

May 17, 2005

The Carroll County Board of Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 17, 2005 in the Board Meeting Room of the Carroll County Governmental Center.

Present were:       Glenna Myers, Vice-Chairman  
                          L J Jones  
                          Sharon Nichols  
                          Joseph H. Early, III  
                          W. Jeff Evans  
                          Craig E. Teller, County Administrator  
                          Ronald L. Newman, Assistant Administrator  
                          Bradley Dalton, County Attorney

Mrs. Myers called the meeting to Order at 9:06. She asked everyone to remember Mr. Spencer who was not able to be here today due to having back surgery. She then asked Mr. Evans to lead in the prayer and the pledge of allegiance.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA DISCUSSION**

Mrs. Nichols asked how it was determined how much the organizations got for picking up trash.

Mr. Teller told that is was based on the number of miles and the number of bags of trash.

Mrs. Myers asked what the claim to J & D Construction was for.

Mr. Teller told that it was for grading work on the parking area at the Farmer's Market.

Mr. Jones asked who White Plains Youth Group was.

Mr. Teller told that this would have to be check on.

Note: It was later reported this was a youth group from Dugspur.

Mrs. Myers asked about the Recreation Department claims.

Mr. Larry Collins, Recreation Director, told that these were to reimburse the sports account that was used to pay officials, buy equipment, and buy supplies.

Mrs. Nichols asked if Sprint was the telephone service.

Mr. Teller told that Sprint was the local service.

Mrs. Nichols asked who SiteStar was

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Mr. Teller told they provided internet service.

Mr. Evans asked why there were two checks to AmerLink each in the amount of \$300,000.

Mr. Teller told that one was for the Governor's Opportunity Fund grant and the other for the Tobacco Commission grant.

Mrs. Nichols asked what the travel was for and who had traveled.

Mr. Teller told this would have to be checked on but stated that Mrs. Libby Lineberry had went to training and that the travel was way under budget. He told that most travel was by Tourism of the Grant Writer.

Mr. Early stated that page A29 of the minutes needed to be changed to state "If the intent is to teach history, a flag pole in the Courthouse yard is not the best place to do that."

(Order)

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Jones, and passed unanimously, the Board approved the minutes from their regular monthly meeting held on April 19, 2005 with the amendment listed above and an adjourned meeting held on April 28, 2005 as previously distributed to the members of the Board by its Clerk and as recorded in Minute Book No. 24 in the County Administrator's Office.

(Order)

#### **APPROVAL OF PAYROLL**

Upon motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Jones, and passed unanimously, the Board approved the payroll for April 29 and May 13, 2005 and did authorize the Chairman and Clerk, along with Bonita M. Williams, Treasurer, to sign on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of May and the 15<sup>th</sup> day of June checks for the payment of salaries and wages for all County officials and employees as previously budgeted by the State Compensation Board and this Board of Supervisors.

(Order)

#### **APPROVAL OF CLAIMS**

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Upon motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Jones, and passed unanimously, the Board approved the County General Claims as presented this day and did approve the Carroll County Industrial Development Authority claims as presented this day.

(Order)

**FARMER'S MARKET APPROPRIATION**

Upon motion by Mrs. Nichols, seconded by Mr. Evans, and passed unanimously, the Board approved the request to create line item 083060-9010 Capital Outlay and to appropriate the \$72,960.00 received as an economic development grant from the Industrial Development Authority to this line item.

(Order)

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION**

Upon motion by Mrs. Nichols, seconded by Mr. Evans, and passed unanimously, the Board approved the request to appropriate \$5000.00 to the Sheriff's Office salary line item 031020-1001 to be used for reimbursement for overtime costs for drug enforcement investigation with the stipulation that these funds not be paid out until reimbursement for the overtime has been received from the Drug Enforcement Agency.

(Order)

**APPROVE LINE ITEM TRANSFERS**

Upon motion by Mrs. Nichols, seconded by Mr. Evans, and passed unanimously, the Board approved the following line item transfers:

- a) Transfer \$55,950 to County Repairs & Maintenance line item 043200-3004 from:

Governmental Center 043010-3004	\$18,000
Governmental Center 043010-5415	2,500
Old Courthouse 043030-3004	3,500
Old Courthouse 043030-5415	400
Maintenance Force 043110-3002	3,250

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Maintenance Force 043110-3003	2,500
Maint. Force Shop 043140-3004	2,000
Carter Building 043040-3004	3,300
Social Services 043050-7000	2,500
Cannery 043060-3004	2,000
Lovells Creek 043090-3004	2,500
Maint. Other Properties 043100-5411	1,000
Maint. Other Properties 043100-5412	1,500
Maint. Other Properties 043100-5413	500
Maint. Other Properties 043100-7001	6,000
Farmer's Market 083060-3005	3,000
Farmer's Market 083060-5415	1,500

- b) Transfer \$16,100.00 to County Janitorial Supplies line item 043200-5405 from:

Governmental Center 043010-5405	\$14,000
Old Courthouse 043030-5405	500
Cannery 043060-5405	400
Maint. Other Properties	1,200

- c) Transfer \$51,350.00 to County Heating Fuel line item 043200-5102 from:

Governmental Center 043010-5102	\$40,000
Cannery 043060-5102	4,000
Old Courthouse 043030-5102	1,850
County Garage 043140-5102	3,500
Farmers Market 083060-5408	2,000

- d) Transfer \$9,380.00 to County Water & Sewer line item 043200-5103 from:

Governmental Center 043010-5103	\$ 3,000
Lovells Creek 043090-5103	180
Old Courthouse 043030-5103	350
Farmer's Market 083060-5103	5,500
Cannery 043060-5103	350

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**HOMELAND SECURITY GRANTS**

Upon motion by Mrs. Nichols, seconded by Mr. Evans, and passed unanimously, the Board adopted the DESIGNATION OF APPLICANTS AGENT RESOLUTION designating Craig E. Teller, County Administrator, Ronald L. Newman, Assistant Administrator, and Joe Roma, Deputy Emergency Services as the Carroll County Agents to sign for and receive funds from the Office of Domestic Preparedness Homeland Security Funds.

(Order)

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATION**

Upon motion by Mrs. Nichols, seconded by Mr. Evans, and passed unanimously, the Board appropriated the \$300,000 Governor's Opportunity Fund grant to be used as an economic development incentive with AmerLink to Economic Development IDA Business Retention and Expansion line item 081060-9007.

(Order)

**AUTHORIZE RIGHT OF WAY PURCHASE AGREEMENT**

Upon motion by Mr. Early, seconded by Mr. Jones, and passed unanimously, the Board authorized the Right of Way Purchase Agreement with VDOT.

(Order)

**APPROVE CARNIVAL CONTRACT**

Upon motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Early, and passed unanimously, the Board approved the contract between Sutton's Imperial Midways and the Carroll County Fair Association.

Note: Mr. Early asked what the County's liability would be.

Mr. Teller told that there was some risk but it was covered by VACo. He told that the County was requiring the Carnival Operator and major vendors to have insurance.

**RECREATION PARK IMPROVEMENTS**

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Mr. Teller told that he was asking the Board's guidance on spending money this year to complete the shelters as the Recreation Park. He told it would take approximately \$4000 to complete the shelters.

Mrs. Nichols asked how much money would be brought in with the shelters that are there.

Mr. Collins told that these had been rented 19 times with 47 other reservations and that to date had brought in \$700. He told this would be approximately \$2100 if there were no other reservations but stated that the weekends were big.

Mrs. Nichols asked what the money was used for.

Mr. Collins told that it was for operation expenses for recreation. He stated there would not be any problem with renting another shelter.

Mr. Early asked Mr. Collins if he was on the Committee studying the Recreation Park and asked that he review the findings.

Mr. Collins told that if the area could be marketed there would be enough funds to establish a good centrally located recreation facility. He told that the current facility did not have enough room or facilities to meet the needs. He told that the committee felt relocating the park and marketing this area would make enough money to have a bigger, better, nicer facility. He told that something was needed if it was spending money to grade the hill and put something there or following the recommendation of the committee. He stated this work could be done in phases.

Mr. Early asked if the shelters could be moved if the park were moved.

Mr. Collins replied that the old shelters were 20+ years old and would need renovating.

Mrs. Nichols asked if the concrete slab was all that was at the new shelter at this time.

Mr. Evans stated that the trusses were there also.

Mr. Collins told that the materials were there and that it would take approximately \$4000 to complete the building with using the school students to build the picnic shelters.

Mrs. Nichols asked if the park were there for another 1-2 years would the shelter pay for itself.

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Mr. Collins told that they would get at least half easily.

Mr. Early asked if Mr. Collins was asking for an additional \$4000 or if he had the money and was just asking to spend it.

Mr. Teller told that there was \$15,000 and that not all had been spent on improvements.

Mr. Evans told that in the near future he did not see moving the park to a new location. He told that he would not vote to spend more money after the completion of the picnic shelters until there was a change in the economy.

Mr. Early asked how much under the \$15,000 budget the park was.

Mr. Collins told that there were other projects.

(Order)

**AUTHORIZE COMPLETION OF PICNIC SHELTER**

Upon motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mrs. Nichols, and passed, the Board authorized the completion of the new picnic shelter at the Recreation Park with the stipulation that the \$15,000 budget was not exceeded.

Mr. Early voted No on the above motion

(Order)

**ADOPT BUSINESS APPRECIATION WEEK PROCLAMATION**

Upon motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Jones, and passed unanimously, the Board approved the following Proclamation:

BUSINESS APPRECIATION WEEK  
PLANTING OPPORTUNITY – HARVESTING SUCCESS  
MAY 15 – 21, 2005

WHEREAS, Carroll County is grateful to have an existing base of business and industry that is crucial to the local economy; and

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WHEREAS, these businesses provide essential employment opportunities for the citizens of Carroll County; and

WHEREAS, these businesses provide local revenues from which the entire local citizenry benefit; and

WHEREAS, these businesses also make significant contributions in our communities to promote educational opportunities for our children and promote a variety of activities which increase the quality of life on the area; and

WHEREAS, we recognize and appreciate these businesses;

NOW, THEREFORE, we The Carroll County Board of Supervisors, hereby recognize our existing businesses, and by virtue of this proclamation give notice to our citizens that the businesses of Carroll County are exemplifying this year's theme of "planting Opportunity – Harvesting Success."

AND, Further, that the week of May 15-21, 2005 is Business Appreciation Week in Carroll County.

#### **COUNTY COMPLEX DEBT REFINANCING**

Mr. Teller told that there was an opportunity to refinance the County Complex Debt and presented a summary of the refinancing options. He told that Option 1 would pay the principle amount quicker with a total savings of \$1,508,567 while Option 2 would spread the principle payments over 30 years with a total savings of \$755,153.

Mrs. Nichols asked what the payments would be.

Mr. Teller replied that the payment next year under Option 2 would be \$691,000 while the payment under Option 1 would be \$895,000. He stated that the current payment was \$937,000.

Mr. Early stated that the total cost to the County would be lower with Option 1.

Mr. Jones asked if the County could get by without a tax increase next year if Option 1 was selected.

Mr. Teller stated a tax increase was likely next year unless the County went with twice per year tax collection.

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(Order)

### **AUTHORIZE COUNTY COMPLEX DEBT REFINANCING**

Upon motion by Mr. Early, seconded by Mr. Jones, and passed unanimously, the Board approved refinancing the County Complex Debt and did select Option 1 as presented which will refinance the Wachovia loan over 9 years and the Rural Development loan over 30 years with a total savings of \$1,508,567.

### **AMERLINK FINAL AGREEMENT**

Mr. Teller presented the Board with an updated Performance Agreement between the County and AmerLink. He told that this was for information because the Board had already approved the Agreement. He told that the highlighted area had been added and that legalese had been added to paragraphs 6, 7, and 8.

Mr. Jones asked that Mr. Teller read the highlighted section.

Mr. Teller that “the Company shall re-convey said property within 60 days after the expiration of the performance period specified in the Grant Performance Agreement if it failed to construct a sawmill, planer mill, and handcrafter log home facility and commence full-scale operations at all of these facilities at the industrial site during said performance period” had been added to paragraph 5.

Mr. Jones asked if the 180 jobs were still in the AmerLink contract.

Mr. Teller told that it was 200 jobs. He stated that this was in the Performance Agreement that had to be signed to get the State funds.

### **SUMMER INTERN**

Mr. Teller told that there was a responsibility to get you people involved in County Government and told that having summer interns was one way to get them involved. He told that there were some good applications and that he felt they would come for slightly above minimum wage. He told that interns could poll the public to see how citizens feel on certain issues.

Mrs. Nichols asked if they would be working 40 hours per week.

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Mr. Teller told that he would propose 40 hours.

Mr. Early told that this was a great idea and was a way of mentoring the youth and trying to keep them here in jobs rather than going somewhere else for jobs.

Mrs. Nichols stated that she hoped that the County could do better than minimum wage.

Mr. Jones asked if this would a part-time summer job.

Mr. Teller stated that it would be a summer job like the lifeguards at the pool.

(Order)

#### **APPROVE SUMMER INTERN POSITION**

Upon motion by Mr. Early, seconded by Mr. Evans, and passed unanimously, the Board authorized offering temporary summer employment to one or more, but not more than 2, of the summer intern candidates. \_

#### **VEHICLE PURCHASE**

Mr. Teller told that there was a plan for purchasing vehicles but told that the plan was not going to work because vehicles were expensive. He told that vehicles could be purchased from the surplus warehouse in Wytheville and that two good pickups could be purchased for \$10-12,000 and one could be for Recreation and the other for Maintenance.

(Order)

#### **AUTHORIZE VEHICLE PURCHASE**

Upon motion by Mr. Early, seconded by Mr. Evans, and passed unanimously, the Board approved purchasing one or more vehicles with a total price not to exceed \$15,000 with the vehicles to be placed in the County at the Administrator's discretion.

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(Order)

**APPROVE MOUNT ROGERS GRANT ASSISTANCE RESOLUTION**

Upon motion by Mrs. Nichols, seconded by Mr. Evans, and passed unanimously, the Board adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION  
REQUESTING GRANT ASSISTANCE  
FROM THE MOUNT ROGERS PLANNING COMMISSION

Whereas, the General Assembly appropriated \$5,000,000 to the Mount Rogers Planning District for FY 05-06, which funds may be used for water and sewer infrastructure projects;

Whereas, Carroll County has an immediate need for grant assistance to construct a sewer line to Exit 19, I77;

Whereas, sewer service at Exit 19 is critical to the commercial development of this virgin interchange with large tracts of land in each quadrant available for development;

Whereas, once water and sewer are available at Exit 19, there is immediate potential for large-scale commercial and industrial growth that can provide badly needed jobs and tax revenue to the region;

Whereas, Exit 19 has been the subject of several regional studies and has been identified as one of the primary sites for industrial development by the City of Galax, Grayson County, and Carroll County acting together through a Regional Facility Authority;

Whereas, Carroll County has pending plans to construct a water line to Exit 19 with loan funds from the U.S. Rural Development Agency, but neither Carroll County nor the Regional Facility Authority have the resources to fund the construction of the needed sewer line;

Whereas, the cost of constructing a sewer line to Exit 19 is approximately \$2,500,000;

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2005, that the Carroll County Board of Supervisors requests that the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission to allocate \$1, 500,000 toward the construction of a sewer line to Exit 19, with Carroll County and/or the Regional Facility Authority providing the balance of the required funds for said construction.

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On behalf of the Board of Supervisors:

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Glenna Myers, Vice Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ronald Newman, Clerk

(Order)

**REQUEST RESIGNATION OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

Upon motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Jones, and passed, the Board requested the resignation of County Administrator Craig Teller effective immediately, and if the resignation was not submitted termination would be sought.

Note: Mr. Early voted No on the above motion.

Mrs. Myers Abstained on the above motion.

Mr. Early stated that this was the most coward act he had seen and was being done with the absence of one Board member to try to get a majority to vote on this.

Mr. Evans told that he asked this point to be made last month and did not do it in the public eye because he was told that if there were three Board members against Mr. Teller he would resign. He stated that there were three against and he did not resign.

Mr. Teller stated that he did not expect this. He told that he understood when he came on the job that Mr. Jones and Mrs. Nichols did not support him and he had never got their support.

Mrs. Nichols stated that he had received her support but that other members had asked for things to be done that was not done.

Mr. Jones stated that he felt like he had been lied too.

Mr. Teller told that it was hard to work for a Board that is divided. He told that he had tried to work for the County as a whole and that there were some in the County that would like for him to stay. He stated that he brought the first 200 jobs in almost a decade and that he would like to stay on. He told that his wife had encouraged him to resign. He commented that he had another job offer that he turned down thinking he would stay on.

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(Order)

**TERMINATION OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

Upon motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Jones, and passed, the Board terminated Mr. Craig Teller as the County Administrator.

Notes: Mr. Early voted No on the above motion.  
Mrs. Myers Abstained on the above motion.

Mr. Early stated that this was a cowardly thing to do and was an effort of a few Board members to get their way in the absence of the Chairman. He stated that he found this despicable and cowardly.

Mr. Evans stated that he was not the one last month behind close doors trying to sway one Board member as to what to do and that what he done was above board.

Mr. Early stated that Carroll County was the one that suffers from the lack of faith in Mr. Teller. He stated that under Ronald Newman one job was created and the County incurred \$60M debt.

Mr. Evans stated that the issue is not Mr. Newman.

**PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION**

The Board presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Twin County Cardinals, an 11-under USSSA team comprised of players from Galax, Grayson County, and Carroll County, for winning the AA Nationals tournament in Johnson City, Tennessee.

**PUBLIC HEARING – CARROLL COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2005-2006 BUDGET**

Mrs. Myers declared the Public Hearing Open at 10:37 a.m.

Mr. Newman told that the purpose of this Public Hearing was to hear public comment concerning the proposed fiscal year 2005-2006 Carroll County budget. He then opened the floor for comments.

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Mr. Ray Melton told that he was disappointed the Board had backed down on the School Board budget. He stated that he thought they would hold firm and commented that money could be saved there.

With no one else to speak, the Public Hearing was Closed at 10:40 a.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING – CANNERY LEASE**

Mrs. Myers declared the Public Hearing Open at 10:40 a.m.

Mr. Newman told that the purpose of this Public Hearing was to hear public comment concerning the proposed leasing of the Carroll County Cannery to a company formed by Mr. Tom Webb and Mr. Fred Jones. He then opened the floor for comments.

Mr. Tom Webb told that he was from Mount Airy but had a farm in Carroll County. He told that they would be processing great products and was looking at trying to add value to the agriculture products of the area by using the Cannery. He stated that the County had problems with the expenses of keeping the Cannery open and proposed operating this for the citizens during the one year lease. He told that they would produce things jellies, jams, apple sauce, and apple butter. He stated that the Blue Ridge Plateau brand name would be good. He told that there were jellies from all over the country at the Farmer's Market but that none of them were local. He told that this was missing opportunities. He stated that he had been successful in starting and running other businesses.

Mr. Jones asked if the public would be allowed to use the Cannery.

Mr. Webb stated that he had a list of 300 names that had used it in the past. He told that he had met with the employees that had worked there in the past and that he would reimburse the County for any employee that is there. HE told that he could help the public by buying in bulk, helping to market the products, and help grow the industry. He told that he would use as much local produce and products as possible and wanted to get to a point where it was open year round.

Mr. Evans asked if he would put labels on products for groups that come in.

Mr. Webb stated that he would help groups market their product and would help capture the tourism dollars and put them to work here.

Mr. Ray Melton asked if the citizens would still be able to use the Cannery.

Mrs. Myers replied yes.

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With no one else to speak, the Public Hearing was declared Closed at 10:48 a.m.

**CITIZENS TIME**

Mr. Gary Marshall told that he was a volunteer involved with historic preservation and education. He presented a petition to the Board from the Bethesda Heritage Trust asking the Board for permission to erect a flagpole upon the grounds of the historic courthouse, at the expense of the Trust, for the expressed purpose of flying the Christian flag and its historic predecessors.

Mr. John Nobili told that the Woodlawn residents should have sewer since the funds have been available since July 2001. He told that Woodlawn needs sewer to attract business and industry. He stated that the 1995 Agreement between the Town and County did not allow for further annexation until 2010 but that the current Board desired an increase in tax revenue. He stated that the Woodlawn residents were the losers in the Agreement. He then presented a petition from persons either owning property, renting property, or operating a business between Rt. #759 (Carrollwood Drive) and U. S. #58 West requesting the Board not annex these properties into the Town of Hillsville. The petition stated "the additional taxes we would be required to pay would by far outweigh the benefits we would receive."

Mr. Early asked how many on the petition rented from Mr. Nobili.

Mr. Nobili replied 4.

Mrs. Virginia Nobili commented that if taxes went up they would have to go up on the rent.

Mr. Emmett Jones told that the people of the County entrusted an awesome job to the Board. He told that there were a lot of things that come up that there seems to be no good answer. He told that special groups want some things. He told that the people of Woodlawn area would be drastically affected if they lose the sewer plant. He told that the Board got water and sewer in the Cranberry area when he was on the Board and the area had grown. He told that housing development is a form of economic development with people moving in because they like the climate. He told that in order to continue the growth water and sewer were tied to it. He stated there was no where for sewer with the houses close together. He stated that there were other areas such as Exit 8 that needed water and sewer.

Mr. Victor Allen told that he was President of the Carroll County Independent Garage Owners Association which was recently formed to assist with issues in the County. He told that this dedicated group of over 100 members is interested in working to give support to the elected and appointed

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officials by assisting to provide a voice to the public. He stated that the building of a collaborative and non-confrontational effort between all interested parties is at the foremost position on the Association agenda. He told that the Association supported re-establishing Take Charge and thanked Gary Larrowe for his help in getting this project off the ground. He told that the Association was working on a new web site.

Mr. Don Foster, President of Blue Ridge Host, told that he would like to address the decision to pull funding from the Galax-Carroll-Grayson Chamber of Commerce. He told that cooperation was needed between communities to grow businesses and that it was important to be pro-active. He told that this describes Judy Brannock and the Galax-Carroll-Grayson Chamber as well as the Chamber in Carroll County. He told that Ms. Brannock had attended all the Host meetings, had supported their brochure, had been to meetings and activities, and had a genuine interest in economic development. He stated that the marriage should continue. He asked how much exposure Carroll County got from this association. He then stated that what he saw today was immaturity of Board members. He told that the Board needed to work together and needed to change their attitude before they start mentoring young people.

Mr. Robert Longo told that at his last appearance before the Board he had asked the Board to consider and adopt a noise ordinance. He asked why this had not been discussed.

Mrs. Myers stated that the Board had been working on the budget.

Mr. Evans stating that there was nothing before the Board at this time.

Mr. Longo asked if during citizens' time only residents were allowed to speak or if anyone can speak.

Mr. Early replied that property owners could speak.

Mr. Dalton stated that residents could speak but that it was the Board's legal right to hear any citizens.

Mr. Longo told that at the last meeting several people he spoke with were pro motorcross that only came for the activity. He stated that at the last meeting there was a lady that spoke stating that noise traveled in one direction until it hit a barrier. He told that he would like to invite her to his house. He told that a recent web site asked people to vote for or against zoning and stated that people were in for a surprise if they think they can control growth without zoning. He stated that someone could come in and open up a late night bar or a nudist colony.

Ms. Connie Beamer asked if 2 cents was collected to offset land use.

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Mr. Evans replied that it was more than 2 cents.

Ms. Beamer told that she had a concern with the Recreation Park and stated that if it were run like a business it would be better. She suggested giving the \$4000 as a loan and anything they make over the \$4000 they could keep. She then asked if the property were sold how long the kids would be without a facility while waiting for a new facility. She asked if the equipment could be moved. She then asked if there was an option of putting smaller parks in other places of the County like Cana. She told that there was 125 acres in Cana for sell and stated that this would relieve the burden on the Hillsville park. She then told that concerning AmerLink she was all for bringing businesses here but did not think other businesses were given the same opportunities. She asked if the 180 jobs was part of the contract with the 99 lease.

(Order)

**CLOSED SESSION – PURSUANT TO VIRGINIA CODE SECTION 2.2-3711(A7)**

Upon motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Jones, and passed unanimously, the Board convened a Closed Session at 11:17 a.m. until 11:50 a.m. for the discussion of legal matters involving threatened litigation as authorized by Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A7).

(Order)

**CERTIFICATE OF CLOSED SESSION**

Upon motion by Mrs. Nichols, seconded by Mr. Jones, and passed unanimously, the Board adopted the following Resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Carroll County Board of Supervisors convened in a Closed Session on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote 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

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applies, and (II) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the Closed Session was convened were heard, discussed, or considered in the meeting to which this certification applies.

**GALAX-CARROLL-GRAYSON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Mr. Ron Passmore, President-elect of the Galax-Carroll-Grayson Chamber of Commerce told that the Chamber involves all three entities. He told that he was here to petition the Board to reconsider cutting the Chamber from the budget and for continued support. He told that the Chamber met with the County Administrator on a monthly basis to see how they could assist with the County's goals. He told that some of the services the Chamber provided included writing letters of support for grants, supporting the Poor Man's Dinner, volunteering hours of manpower, participating with parades, arranging business mixers, showcasing small business openings, and working with companies with expansion plans.

Mr. Evans stated that nothing final had been done. He told that Judy Brannock was doing a great job. He commented that there were some people that were on both Chambers and stated that they needed to pull together. He encouraged that things be streamlined.

Mr. Passmore told that he was trying to justify that \$2800 of services was brought to the County. He stated that combining the two Chambers had been discussed.

Mr. Early thanked him for coming and told that he appreciated the work.

(Order)

**INCLUDE GALAX-CARROLL-GRAYSON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN BUDGET**

Upon motion by Mr. Early, seconded by Mrs. Nichols, and passed, the Board approved including \$3100 in the budget for the Galax-Carroll-Grayson Chamber of Commerce.

Notes: Mr. Jones and Mr. Evans voted No on the above motion.

Mr. Evans stated that this needed to wait until the final budget and that now was not the time to do this.

Mrs. Nichols asked if there would be another work session.

Mrs. Myers stated that one was needed.

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Mrs. Nichols commented that she supported the Chamber and this would be discussed at the work session.

Mrs. Myers stated that she supported the Chamber and appreciated their work.

### **CARROLL COUNTY-HILLSVILLE JOINT UTILITY AGREEMENT**

Mr. Ray Hill, PSA Director, told that Craig Teller, Larry South, John Adams, Bill King, and he had met with Sally Hamer of Rural Development to discuss the water and sewer contract with the Town. He told that Ms. Hamer had informed them that she would not recommend passage of the contract with the current rate of \$5.26 treatment cost and told that there were several other issues. He then presented a letter received from Mayor Randall Grayley supporting the two localities seeking Rural Development's approval of the contract. Mr. Hill then stated that a response had to be given to Rural Development by June 1.

Mr. Evans stated that the Board had been through all this and was still at this point. He commented that construction of the sewer plant needed to be started.

Mr. Evans then made a motion to start the process of construction of the sewer treatment plant. No action was taken due to the lack of a second to the motion.

Mr. Dalton commented that the changes were to the County's benefit.

Mr. Hill told that Rural Development had indicated they would not approve the contract without changes.

Mr. Dalton told the Board they were under an obligation to work with Rural Development.

Mr. Evans stated that an Agreement was signed last year.

Mrs. Nichols commented that Ms. Hamer had indicated \$5.26 was too high and asked what rate would be good.

Mr. Hill suggested a rate of \$2.45.

Mr. Dalton asked if Rural Development thought the rate was high or extremely high.

Mr. Hill told that the thought was it was extremely high and that \$3.50 would be a good rate.

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Mr. Dalton asked what the rate would be if the County had its own plant.

Mr. John Adams stated that \$3.50 would be in line.

Mr. Early commented that if the County backed out of the Agreement they would be inviting lawsuits.

Mr. Dalton stated that if the County backed out now the old lawsuits would be revived and that there might be new issues.

Mr. Early told that he had talked with Rural Development in Richmond and was led to believe that June 1 was not the deadline but that by the end of June the County would need to build a plant or have an agreement with the Town.

Mr. Jones stated that the thought the Agreement was approved if Rural Development agreed.

Mr. Dalton commented that the changes were a benefit to the County.

Mrs. Myers suggested tabling this issue to see if the Town will work together.

Mr. Early stated that the Town realizes the need for a customer and it was better to have a customer than to have no customer.

Mr. Evans stated that the Town could have come to an Agreement sooner but waited until the last minute.

Mrs. Nichols asked what happened if Rural Development approved the Agreement.

Mr. Dalton told that the County would be bound by it. He stated that more information was needed before making a decision and told that if the Board made a decision concerning building a plant they would be acting before having official word from Rural Development.

Mr. Hill told that the Board had until June 1 to reply to Rural Development now that the Board knew what Rural Development did not like about the contract.

Mr. Early stated that Rural Development would give an up or down and if they gave a down it gave on out for the contract.

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Mr. Evans stated that it sounded like if the County did not meet the expectation of the Town they would be open to lawsuits but that the Town had not lived up to expectation and that was alright.

Mr. Dalton stated that the Board could not pull out of a contract that will benefit the County.

Mr. Jones suggested waiting and holding a Special Meeting if necessary.

Mr. Jones made a motion, with a second by Mrs. Nichols, to give the Town until May 27 at 5:00 p.m. to give a new sewer rate. The motion was then withdrawn.

Mr. Adams suggested that the County needed to revise the Agreement and submit it to the Town.

Mr. Jones stated that this needed to be settled in the next 10-15 days.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING – LAND USE TAXATION**

Ms. Billie Taylor stated that this was the fourth Public Hearing and each time the people had been in favor of land use. She told that she had asked that this meeting be at night and commented that the dairy people could not be here. She told that people were saying homeowners were paying more but told that farmers are homeowners too. She told that people out of the County were getting the advantage but stated that the County went to the General Assembly to get a higher food and lodging tax so the County was getting a fair share back. She told that these people were paying taxes on their land and told that it must either be leased, farmed, or in timber to be in the program. She stated that she thought the program was given four years. She told that this needed to be turned over to God who could work out everything and then read "So God Made A Farmer."

Mrs. Mary McGrady told that 82 out of 95 counties have land use assessment and stated that its intent it to promote preservation of land for public benefit. She told that there was obvious growth at the Farmer's Market since the last Public Hearing. She commented that land and tax dollars had been given to AmerLink to create jobs and that this was good. She told that there were seven or more sawmills competing for timber and stated she was grateful for these. She told that it takes about 40 years for pine to grow from a seedling to full grown and that a young farmer could not be expected to hold on to the land. She told that there must be an incentive for profit in farming. She asked if in the history of the County budgets was the income more than expected expenditures. She suggested the Board say no to things they did not have the money for. She stated that the Board had the power to promote growth and recommended land use continue.

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Ms. Connie Beamer stated that a tax increase had already been passed to offset land use and the Board was looking at a tax increase next year. She asked if land use were repealed would the tax dollars be given back to the people. She stated that water and sewer were not provided to farmers and that it was less expensive to the County to maintain land over housing. She stated that what brings tourists is farms and scenic beauty and that the Farmer's Market and Cannery brought people here. She told that she was against repealing land use. She told that there were 150 who were eligible but did not use it and stated that people could not buy fruits and vegetables as cheap as they could in Carroll County.

Mr. George Coudoures told that he agreed with the lady before him. He told that he was a transplant that moved here in 1982 and told that where he came from in Rockland County taxes went so high the farmers had to sell their land. He stated that the Board should think carefully about what they were doing. He told that the County was looking for more revenue and suggested looking at a beverage deposit.

Mr. Randy Webb told that he lived in the Laurel Fork District and had served on various committees for the County. He told that he had tried to attract an Agribusiness to the County. He told that he kept quiet on most issues and trusted the elected officials to make sound decisions. He told that the Board was elected by people to represent the people and had not been placed here for their own agenda. He stated that Jesus Christ was the greatest leader of all and knew the needs of all. He asked the Board to get out and listen to all in the community. He told that he saw Mr. Evans and land use in the paper. He told that he saw that land use was used as a reason to cut the budget but stated that land use did not create the shortfalls. He told that farmers received the same tax increase as other homeowners. He stated that the County was looking at increase revenues and asked why land use was causing shortfalls.

Mr. Ray Melton asked what the Board was going to do when Carroll County was paved over. He stated that food would be imported and told that last year the United States imported more food than it could produce. He told that clean air and water was needed and suggested looking at the pollution in Pigeon Forge. He stated that the people can't afford all the taxes the Board is putting on them.

Mr. Bert Widener told that he was a Fancy Gap farmer and retired from the Extension Service. He told that he was familiar with land use. He told that Washington County was one of the first to join land use and stated that there was a big advantage to land use. He told that there were still 1800 farms producing a total income over \$50M. He told that Rockingham County was the top county in Virginia and that Washington County was #1 in Southwest

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Virginia. He told that Carroll County was #27 in the State with an agriculture income of \$26M. He told that he spends money all over the County and that this could be multiplied 6 or 7 times. He stated that losing two dairy farms would cause more loss than the money being deferred. He stated that land use was a good thing and he hoped it was kept.

Mr. Clark Reece told that he had the family farm on Buckhorn Road. He told that his ancestors had been farming since 1918 and told that he had beef cattle. He told that he appreciated being able to raise his children on a farm where they got to see the circle of life. He told that he opposed repealing land use assessment and told that it helps to protect open space and protect family farms. He stated that people don't know what they have until it is gone.

Mr. Patrick Trice told that he lived in the Laurel Fork District and was not a farmer but was in favor of land use taxation. He told that these were small businesses and there was no difference in given them a tax break and giving one to new businesses coming in. He told that as farmers make money they spend it in the County. He told that when he moved to Carroll County he saw a listing in the Carroll News of the dairy farms and the milk they produced. He stated he did not see this anymore.

Mr. Glenn Sage told that he owned .8 acres but did have a lot of farms surrounding him. He stated that it was ludicrous to think these people should pay the same rate per acre as he. He told that the decision made should be a fair and sound business decision. He told that housing requires much more services than farmers. He stated that the farmers were not asking for a gift or special incentive but was asking for what is fair based on services received. He stated that he wondered why this kept resurfacing and told that if any Supervisor voted against this he would support whoever ran against them.

Mr. Mark Dawson told that he was a homeowner and not a farmer. He told that he supported land use and stated that it keeps taxes lower. He told that farms turned into housing developments demand services and stated that residential requires more services than the taxes collected. He told that he enjoyed the scenic beauty. He commented that the 2002 census showed almost \$26M in agriculture income in the County.

Ms. Cindy Webb told that she was young farmer from the Pipers Gap District. She asked the Board to keep land use and to think about what the people were saying.

Mr. D. W. Garmen told that he was with the Virginia Department of Forestry and stated that agriculture was important to the County. He told that land use is a tool for planning and was one of several solutions. He told that growth was good if planned and told that land use encourages landowners to get professional advice. He told that in the last reassessment timber land went

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up by as much as 400%. He told that land use rates are based on what the land will produce and asked the County to continue to support agriculture.

Mr. James Light told that he was a commercial farmer from the Laurel Fork District. He told that he had four kids and stated he hoped at least one of them could do this. He told he was strong for keeping land use and that it was important for the County. He stated that once agriculture land is lost it is gone forever. He told that even if land values go up it is still only the value of what a farmer can make off of it by either farming it, leasing it, or selling it. He told that it depended upon what was made and only so much could be put back in. He told that some lease property looking to hold on to it because maybe they have inherited it or they are looking to move back here. He stated that if they could not rent if for at least the amount of taxes they will sell it. He told that the Board was not looking at farming as a business. He stated that if farmers were not here the County would be chasing them to see what it would take to get them here. He told that land use would insure the future.

Mr. Brian Bowman told that he was a 33 year old dairy farmer and grew produce. He told that he had a 42 acre tract rented for the taxes that was sold to a Florida man who would not be putting money into the County. He told that it was promised this program would have four years and stated that having to come every six months spoke to the integrity of the Board. He told that he grossed \$150,000 but lived in a single wide because he did not have much money.

Mr. Lonnie Sutphin told that land use was a good thing. He told that the Supervisors needed to look at something besides farmers. He stated that the Supervisors needed to get out in the County and see what is going on. He told that there were out of state people here that didn't put anything into the economy. He stated that the Board needed to look for tax dollars in other places.

Mr. Bill Shinault told that he had lived in the County his entire life. He stated that the County could not spend more money than it was taking in and that money had been spent on the unwise side for things like the Complex. He stated that children did not learn any more in a building with a lot of glass. He told that he agreed with what had been said about keeping land use. He told that he thought it had been put to rest and that he appreciated the people who spoke in favor that are not farmers.

Ms. Jean Webb presented a land grant patent signed by James Monroe in 1824 and told that this land had been passed down five generations. She told that her mother milked and sold cream, sold calves, and did without things to pay for the farm. She told that she had clothes made from feed sacks that were pretty. She stated that the taxes in 1968 were \$62.50 and in 2004 were \$984.89. She told that this would be \$1751.12 if she didn't have land use. She

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told that she could not farm the land so she set it in pines that would take 30-40 years to mature. She told that she sold \$1000 in hay so did not have but \$15 to go toward insurance on the house on the property. She told that she would like to pass the land on to her grandchildren. She told that she supported the farmers.

Ms. Edith Riggins told that everything that had been said was wonderful and that she hoped the Supervisors would hear. She asked Mr. Evans not to abandon the farmers in his district.

Mr. Mike DeHaven asked how the Board and Mr. Evans figured that if someone had land they had money. He told that he worked a public job to be able to work crops. He told that he supported land use.

Ms. Donna Perry asked what people with no mountain to climb did. She stated they go insane with no place to enjoy space. She stated that in Biblical times Jesus sought these places and told that the soul needs such places. She told that it seemed the time to protect the landscape that promotes health rather than erode it. She told that green space was healthy to the economy because it brings tourists. She told that the sprawl springing up now will never be dismantled. She stated that nature is its own event and commented that the cost of land use was insignificant.

Mr. Junior Goad told that everyone was saying the same thing. He asked the Board to work with the group and keep land use. He told that it helped keep the family farms.

Mr. Bennie Quesenberry told that land use was a fair way to tax the farmers. He told that young farmers needed to be encouraged. He told that he worked as a mechanic to be able to get the equipment needed to farm part-time. He told that costs were increasing and that the Board wanted to take away this small benefit. He told that his daughter lived on a farm – a farm of houses. He stated he did not want that here. He told that he had not heard anyone speak against land use and stated that the Board needed to listen to the majority of the people.

Mr. Mathew Miller, Extension Agriculture Specialist, told that he was not here to give an opinion but to present information on agriculture production and a situation analysis. He told that 162 farms had been lost in the last two censuses. He told that income was up from 1997 but expenses had increased from \$17M to \$21M. He told that a profit of \$5000 was typical for a farm in 2000. He told that Carroll County ranked 27<sup>th</sup> out of 98 in the State in sales and told that the County ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in vegetable sales, 8<sup>th</sup> in fruit sales, 4<sup>th</sup> in Christmas tree sales, 10<sup>th</sup> in hay sales, and 7<sup>th</sup> in cattle sales. He told that Carroll was a major agriculture county at both the State and National level. He

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stated that if there was anything Virginia Tech could do to help with this decision they would assist.

Mr. Andy Overbay, Extension Dairy Science Specialist, told that the Board should appreciate the expense of farmers for shutting down their operations to be here. He told that agriculture was a viable industry and stated that May was Agriculture month. He told that the average dairy cow produces \$9000 to the yearly economy. He told that 70% of farm income is spent within 20 miles of home. He told that there were 21 dairy farms in Carroll County in 2002 with revenue of \$10M. He told that family farms produce farm families and that farm families generate crucial social income and activities. He told that successful lives lend to successful counties.

Ms. Brenda Quesenberry told that she did not want to see land use repealed and that she hoped to speak for the elderly who could not be here. She told that on February 8 Governor Warner had announced 200 jobs in the County. She told that AmerLink would be using the timber industry and a strong workforce. She asked what the incentive would be for people to replant trees if they did not have land use. She then asked about the senior citizens that had paid the application fees, planted trees, and was monitoring the land the way they were supposed to. She then told that under the Freedom of Information Act she was requesting the financial data that supported this request for repeal, a copy of all information pertaining to AmerLink, and a copy of all financial records for 2003, 2004, and 2005.

Ms. Lockie Webb told that she concurred with what had been said. She told that tourism had been the going thing recently and pointed out what was being done at the Farmer's Market. She asked how that could be done and the farmers' throat cut on the other hand.

Mr. Wayne Kenny told that he was a lifetime farmer in Woodlawn. He told that he was 62, the average age of a farmer, and was thinking of retiring. He told that there were 953 farms in Carroll County and that was more jobs than AmerLink could hope for. He told that the Board needed to spend as much money on the jobs they have as it did on the promise of new jobs. He told that young people were having trouble finding land to farm. He told that he had a rental house with a family and one school age child that pay no real estate tax. He told that the County had an employee making almost \$60,000 and not paying any real estate taxes. He told that other ways needed to be found to raise revenue other than taxing farmers. He told that people did not appreciate farmers until they go hungry.

Ms. Debby Goad thanked Mr. Evans for reminding her how rich she is. She stated that she was rich in heritage because she can see where the family was born and raised. She told that the advertisement in the Carroll News said the meeting would be Wednesday May 17 and stated that the Board has had

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problems with advertising things. She told that land use is an equalization tool to equalize taxes for everybody. She told that she was willing to pay \$24 more in taxes to keep land use. She told that land use was good for Carroll County, Virginia, and the Nation. She told that it was about rural native land and stated that people did not flock to Charlotte to see shopping malls and housing developments but people flock here to see the beautiful area. She told that land use deferral is choosing to stay in agriculture. She told that there was a need to plan development. She told that without land use she and her sisters would be forced to make some tough decisions. She told that they would look at conservation easements and the value will be nothing. She asked if the Board saw fit to repeal land use that they come up with a way to equalize taxes such as doing away with reassessment every six years and doing away with the employees in the Assessor's Office and having a data base to input the information. She told that she hoped the Board would see fit to leave land use as is and give it a 4-6 year run. She stated that everybody was in it together and will pay a fair share.

Mr. Bill Shinault told that he had a sizeable investment in equipment.

Mr. Steve Turner told that this was the first time he had been to a public hearing. When passed Boards needed something they went back to the farmers. He told that the County went to a farmer for land to build industrial parks and schools. He stated that North Carolina people and developers will not leave spaces like that. He told that he could not afford to farm full time and that he hoped the Board has the foresight to keep land use that will keep open spaces.

Ms. Barbara Edwards told that she farms 294 acres with dairy and beef cattle. She stated that this meeting is redundant. She told that she had taught school, been an aide, and worked at the Central Office. She commented that the Board has got to understand what life on the farm is like. She told that she employed 3 people and 3 more part-time. She invited the Board to come and spend one day with her and commented that it is a 7-day per week, sixteen hours a day. She told that she wanted to keep the place and told that it was her great grandfather's farm. She told that farming is an uncertain job and that she would be glad to pay back the taxes if she sells the farm. She asked the Board to look at what is wasted and to cut down on that.

Mr. Olen Gallimore showed Carroll County brochures with mountains and waterfalls and told these are places accessible to anyone to look at. He told that people want a spot in the mountains and that is great but that the Board needed to think about the farmers and told they feed the people. He told that he made \$23,000 on beef cattle and had \$1100 after expenses. He then stated that anybody that works for the County or School system and makes over \$50,000 should be ashamed to accept a 3% raise.

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Mr. Sam Terry told that in 1958 he bought 50 acres of land for \$10,000 and in 1962 bought 32 acres of land for \$ 3,500. He told that with the last assessment his land was valued at \$3,500 an acre for open land and \$2,500 an acre for wooded land. He told that he served on the Equalization Board. He told that his next-door neighbor had sold land that was assessed at \$180,000 for \$245,000. He told that the buyer cut the land in 2-3 acre lots with 150' road frontage and sold for \$6000 acre and hillside land at \$3250 an acre. He told that the was seeing an incline and if trend continues we will see other people selling land. He told that people coming from out of the state bring things with them, even carpenters, and then post the land.

Mrs. Billie Taylor asked when the Board would act on this and when the next public hearing would be.

Mr. Wayne Kenny told that he signed up for land use but had higher taxes in 2004 than 2003 even with land use.

Ms. Lockie Webb asked if land use is repealed what happened to the fees that were paid.

Mr. Harmon stated that he was told the fees would be returned.

With no one else to speak, the Public Hearing was Closed at 4:50 p.m.

Mr. Early told that Mr. DeHaven has a good point and as long as he is in this seat he will fight for land use. He told that he agreed with every thing that was said today and that not one person had guts to stand up against land use.

Mr. Jones told that he will support land use as long as he is on the Board.

Mrs. Nichols told that she had no problem with land use and stated that she had a lot of farmers in her district.

Mr. Evans told that he was not against land use going to the farmers but was against land use in the sense of the dollar amount and what the County needs. He told that Mr. Early is for it now but was against it last month when they talked on the phone. He stated that Carroll County cannot afford it with growth on land use. He stated that other localities have found other ways to raise revenue.

### **SUPERVISOR TIME**

Mr. Jones asked when the Board would vote on the School budget again.

Mr. Newman told that this would be done at budget adoption and the Board would appropriate the school budget.

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By consensus of the Board, a budget workshop was scheduled for Thursday, May 26, 2004 at 8:00 a.m.

Mrs. Nichols thanked the Garage Owners Association and told they were working hard to help the County. She then thanked the teachers, staff and volunteers who had worked at the Prom last Friday night. She told that she worked with Brad Dalton and his wife and stated that the County should be proud of the young people. She then told that the EMS billing service was billing patients and when the patients call the company, the patients are being talked to rudely. She stated that when the patient talked with the County Administrator they were told they were responsible for bill. She told that this needed to be checked into.

Mrs. Nichols stated that she wanted an audit done of the revenues and stated that if a mistake of over \$300,000 was found there might be another \$300,000.

Mr. Dalton stated that the County does have a general audit performed periodically and direction was needed direction on what they should be looking for.

Mr. Jones told that he wanted to know what is being taken in on the utility tax.

Mrs. Nichols stated that she asked last month for that to be put in the paper.

Mr. Evans suggested that the building inspectors be allowed to take a County vehicle home on evenings when they need to take care of business on the way home or on the way back to work strictly for business. He then asked how much had been spent on the Comprehensive Plan

Mr. Newman told that the contract is for \$10,000, with one half due this fiscal year and the other half next year. He stated that none has been paid out so far.

Mr. Evans stated that someone needed to look to see if the County can replace this and do it itself. He then stated that there needed to be a letter circulated through the building indicating who is in charge of daily operations of the County.

Mrs. Myers told that Saturday, May 22 is the last day to take tires, old stoves, and metal to the landfill for free. She then thanked the Garage Owners.

Mr. Early thanked the Board for putting \$3100 back in the budget for the Galax-Carroll-Grayson Chamber. He told that he would ask the Board to look carefully at reinstating the airport funding. He told that he would like to

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comment on putting regional parks throughout the county and stated that on the surface this looks good but that he would like for the Board to think about what the schools have with consolidation and streamlining. He told that he still feels the same on the flag issue as he did last month. He told that he saw a flag yesterday and did not find a holiday on May 16 on the Internet. He told that Mr. Jackson gave him a list that had a holiday on it for May 16. He stated that the County needs to take a hard look at this. He told that Mr. Marshall asked today to put a flag pole up and stated that the Board may have set a legal precedent. He then stated that land use is hand in hand with zoning. He stated that the County may be sorry in 30 years of what the County looks like if it doesn't have a Comprehensive Plan with zoning. He told that there is a need to start the process of zoning and commented that it will take 4-5 years to implement. He stated that the Board needed to let the citizens express their views on zoning.

It was a Board consensus was to hold a public hearing to receive citizens' views on zoning.

Mr. Early stated that the integrity of the Board was brought up by someone today. He told that he generally done things with honorable people with honorable intentions. He stated that the Board made a promise to the Chairman to not do anything drastic in his absence. He told that AmerLink is bringing 200 jobs, and that Ronald Newman did not bring those jobs – Craig Teller did. He told that Mr. Teller accounted for every penny spent and had come in and ran the building as a business. He stated that he hoped the citizens make known their feelings about what has happened today.

Mr. Evans commented that it sounds as if everybody but Jody is wrong. He stated that Mr. Spencer is not here but that he did not wait to vote on this until he was gone. He told that this was brought up at the least meeting and that the decision should have been made last month. He told that Mr. Teller gave his resignation to him last month and then he backed out. He told that Mr. Teller worked at the pleasure of the Board and that the Board works at the pleasure of the public. He stated that he did not feel wrong about what was done.

Mr. Early stated that Mr. Teller retired as a Colonel in the Army and is an Attorney. He told that to preserve his dignity Mr. Teller had the letter of resignation written.

### **SEWER & WATER CONTRACT WITH TOWN OF HILLSVILLE**

Mr. Ray Hill told that the Agreement has to be approved or not approved by the Rural Development.

Mr. Dalton told the Board that if they back out today, it would be backing out before they legally could.

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Mr. Jones asked what were some of the other issues mentioned.

Mr. Hill told that Rural Development is not satisfied with several parts of the Agreement. He told that Rural Development wants comments by June 1 and that June 30 is the day that the money promised could possibly be pulled. He told that this gives Rural Development 30 days to review what the County intends to do. He told that it had been suggested to make the contract match what Rural Developments says, take it to Rural Development for approval, and send it to the Town of Hillsville and see if they will agree. He told that this will make the contract better for the County.

Mr. Dalton told that this is satisfying the obligations if the County seeks to have the contract that Rural Development will approve.

Mr. Jones stated that someone needed to be talking with the Town.

Mr. Dalton comment that the County agrees with Rural Development and would encourage the Town to agree with Rural Development. He stated that Rural Development has not told what the magic number is and stated that Ms. Hamer has asked the Town to provide justification of the rate.

Mr. Early told that when he talked with Richmond, he was told that they would not take the money until after the next review which is at the end of June so the money will not be taken until after the end of June.

Mr. Dalton told that staff will come back with a report on May 26.

It was a consensus of the Board to modify the contract to satisfy Rural Development.

(Order)

#### **AUTHORIZE AMENDING WATER AND SEWER AGREEMENT**

Upon motion by Mr. Early, seconded by Mr. Evans, and passed unanimously, the Board authorized staff and the County Attorney to amend the Agreement for presentation to Rural Development and the Town based on the letter from Rural Development dated 4-1-05 and the changes Rural Development is asking for with a report to be given to the Board on May 26.

(Order)

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Ms. Nichols, and passed unanimously, the Board adjourned until May 26 at 8:00 a.m.

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Glenna Myers, Vice-Chairman

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Ronald L. Newman, Clerk