

The Carroll County Board of Supervisors held a Budget meeting on, March 27, 2019 in the Board Meeting Room of the Carroll County Governmental Center.

Present were:

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

Mr. Hill called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Mr. Robbie McCraw lead in invocation and pledge.

Mr. Hill opened the Public Hearing on the School Board Proposed Budget at 6:02 p.m.

Mr. Benny Robinson said for the record, he is Benny Robinson. I arrive this evening for a citizen's perspective to tonight's topic. I have been in attendance to this year's budget meetings and I appreciate the struggle the supervisors have been through. I would ask you to lend an ear to my observations and speaking for the community. Thank you for your school budget generosity in past years. We know you are not opposed to education, you are simply attempting to exercise fiscal responsibility. Your past generosity speaks. Anyone who says different is simply spewing mindless and clueless reasoning. We are a demographically poor county, median incomes below poverty standards prevail. Taxpayers cannot continue to fund an ever-increasing school budget request for additional monies. Presentations that overtly speak to the only solution in quality education as being money and a lovely photo album slideshow with children's faces set to music is less than convincing. The minds of logical cognitive reasoning individuals reject that play on emotions. God gave us our children, we love our children and we accept the stewardship role for their wellbeing. The love of money is the root of all evil. If the mindset that I heard is that the only solution to a quality education is money, we are condemned at the outset. Thank you for the steps that you took in reducing the county's contribution to next years budget. A good beginning, but you did not cut deep enough. This harangue has to end. Intuitive educated people find ways to do more with less. Said another way, find ways to increase the qualitative output of our students with less money. I challenge the school administrators and school board alike to step up and accept that task. Techniques such as Lean Six Sigma have proven results and need to be investigated. Bothersome for some time is that subjective descriptors are all that I hear when gauging the quality of our schools. Let's replace that with quantitative metrics, rankings on testing's, college entrance exams, technical aptitudes, school rankings synergistically at all levels. Quantitatively within the state, the region and the nation comparisons in preparing our students for Advanced science programs, mathematics, physics, chemistry, engineering, pre-med, pre-law, mechanical information, technologies as well as clerical, welding, machining, construction, heavy equipment etc. should be published. Let the taxpayers determine how well the school systems are performing. Preparation of our students for all opportunities in real life careers must be the order of the day. We are not the MIT of education. From my knothole, my observations present the school system priorities as more of a place of employment with benefits than advanced education of students. Perhaps an understanding of the level of income and family benefits of those paying the taxes would be something the school system should digest. Nepotism within the employment base is another revealing indicator in and of itself which can be problematic. The bottom line is there has got to be a new day coming. The cost to educate is breaking the backs of the taxpayers. There is no money left to promote or expand the standard and quality of living in this county. The school system has this county hamstrung. It is a battle and a struggle every year. The school board must recognize this board is their revenue source and dispel with the arrogance. The Board of Supervisors has to recognize, and I think you have, this is all taxpayers have to give. Our taxes are regionally too high already. Our school monetary contribution is in excess of the average in the region. Carroll County does not have a

federal reserve to print the money on demand. There are no monetary reserves, no incentives to attract industry. It is problematic to attract a mainstay manufacturing concern that can offer careers that will bring our children back home after college and not just jobs that exacerbate this below poverty level standard of living. It is time to renew our thinking, its time to renew our minds, its time for citizens to get involved and impart a change on this county in search of excellence. We had a preacher in this area once who cried out if you will bring me a rock I will build a church and he did. We must resist the cookie cutter approach to establishing the future of Carroll County, out of the box thinking must prevail. Our beliefs determine our perspectives in life and that shapes our priorities and attitudes. Thank you.

Mr. Hill asked if we have anyone else that wishes to speak? He closed the public hearing at 6:09 p.m. We could discuss the debt policy. Everyone has a copy and if you have any comments or wish to make a change just send it out. I think Steve sent it to everyone.

(Order)

ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTES

Mr. Webb	Yes
Mr. Phillip McCraw	Yes
Mr. Hill	Yes
Mr. Robbie McCraw	Yes
Dr. Littrell	Yes
Mr. Martin	Yes

(Order)

Chairman

Clerk