

March 21, 2006

The Carroll County Board of Supervisors held an Adjourned Meeting on Tuesday, March 21, 2006 in the Board Meeting Room of the Carroll County Governmental Center.

Present were: Sharon F. Nichols, Chairman
Glenna Myers, Vice-Chairman
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 6:33 p.m.

Mr. Larrowe presented the Board with copies of budget requests from agencies funded regionally. He told that he had worked with Bland and Wythe Counties to hear budget presentations from these agencies all in one day. He stated that Grayson County had declined to participate.

Mr. Larrowe then discussed the requests. He told that the request from Mount Rogers Planning District Commission included \$2500 for work on the Comprehensive Plan and that the increase for Southwest EMS was due to holding classes at Crossroads. He told that the classes would be free. Mr. Larrowe asked that money be set aside in addition to the funds for SREC to help start-up businesses with things like leases. He then told that Wytheville Community College was expanding in the area.

Mr. Early asked if the departments were given any guidance on where the budget should be such as the same as it was last year.

Mr. Larrowe stated that most were at the same level but there was an effort to make sure Carroll County was doing the same thing as other localities by having the joint presentations. He then stated that there were several students from the area attending WCC.

Mrs. Nichols stated that WCC projected having a full curriculum here.

Mr. Larrowe informed the Board that the General Assembly did not approve funding the expansion at the Regional Jail because it had not reached 150% of capacity. He told that the jail reaches peak capacity on weekends. Mr. Larrowe then recommended reducing the amount to the Health Department by finding out what the telephone cost is and recapturing this expense. He told that Dr. Smith had commented on the savings at this site.

Mr. Larrowe then discussed employee raises and recommended following the State policy to give raises in December. He discussed paying the full VRS amount which would go from 9% to 11%. Mr. Larrowe that by doing these things it would give a 4% yearly raise and then would put the County on the same time table with the State.

Mr. Early suggested telling the departments what they were going to get and let them figure out how to use it rather than them asking for a request. He stated that they should be told the budget would stay the same as it was last year.

Mr. Jones stated that there were some things going up such as fuel but stated that there needed to be a check on fire department spending.

Mr. Larrowe told that he had talked with Pulaski County and they allocate \$28-30,000 to their fire departments.

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Mr. Early stated that the price of fuel had gone up but that the number of gallons should be the same so the budget should be the number of gallons times the price per gallon.

Mr. Larrowe told that he could go back to the departments and tell them it would be level funding while looking at special request.

Mrs. Nichols stated that she agreed with Mr. Early.

Mr. Early stated that there could be some special cases but overall the budget would be the same.

Mr. Martin commented that there were some things like Circuit Court where they did not have much control.

Mr. Early commented that those were the special cases.

Mr. Larrowe informed the Board that when the State leaves the Tourism Center the County will have to staff the Center.

Mr. Early asked if the State would stay.

Mr. Larrowe told that he had mentioned this to the State but would not discuss this with him. He commented that the State already had contractors lined up to do the work.

Mr. Martin asked if the Farmer's Market did not bring in right much revenue.

Mr. Newman stated that it was projected to be \$147,800 to \$148,500.

Mr. Larrowe told that the County contributed about \$40,000.

Mr. Martin commented that in some adjacent counties the Sheriff's Office ran radar.

Mr. Early stated that this had been looked at.

Mr. Dalton told that the County does not benefit from tickets written by the State Police. He told that if a Deputy writes a ticket they can cite the County Code and the County gets the money from the fines. He told that a Trooper could not cite the County Code. He told that this was at the discretion of the Sheriff and commented that he was severely understaffed and deputies could not be taken from their normal duties to run radar. He commented that additional deputies would need to be hired. He then stated that if the budget was being looked at in a way to help the Sheriff's Office this might be a good place to start.

Mr. Early stated that the County would not make any money with having to hire additional employees.

Mrs. Nichols asked about the William King School of the Arts.

Mr. Newman stated that this was given to the school system last year.

Mrs. Nichols suggested giving this to the school system again this year.

Mr. Early stated that he wanted a budget that looks like last year except in cases where items are mandated.

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Mr. Martin stated that a paid service for EMS was being put together and asked if the salaries were going to be so high that people in other offices would be attracted to this.

Mr. Dalton commented that the level of certification would prohibit this.

Mr. Early stated that the Board does not have good information on what a full-time EMS will cost and stated that they needed this information.

Mr. Larrowe commented that ways to increase revenue were being looked at.

Mr. Early stated that people can't afford a tax increase with increases in gas prices and the loss of jobs. He stated that the tax rate has to stay at \$.59 or less and told that any increase in the budget should only be the amount of increase in revenue from increased values.

Mr. Larrowe told that there had been a request to supplement the Registrar's salary. He told that since this salary was set by the State he was not sure the County could do this.

Mr. Dalton commented that the County could supplement the salary but told that this was not done much in this part of the State.

Mr. Early asked what pay raises were mandated. He asked if the County had to match the State salaries and asked if there were any promises out there.

Mr. Larrowe told of the promise to pay the VRS.

Mr. Early stated that the Board already had a couple of things to pay for that they did not have last year.

Mr. Jones asked what the Board was going to do with the fire departments.

Mr. Larrowe stated that he would bring back information concerning what other localities were doing.

Mr. Martin commented that twice per year tax collection had been discussed.

Mr. Larrowe told that he had met with Treasurer Bonita Williams and Commissioner Louise Quesenberry to discuss this issue. He told that it did not appear that an incentive can be offered to those who pay early. He told that there could be some difference in the revenue but that it would not be significant compared to the cost.

Mr. Martin asked what the cost was to issue the tax revenue anticipation note.

Mr. Dalton stated that it was around \$50,000.

Mr. Early stated that some people did not want this because of the extra work.

Mr. Martin stated that \$50,000 was a lot of money. He told that this had gone on for years and that in 10 years this would amount to \$500,000.

Mr. Early stated that it took a motion by the Board for twice per year tax collection and then the Treasurer would determine who to make this work.

Mr. Jones commented that people would complain a lot.

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Mr. Early stated that he did not think they would but thought they would like it.

(Order)

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Mr. Early, seconded by Mrs. Myers, and passed unanimously, the Board adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Sharon F. Nichols, Chairman

Ronald L. Newman, Assistant Clerk