told we may not agree but he is glad they come out. He told he appreciates staff and Steve for the work at Wildwood.

Mr. Webb told the discussion involves the budget and includes funding for the Carroll County Schools and he at times works for Carroll County Schools. He told that the proposed funding would affect the entire school system and not just him individually and together we constitute a group of 3 or more individuals who are similarly employed by the school and affected by the decisions and therefore the exception to the Virginia State and Local Conflict of Interest Act, code section 2.2-3112 applies to this situation and he is able to participate and discuss fairly, objectively and in the public's interest.

(Order)

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Mr. Hill, second by Mr. Phillip McCraw and passing, the Board adjourned.

VOTES

Mr. Webb	Yes
Mr. Phillip McCraw	Yes
Mr. Hill	Yes
Mr. Robbie McCraw	Not Present
Dr. Littrell	Yes
Mr. Martin	Yes

(Order)

Chairman

Clerk