

April 24, 2006

The Carroll County Board of Supervisors held an Adjourned Meeting on Monday, April 24, 2006, in the Board Meeting Room of the Carroll County Governmental Center.

Present were: Sharon F. Nichols, Chairman
Glenna Myers, Vice-Chairman
W. Jeff Evans
L. J. Jones
Joseph H. Early, III
Ralph J. "Bob" Martin, Jr.
Gary Larrowe, County Administrator
Ronald L. Newman, Assistant Administrator
Bradley Dalton, County Attorney

Mrs. Nichols called the meeting to Order at 6:25 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING – JUNIOR FIRE FIGHTER PROGRAM

Mrs. Nichols declared the Public Hearing Open at 6:26 p.m.

Mr. Larrowe told that the purpose of this Public Hearing was to hear public comment concerning the adoption of an Ordinance to allow for a Junior Fire Fighter Program in Carroll County. He then opened the floor for public comment.

With no one to speak, the Public Hearing was Closed at 6:27 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING – CARROLL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD FISCAL YEAR 2006-2007 OPERATING BUDGET, CONSTRUCTION FUND BUDGET, FOOD SERVICE FUND BUDGET, AND TEXTBOOK FUND BUDGET

Mrs. Nichols declared the Public Hearing Open at 6:27 p.m.

Mr. Larrowe told that the purpose of this Public Hearing was to hear public comment concerning the proposed Carroll County School Board fiscal year 2006-2007 Operating budget, Construction Fund budget, Food Service Fund budget, and Textbook Fund budget. He then opened the floor for public comment.

Ms. Patricia Sebens thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak and told of the importance of the investment in the education of the children. He told that the area had lost over 800 jobs since January and that it was necessary to prepare the students with skills for the new jobs that would come in. She told that the School Board needed to be able to match the State funds that are available. She told that they were able to move the lottery funds last year but

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that was a one-time opportunity. She stated that it was important to invest at a level to get the State and Federal money. She told that the money had to be invested wisely and commented that the children are the best investment since they will carry the County into the future. She then asked the Board to set education as a top priority.

With no one else to speak, the Public Hearing was Closed at 6:31 p.m.

AUGUST 2006 MEETING DATE

Mr. Larrowe discussed changing the August meeting from August 8 to August 15.

It was a consensus of the Board to move the August meeting date to August 15, 2006.

CARROLL COUNTY RECREATION DEPARTMENT SWIMMING POOL

Mr. Larrowe told that there needed to be some money available in order to open the swimming pool this summer. He told that \$5000 was needed to remove the diving boards and associated work, \$7000 was needed for a pool heater, \$12,000 was needed for staffing, and that with the projected \$14,000 from revenue this would leave a difference of about \$10,000 to be able to open the pool. He told that he had talked with the Wellness Center and they did not have any available time.

Mr. Early stated that the diving boards had already been taken out.

Mr. Larrowe commented that these were taken out because they were not operable.

Mrs. Nichols stated that they were taken out in order to be able to put in slides.

Mr. Evans suggested putting this off until the next meeting.

Mr. Early stated that Larry Collins, Recreation Director, needed to be at the next meeting.

AMERLINK

Mrs. Nichols read a letter from Mr. Roseman, who has recently been appointed president of AmerLink, indicating his desire to meet and work with the Board. Mrs. Nichols stated that she thinks he will do his best at AmerLink.

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ADOPT RESOLUTION – CARROLL COUNTY/HILLSVILLE PUBLIC UTILITIES AGREEMENT

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

RESOLUTION

Whereas the U. S. Rural Development Agency has in its letter of August 16, 2005, advised the County of Carroll and the Carroll County Public Service Authority that the current Sewer Treatment Agreement is not acceptable without changes enumerated in said letter, and

Whereas the Town of Hillsville and the County of Carroll and the Carroll Public Service Authority have negotiated to satisfy the concerns enumerated: and

Whereas the County of Carroll wishes to work with the Town of Hillsville to complete implementation of the Agreement,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that

- (1) The Carroll County Public Service Authority and Carroll County Board of Supervisors ask that the Town of Hillsville join the County and the Public Service Authority in making a complete and full response to all of the concerns in Rural Development's letter of August 16, 2005.
- (2) On or after May 9, 2006, the Carroll County Board of Supervisors and the Carroll County Public Service Authority will make a final response to Rural Development Agency from its letter of August 16, 2005. In that final response, the Carroll County Board of Supervisors and Carroll County Public Service Authority shall ask Rural Development Agency to either approve or reject the Agreement as it stands on that date.

RESOLVED this 24th day of April 2006.

SCHOOL BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mr. Martin asked Dr. McBride to discuss why the County needs to include a certain amount of dollars in the budget in order to not lose the lottery funds when the County has in the past exceeded the minimum required amount.

Dr. McBride told that the State requires a Certification in order to get the lottery funds. He told that the Certification included the local match, that the total local expenditures in fiscal year 2007 were as much as in fiscal year 2004, that the lottery funds and local funds appropriated were for at least 50% non-

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recurring costs and not over 50% recurring costs, and that any unexpended lottery funds from fiscal year 2006 were carried forward to fiscal year 2007. He told that the first two speak to the issue of putting up the funds. He stated there was not a problem there because that was included in the budget. He told that the reason for the proposal in the budget was to meet item number 2. He stated that if this were not met the County would lose \$677,000.

Mr. Early asked if the entire \$1.2M was used for that purpose.

Dr. McBride replied that it was in the budget. He stated that the fiscal year 2004 level was at the \$9.6M range. He told that the school system did get credit as local funds for items such as building rent, school lunch money collected, and textbook money collected. He stated that it takes about \$1,022,000 to get the funds.

Mr. Early commented that 2004 was used as the benchmark for this year and asked if it would be used for the future and what the next benchmark would be.

Dr. McBride told that 2006 would be used for fiscal year 2009-2010.

Mr. Martin asked if part of the money was given would the School Board get part of the lottery funds.

Dr. McBride stated that in order to get the lottery funds all criteria must be met.

Mr. Martin asked what would happen if the Board did not give any addition.

Dr. McBride stated that \$677,000 in debt service that would come from lottery funds does have to be paid. He told that \$1,022,000 would have to come out of the operating budget.

Mr. Martin asked what would happen next year.

Dr. McBride stated that there would still be the same benchmark.

Mr. Jones asked if the School Board was getting \$3M more from the State this year.

Dr. McBride told that was correct and this was in the operating budget. He told that some of this money is specific as to what it is used for.

Mrs. Nichols asked if the School Board had talked with the Legislators, and if so, what had they said.

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Dr. McBride replied that the Certification came as part of legislation. He told that the State wanted to make sure that the money was used as they had intended. He told that the General Assembly was mindful of the funds they were sending to the localities and they want to make sure the funds are used as intended. He stated that \$3M was a tremendous increase in the investment from the State.

Mr. Evans asked for a comparison in the student population between 2004 and 2006.

Dr. McBride told that it was down a little but not significant. He told that at the end of 2004 there were 4012 students and that this budget had been built on 4025.

Mrs. Nichols asked what the average cost per student per day was.

Dr. McBride stated that the local share was \$12.33 and the total was \$49.89 for 180 school days.

Mrs. Nichols commented that a full time worker making \$7.00 per day only makes \$56 per day.

Mr. Evans asked what the student population was for 2006.

Dr. McBride told that it was 4022. He told that kindergarten was tricky. He told that when the projections were done in March it would only be about 2/3 of this group.

Mr. Martin asked if the March projections had been accurate in the past.

Dr. McBride told that it had been 12 out of 14 times. He told that the State had not determined their contribution but stated that did not change the number the School Board had to ask the County for.

Mr. Martin stated that he hoped to meet with the School Board a couple of times each year in the future. He stated that most of the budget goes to the School System and there needed to be a sharing of the information.

Dr. McBride stated that he felt certain the School Board would do that.

Mr. Evans asked what had been done to cut costs with this time of jobs being lost.

Dr. McBride told that the School Board began with the current employees to look at what they had. He told that the VRS rate had gone up significantly, that health insurance had increased 18%, and that fuel costs had went up

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significantly. He told that where they had looked to save funds had been offset by things they could not do anything about. He told that the request was driven by being able to certify getting all the available funds from the State. He told that they look at the end line item to see if there can be a reduction and then make adjustments to be good stewards of the funds.

Mr. Early told that he traveled a lot and that it seems like he sees a Carroll County bus about everywhere. He told that it seems like there is a need to rein in the area the school does sports in with gas prices what they are. He told that things needed to be looked at that they did not have to have.

Dr. McBride told that where possible they are taking 1 bus instead of 2. He told that the School Board had some input but they were assigned to a district and region to participate in sports. He told that they did try to play double headers.

Mr. Early thanked Dr. McBride for explaining the issues and the School Board for their time in preparing the budget.

Mr. Larowe then presented the Board with a tentative County budget and told that the State budget has affected what is presented. He told that this was the first cut and that there would have to be cuts made. He told that there were increases in VRS, insurance, worker's compensation, water projects, the Sheriff's office, fire and rescue, and debt service.

Mr. Martin commented that the Administrator's Office had made contact with a job prospect and asked if Mr. Larowe could comment on this.

Mr. Larowe stated that he was trying to move ahead as gently as possible but could not comment as this time.

(Order)

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mrs. Myers, and passed unanimously, the Board adjourned at 7:08 p.m. until their next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on May 9, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.

Sharon F. Nichols, Chairman

Ronald L. Newman, Assistant Clerk