

March 26, 2008

The Carroll County Board of Supervisors held a Joint Meeting with Galax City Council and Grayson County Board of Supervisors on, March 26, 2008 at Crossroads Institute.

Present were: W.S. "Sam" Dickson
 David V. Hutchins
 Wesley G. Hurst
 Andrew S. Jackson
 Dr. Thomas W. Littrell
 N. Manus McMillian
 Gary Larrowe, County Administrator
 Ronald L. Newman, Assistant Administrator
 Members of Galax City Council
 Members of Grayson County Board of Supervisors

Mr. Dickson welcomed everyone and recommended hold joint meetings more frequently because they are good for the community.

Mr. Dickson called the meeting to Order at 6:45 p.m. and asked Delegate Bill Carrico to lead in prayer and pledge.

Mr. C.M. Mitchell talked about the Regional Cooperation Strategy and told that they have found over the years that it pays to work together. He told that funding agencies are more likely to fund projects for regional rather than individual efforts. He told that Towns are an integral part of the community and the projects that they are working on make better communities. He told a project in one jurisdiction lifts other jurisdictions and they are all linked together economically.

Mr. Mike Maynard welcomed everyone. He reviewed the birth of the Blue Ridge Crossroads EDA and discussed the vision with emphasis on entrepreneurial economy. He told that the economy is driven by broadband internet and not dial up. He told that businesses in the area can't compete without technology. Mr. Maynard discussed strategy. He told the area has creditability with agencies willing to invest in the area. He discussed key strategic elements, success measures and accomplishments. He discussed how local government could help.

Mr. Hutchins told of all the time and effort Mr. Maynard has put into BRCEDA.

Dr. McBride told that the community was given a gift in 2005 that keeps on giving. He discussed the benefits of having a facility like Crossroads and stated the following quote by Ernesto Siroli "Future of every community lies in capturing the energy, imagination, and passion of its people".

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Mr. Neal Satterwhite discussed the establishment of BRCEDA. He discussed the regional Board and projects such as the prison and the Small Business Development Center, Regional Business Directory and bringing E-Commerce to the area.

Dr. Dallas Garrett discussed the mission of the Small Business Development Center. He told that most of his clients have lost their jobs. He told that since 2006 he has had 60 businesses funded with 249 new jobs. Dr. Garrett told that his goals for this year were to do one business plan per week and have \$10,000,000 in new funding.

Mr. Randall Gravley asked where the new businesses were located.

Dr. Garrett told that 80% were in Carroll County and he is working with 15 companies from Independence and 12-15 in Galax.

A citizen told that the biggest frustration has been finding out information about what is going on in the community. He told that he has learned a lot tonight and the communication has been good.

Delegate Bill Carrico told that it is important for the Authority to come together and it makes it easier to get money for the region.

(Order)

JOINT RESOLUTION APPROVAL

Upon motion by Mr. McMillian, seconded by Mr. Hurst and passing unanimously, the Board approved the following Joint Resolution.

VOTES

Mr. Jackson Yes
Mr. Hurst Yes
Mr. Hutchins Yes
Mr. Dickson Yes
Mr. Littrell Yes
Mr. McMillian Yes

Joint Resolution

Whereas the school systems of Carroll County, Galax City, and Grayson County have been appointed to serve the people of the region; and

Whereas during the last several years the region has experienced a significant increase in the closing of industries that have provided long term employment for many people in the region for generations; and

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Whereas the governing bodies recognizing the benefits of regional cooperation worked together in 2007 to renew the efforts of the Regional Industrial Facilities Authority now doing business as the Blue Ridge Crossroads Economic Development Authority (BRCEDA); and

Whereas the benefits resulting from that cooperation can be enumerated as follows:

Grants totaling more than \$565,000 to provide resources to renew the structure of the local economy;

Grant of \$225,000 from the Virginia Tobacco Indemnification Commission for the Southwest Virginia Farmers Market to expand its capability to handle seasonal vegetable crops;

Opening a call center at the Crossroads Institute that provides two hundred sixty-five jobs;

Developing, adopting, and implementing the first phase of the Wired Road - a comprehensive plan for broadband deployment in the region;

Employment of a regional Director of Entrepreneurial and Business Development;

Opening a Small Business Development Center office with a full-time director to serve the region; and

Whereas greater economic benefits can be achieved with a comprehensive plan for regional economic renewal that provides a clear direction and calls all who serve the people of our communities to join together to use the available resources to develop a sustainable local economy that provides opportunities for jobs and needed core services for our people;

Now therefore be it resolved that the School systems of Carroll County, Galax City, and Grayson County meeting in joint session acknowledge that the need to continue to work in cooperation with each other is critical to the revitalization of the region's economy; and

That the School systems of Carroll County, Galax City, and Grayson County invite all local governments, local citizens, groups, and civic organizations to join in making a commitment to creating and implementing a comprehensive regional plan for the future of our region that celebrates the uniqueness of our communities while recognizing that we are bound together by the natural, cultural, and human assets with which we have been blessed.

To that end, we affix our signatures and invite others to do the same as a sign of commitment to working together for the sustainable future of our communities and our region.

YOUTH FORUM

Dr. McBride told that they had invited 60 area students to participate in a Youth Forum and split them into groups of 10 where they worked together on their concerns on what is here and what is needed to create opportunities. He told that some of the ideas were a youth center, having a youth council to have a voice in the community, mentoring and having a youth friendly community.

Ms. Lauren Holderfield told that they had discussed the ideas among themselves and decided to let the adults know their thoughts. She told that

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they would be meeting each month and they do have plans and dreams. She told that the motto is Youth Creating Tomorrows Opportunities Today.

Dr. McBride told that SREC has offered space for as long as they have it available.

Mr. Dickson told that he appreciated the youth.

(Order)

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion my Mr. Hutchins, seconded by Mr. Hurst, and passed unanimously, the Board adjourned at 9:00 p.m. until March 31, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. for a budget workshop.

W.S. "Sam" Dickson, Chairman

Ronald L. Newman, Assistant Clerk