

November 18, 2019

The Carroll County Board of Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on November 18, 2019 in the Board Meeting Room of the Carroll County Governmental Center.

**Members Present:**

Rex L. Hill  
Dr. Tom Littrell  
Bob Martin  
Phillip McCraw  
Robbie McCraw  
Joe Webb

**Staff Present:**

Cellell Dalton, County Administrator  
Steve Durbin, County Attorney  
Crystal Adams, Administrative Coordinator  
Everett Lineberry                      Ronald Newman  
Michelle Dalton                      Jason Stanley

**Other:**

Joe Marshall	Linda Mock
Donna Peery	Katie Horton
Allen Straw	Steve Pottorff
Lynn Hatten	Dustin Richardson
Travis Bunn	Charley Wright

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Hill called the meeting to order.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Robbie McCraw led the Board in Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CITIZENS TIME**

Joe Marshall addressed the cattle working facility, I am in favor of a basic setup. It will serve the producers well and be a plus to the County.

Linda Mock stated that her family has utilized EMS recently and she was impressed with their response. EMS, Fire and Police are core services. I understand that you must do due diligence, but I request that you do not hinder these employees with hiring freezes, understaffing and the lack of equipment needed. As a former elected official and a volunteer firefighter I ask that you review your decisions carefully.

Mr. Hill replied we just finished a meeting with EMS and we will be working on that.

Donna Peery informed the Board she is not sure how she feels about the cattle facility. Something basic would be beneficial but from what I hear I am not sure that is what we are talking about. I would like for you to take time because we don't have a good track record with grant associated endeavors. I am not necessarily against it.

Katie Horton wants to know what is going to happen with Everett leaving. We had to use the services for my son and with four people gone, is it worth my son losing his life over saving a few thousand dollars. We moved to Town limits to make sure we could get to the hospital in time. How do you plan to solve this?

Alan Straw stated that he is the Manager at Southern States and is a firm believer that agriculture is the backbone of the County. This project will do as much good as any project recently. I have been involved since the beginning

discussions and Southern States will offer internships. The loading facility will be an asset and being able to teach young people how to do these things will be beneficial. We are willing to offer up to three internships and also a minimum of \$5000 towards construction of the facility.

Mr. Phillip McCraw asked about the liability of bringing students in that have never been around cattle.

Mr. Straw replied, it is an issue but how are we going to teach them if we never expose them to it.

Steve Potorff mentioned there are 38,000 head of cattle in the county. This facility is an opportunity for marketing. As a representative of Va Cooperative Extension, we are willing to oversee the facility until such time that someone else is able to do that because this is a very important project.

Lynn Hatten distributed some information to the Board members. I am here as spokesperson for the Southwest Virginia Livestock and Education Center. I want to address some of the concerns and misconceptions that I have already heard today. There will be a nonprofit board that runs the facility and they will take care of all the operational and maintenance and they will have the name and 501 C3 within the next couple of weeks. This will be a community resource. Virginia Cooperative Extension has written a memorandum of understanding to do the scheduling and manage the facility. The operating cost will come from donors and from the use of the facility. The only thing we are asking from Carroll County at this point is to continue to extend the agreement of liability coverage on the facilities and the property and the usage of the tract of land that has been talked about as a local match. We will have all users of the facility to sign a waiver of liability. The children are covered under their liability even while they are at the facility.

Mr. Martin asked how they would establish hours.

Ms. Hadden replied they will have a sharable calendar between 3 to 4 people. We want it to always be accessible.

Mr. Phillip McCraw asked how many producers we have that don't have working facilities. I can't imagine they wouldn't.

Ms. Hadden replied you would be surprised. Close to 70% of the calls I have, people do not have working facilities.

Mr. Webb stated that he has spoken with a cattle producer in his district who is in favor of the project but has some concerns regarding provisions for operating costs, managing the facility, how it will become financially stable.

Ms. Hadden replied that they feel one set manager at this time is not doable, but Extension has agreed to schedule and manage during the day. The electric bill will be paid by Healing Springs Large Animal for the foreseeable future. I think there is a lot of concern over miscommunication. Most of the financial things are secured other than the liability insurance for the land. We do have an anonymous donor that has set up a \$20,000 line of credit for operating costs.

Mr. Webb replied that it has been brought to our attention that the County must match \$167,000.

Ms. Hadden replied that is not true, I don't know where that came from.

Mr. Webb replied from Go Virginia.

Ms. Hadden replied it is my understanding that the grant will be used to buy the equipment. As far as we know the local match of the land will cover \$66,000 and

Bowman Griffin has a noncash value that covers the rest. The only match we have to come up with is \$50,000 and the land covers that.

Mr. Hill asked what happens after the first couple years for the operating cost.

Ms. Hadden replied that will be covered by the nonprofit for the foreseeable future.

Mr. Hill responded so all you are asking Carroll County for is the land and the liability insurance.

Ms. Hadden replied yes.

Mr. Robbie McCraw stated that the Board is not against this. This Board saw the application packet for the first time today. We have not seen written agreements and that makes it hard for us. We need more time until we see more of the documents. Our legal counsel asked if a non-binding resolution of support would suffice until the details could be worked out.

Dr. Littrell stated that it seems like we are often asked to make decisions that have long term benefits at the last second. Why are we looking at this last minute?

Ms. Hadden responded it was set up by the former administrator.

Mr. Hill replied the grant was approved May 9, 2019.

Mr. Webb asked what happens in two years if the facility folds.

Ms. Hadden replied it will still be your land.

Ms. Hunter replied she would have to ask DHCD about that.

Mr. Webb responded, we have got to protect the citizens money and land.

Mr. Robbie McCraw asked about getting a time extension to get some details worked out.

Ms. Hunter replied we are on a thin timeline; we have been sitting on this for six months. On the match, it is \$50,000 and you have \$66,000. This is a great project but I understand the situation you are in.

Mr. Robbie McCraw stated that some of the milestones have been passed and a new schedule would need to be made.

Ms. Hunter replied any changes have to be submitted in a proposal format to DHCH. They have gone above and beyond to support us.

Mr. Dalton suggested if they get their papers in two weeks and become the entity that we transfer that responsibility to them and we will give them the land, we could move forward with this project and they would take all the responsibility.

Ms. Hunter replied I would have to communicate that with DHCD. We previously discussed Mt. Rogers PDC filling in as the fiscal agent.

Ms. Hadden stated they are not opposed to that at all.

Mr. Dalton replied they would provide the land with a long-term lease with a reversion clause.

Ms. Hadden stated their issue is the liability insurance.

Mr. Dalton replied our insurance provider is not going to cover a third party. If they are the grantee, we should be able to move forward.

Ms. Hunter stated that she has been texting DHCD and their response on the nonprofit is most likely yes.

Mr. Dalton replied he is okay if the answer is almost yes for the Board to change the contract to the nonprofit as subgrantee, give us 14 days for them to get their 501C3 and fix a lease for the land. That takes us completely out of the liability issue, and we will work on the insurance.

Mr. Hill stated that we agree upon what has just been discussed.

Mr. Travis Bunn appreciates the support. Everyone is invited to attend the meetings in the future so that everyone is on the same page.

Mr. Charlie Wright mentioned getting a group of cattle that could have been sold in November if we would have had this facility. This is a good thing and will benefit the farmers.

### **ACTING EMS DIRECTOR**

Mr. Hill announced that Keith Schlabach will be the acting EMS Director.

Mr. Schlabach stated that he has served with Carroll Fire & Rescue for 10 years. I have served as the Assistant Emergency Services Coordinator and I am willing to step up and help as need be.

Mr. Webb informed that we had a work session and he doesn't know what happened, there was no action taken that night. We are getting thrown under the bus, there is not a person that wants to cut anything, but we are under a budget crunch. We have to fix the problems and we are looking to do that. I don't want any service cut in this county if we can afford it. I ask for the citizens to man up and volunteer and help our neighbor.

Mr. Robbie McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Webb to appoint Keith Schlabach as Interim Director of EMS.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Rex Hill	Joe Webb
	Robbie McCraw	Tom Littrell
	Phillip McCraw	Bob Martin

NAYS:       None

Mr. Robbie McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Webb to advertise for part time EMS positions as this is an essential service and an exception to the hiring freeze.

Dr. Littrell responded that he is not opposed but we do have a hiring freeze.

Mr. Hill replied that the Board just has to approve each hire.

### **SUPERVISORS TIME**

Mr. Webb apologized for his rant. I am in favor of things if we can afford it. I want good things for this county.

Mr. Phillip McCraw wants the best for the county. We have to spend wisely.

Mr. Martin stated that he is optimistic about the county. I attended the VACo Conference and was able to attend the budget hearing which was positive news.

Dr. Littrell informed that he appreciates Mr. Daltons solution to the cattle facility project. I appreciate the citizens being here and I support all of our EMS folks. Congratulation

Mr. Robbie McCraw stated that it is good to see a crowd. There have been comments made and audits are done every year. We are doing a good job at being more attentive and doing what is best for this county. I appreciate our EMS, Firefighters and volunteers.

Mr. Hill told that we have to continue asking questions to ensure that we are doing the correct things.

**SURETY BOND**

Mr. Robbie McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Webb to approve the reissue of a check for a Surety Bond in the amount of \$2,500 to Red Roof Investments, LLC, Attention Larry Cooper.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Rex Hill	Joe Webb
	Robbie McCraw	Tom Littrell
	Phillip McCraw	Bob Martin

NAYS:       None

**CHRISTMAS BONUS**

Mr. Robbie McCraw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Webb to approve the Christmas Bonus for employees.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Rex Hill	Joe Webb
	Robbie McCraw	Tom Littrell
	Phillip McCraw	Bob Martin

NAYS:       None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Robbie McCraw made a motion, seconded by Dr. Littrell to adjourn.

Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Rex Hill	Joe Webb
	Robbie McCraw	Tom Littrell
	Phillip McCraw	Bob Martin

NAYS:       None

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Chairman

November 18, 2019