

January 8, 2018

The Carroll County Board of Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on, January 8, 2018 in the Board Meeting Room of the Carroll County Governmental Center.

Present were:

Rex L. Hill  
Dr. Tom Littrell  
Bob Martin  
Phillip McCraw  
Robbie McCraw  
Joe Webb  
Steve Truitt, County Administrator  
Nikki Cannon, Assistant County Administrator  
Steve Durbin, County Attorney

Mr. Robbie McCraw called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**CLOSED SESSION – PURSUANT TO VIRGINIA CODE SECTION 2.2-3711(A1, A5, A7)**

Upon motion by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Robbie McCraw, and passing, the Board convened a Closed Session for the discussion of personnel, legal matter, as authorized by Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A1, A5, A7, A8).

Mr. Durbin explained the reasons for entering Closed Session.

1. Discussion or consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body; and evaluation of performance of departments or schools of public institutions of higher education where such evaluation will necessarily involve discussion of the performance of specific individuals. Any teacher shall be permitted to be present during a closed meeting in which there is a discussion or consideration of a disciplinary matter that involves the teacher and some student and the student involved in the matter is present, provided the teacher makes a written request to be present to the presiding officer of the appropriate board.

5. Discussion concerning a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community.

7. Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body; and consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel. For the purposes of this subdivision, "probable litigation" means litigation that has been specifically threatened or on which the public body or its legal counsel has a reasonable basis to believe will be commenced by or against a known party. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to permit the closure of a meeting merely because an attorney representing the public body is in attendance or is consulted on a matter.

8. In the case of boards of visitors of public institutions of higher education, discussion or consideration of matters relating to gifts, bequests and fund-raising activities, and grants and contracts for services or work to be performed by such institution. However, the terms and conditions of any such gifts, bequests, grants, and contracts made by a foreign government, a foreign legal entity, or a foreign person and accepted by a public institution of higher education in Virginia shall be subject to public disclosure upon written request to the appropriate board of visitors. For the purpose of this subdivision, (i) "foreign government" means any government other than the United States government or the government of a state or a political subdivision thereof; (ii) "foreign legal entity" means any legal entity created under the laws of the United States or of any state thereof if a majority of the ownership of the stock of such legal entity is owned by foreign

governments or foreign persons or if a majority of the membership of any such entity is composed of foreign persons or foreign legal entities, or any legal entity created under the laws of a foreign government; and (iii) "foreign person" means any individual who is not a citizen or national of the United States or a trust territory or protectorate thereof.

VOTES

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Mr. Webb           | Yes |
| Mr. Phillip McCraw | Yes |
| Mr. Hill           | Yes |
| Mr. Robbie McCraw  | Yes |
| Dr. Littrell       | Yes |
| Mr. Martin         | Yes |

(Order)

**CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION**

Upon motion by Mr. Hendrick, seconded by Mr. Phil McCraw, and passing, the Board adopted the following Resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Carroll County Board of Supervisors convened a Closed Session this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and 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 applies, and (II) only such business matters as were identified in the motion by which this Closed Session was convened were heard, discussed, or considered in the meeting to which this certification applies.

VOTES

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Mr. Webb           | Yes |
| Mr. Phillip McCraw | Yes |
| Mr. Hill           | Yes |
| Mr. Robbie McCraw  | Yes |
| Dr. Littrell       | Yes |
| Mr. Martin         | Yes |

Mr. Martin led in invocation and pledge.

Mr. Robbie McCraw welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming out. He thanked the Board for appointing him Chairman and hopes that he can do as good a job as Mr. Martin did last year.

(Order)

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Upon motion by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Phillip McCraw and passing, the Board approved the agenda

VOTES

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Mr. Webb           | Yes |
| Mr. Phillip McCraw | Yes |
| Mr. Hill           | Yes |

Mr. Robbie McCraw Yes  
Dr. Littrell Yes  
Mr. Martin Yes

(Order)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon motion by Mr. Hendrick, seconded by Mr. Phil McCraw and passing, the Board approved the minutes of the meeting on November 20, 2017, December 11, 2017, and December 18, 2018.

**VOTES**

Mr. Webb Yes  
Mr. Phillip McCraw Yes  
Mr. Hill Yes  
Mr. Robbie McCraw Yes  
Dr. Littrell Yes  
Mr. Martin Yes

(Order)

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Upon motion by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Webb and passing, the Board approved the Consent Agenda with pulling out all Board approval items to explain individually.

Ms. Cannon told that number one is the day reporting program and we have more than 15 applicants and will be charged a little more for consulting services and testing kits for drug testing. She told this is a diversion program so those don't go into the NRVRJ, so it ends up saving the County money by diverting them and using them for community service. She told the Sheriff has asked for an additional appropriation with some of those savings.

Mr. Hill asked if we direct those costs back to the person on day reporting.

Ms. Cannon told that there is a fee that they are charged.

Mr. Hill told that it pays for itself so to speak.

Ms. Cannon told number two is an appropriation for an SRO grant that the Sheriff's Office has received. She told her understanding is that there is a 10 % match on this grant and half of that will be paid by the school system and the other half be absorbed by the Sheriff's Department. She told that on number three, juvenile detention has ran over. She told in these budget approval items this year what I have tried to do is instead of increasing the overall budget amount is to try to find it within the budget so that our expenditures are staying the same. She told this one says budget transfer and we are using contingency to cover the cost of the bills.

Mr. Hill asked which contingency that comes from.

Ms. Cannon told that it is in non-departmental on the very last page, 91500-5610.

Mr. Hill told that it has \$40,000 in it presently.

Ms. Cannon told there is \$40,000 but we are going to add some more money to it in a minute. She told the next is LODA and it is a combination of two changes that we have, one is an implementation fee that VRS charged and they are now having to make a determination on if a death happened in the line of duty and that is \$1,840 and the invoice, VRS made a determination that anyone who is currently receiving benefits from LODA have to participate in the State health insurance program. She told that VRS thought that was going to be a savings and unfortunately you can see by the invoice that

was hand delivered it increased the overall cost. She told that it will be offset by the personnel contingency. She told that next is for the vacancy within the Treasurers Department, whatever was remaining after all expenses have been paid for that position, the vacancy savings of \$21,411.62 has been moved into other contingency increasing that amount.

Mr. Hill told he thought they were going to utilize this.

Ms. Cannon told that she had some part time expenditures from December but it is her understanding that. She told that in the event that they have to use it we can move it back from other contingency to the Treasures Office at that time. She told the next is very similar with the vacancy in Admin. Office, moving that vacant money down to the contingency and there is no plan to fill it right now. She told next is an additional allocation for the law library, we are currently under contract for online access and does not expire for another year. The cost is more than the revenue.

Mr. Hill told that is why we cut it out last budget but we found out we have this.

Ms. Cannon replied, cut it out of last budget.

Mr. Hill told didn't we eliminate the library fund.

Ms. Cannon told that we have not eliminated it. She told that it actually ran in the negative last year and this is preventing it running in the negative.

Mr. Robbie McCraw told that Commonwealth Attorney doesn't use the law library.

Ms. Cannon told that it is for the attorneys to use.

Mr. Robbie McCraw asked if it gets a lot of usage.

Ms. Cannon told that she doesn't know.

Mr. Hill told that we don't have a choice for another couple years.

Mr. Robbie McCraw asked if it is something we are required to provide.

Mr. Durbin told that most all courts have them.

VOTES

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Mr. Webb           | Yes |
| Mr. Phillip McCraw | Yes |
| Mr. Hill           | Yes |
| Mr. Robbie McCraw  | Yes |
| Dr. Littrell       | Yes |
| Mr. Martin         | Yes |

(Order)

**DAY REPORTING**

Upon motion by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Webb and passing, the Board approved an additional allocation for the Day Reporting program due to escalating costs. The amount will be transferred from non-department other contingencies to cover the cost so as to not increase the budget.

VOTES

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Mr. Webb           | Yes |
| Mr. Phillip McCraw | Yes |
| Mr. Hill           | Yes |
| Mr. Robbie McCraw  | Yes |
| Dr. Littrell       | Yes |

Mr. Martin                      Yes

(Order)

**SHERIFF SRO GRANT**

Upon motion by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Webb and passing, the Board approved an additional appropriation in the amount of \$39,271 for the School Resource Officer/School Security Grant Program. The local match of \$10,690 will be funded within the Sheriff’s Department.

VOTES

Mr. Webb                      Yes  
Mr. Phillip McCraw      Yes  
Mr. Hill                        Yes  
Mr. Robbie McCraw      Yes  
Dr. Littrell                  Yes  
Mr. Martin                    Yes

(Order)

**JUVENILE DETENTION**

Upon motion by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Webb and passing, the Board approved a budget transfer to cover the overages on Juvenile Detention. Utilization of other contingencies to cover the overage as to not increase the budget.

VOTES

Mr. Webb                      Yes  
Mr. Phillip McCraw      Yes  
Mr. Hill                        Yes  
Mr. Robbie McCraw      Yes  
Dr. Littrell                  Yes  
Mr. Martin                    Yes

(Order)

**LODA**

Upon motion by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Webb and passing, the Board approved an additional allocation for the increased cost in LODA in the amount of \$12,408. VRS charged a onetime implementation fee of \$1,840.16 and VACORP invoiced an additional \$10,565 from the overage in actual cost. Staff intends to use the other contingency line item to offset the increase, so the overall budget does not increase.

VOTES

Mr. Webb                      Yes  
Mr. Phillip McCraw      Yes  
Mr. Hill                        Yes  
Mr. Robbie McCraw      Yes  
Dr. Littrell                  Yes  
Mr. Martin                    Yes

(Order)

**TREASURER**

Upon motion by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Webb and passing, the Board approved a budget transfer for vacant position to the Treasurer’s Office. The budget will be reduced in the Treasurers department. The amount of \$21,411.62 will be placed in other contingency in the event the position is not filled.

VOTES

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Mr. Webb           | Yes |
| Mr. Phillip McCraw | Yes |
| Mr. Hill           | Yes |
| Mr. Robbie McCraw  | Yes |
| Dr. Littrell       | Yes |
| Mr. Martin         | Yes |

(Order)

**ADMINISTRATION**

Upon motion by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Webb and passing, the Board approved a budget transfer for vacant position in County Administration. Budget will be reduced in County Admin. The amount of \$16,244.05 will be placed in other contingency in the event the position is not filled.

VOTES

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Mr. Webb           | Yes |
| Mr. Phillip McCraw | Yes |
| Mr. Hill           | Yes |
| Mr. Robbie McCraw  | Yes |
| Dr. Littrell       | Yes |
| Mr. Martin         | Yes |

(Order)

**LAW LIBRARY**

Upon motion by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Webb and passing, the Board approved an additional allocation for the Law Library expenses and a transfer from the general fund. Law Library expenses are not being covered by the revenue being collected so the board is requested to approve additional allocation for the expenses. As soon as the contract is up for renewal, other cheaper options will be evaluated when possible.

VOTES

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Mr. Webb           | Yes |
| Mr. Phillip McCraw | Yes |
| Mr. Hill           | Yes |
| Mr. Robbie McCraw  | Yes |
| Dr. Littrell       | Yes |
| Mr. Martin         | Yes |

(Order)

**COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Mr. Robbie McCraw told there are some openings and went over those.

Mr. Hill asked if we could advertise these positions ever so often.

Ms. Adams told that it is always up.

Mr. Truitt asked if he meant in the newspaper.

Mr. Hill told he was talking about our website.

Upon motion by Dr. Littrell, seconded by Mr. Martin and passing, the Board appointed Mr. Sam Dickson to the Solid Waste Authority.

VOTES

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Mr. Webb           | Yes |
| Mr. Phillip McCraw | Yes |

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Mr. Hill          | Yes |
| Mr. Robbie McCraw | Yes |
| Dr. Littrell      | Yes |
| Mr. Martin        | Yes |

Upon motion by Mr. Hill, seconded by Dr. Littrell and passing, the Board appointed Mr. Truitt to @Corridor.

VOTES

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Mr. Webb           | Yes |
| Mr. Phillip McCraw | Yes |
| Mr. Hill           | Yes |
| Mr. Robbie McCraw  | Yes |
| Dr. Littrell       | Yes |
| Mr. Martin         | Yes |

(Order)

**VETERANS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY**

Mr. Truitt told the driving force behind this is a request to rename the entire, not rename but give honorary name of Veterans Memorial Highway the entire stretch of 52. He told that he gets a visit about twice a month from Clyde Easter who is up into his 90's and he is a purple heart recipient and he also got another decoration and fought in Anzio Beach, WWII and served his country with distinction. He told he went through all the background work and got estimates, say three signs in each directions for around \$2500 and Mr. Easter personally or the VFW will pay for it but we of course in the resolution have to agree to pay for the signs. He told that this is VDOT's standard resolution where we ask their committee to approve. He told the resolution is the first step in the process.

Mr. Martin told that every state has good and bad and if you go into West Virginia they have named road after road and it is very impressive and for that reason he will make a motion.

Upon motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Hill and passing, the Board approved the resolution for the Veterans Memorial Highway.

VOTES

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Mr. Webb           | Yes |
| Mr. Phillip McCraw | Yes |
| Mr. Hill           | Yes |
| Mr. Robbie McCraw  | Yes |
| Dr. Littrell       | Yes |
| Mr. Martin         | Yes |

(Order)

**LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION RESOLUTION**

Mr. Truitt told that this is a result of a National movement called COPS and in 2015 they started expressing their appreciation and they have asked localities across the country to join in. He told given the job you do for us I would say it is the least we could do.

Mr. Robbie McCraw told that he agrees, it is a thankless job and we greatly appreciate it.

Upon motion by Dr. Littrell, seconded by Mr. Webb and passing, the Board approved the Law Enforcement Appreciation Resolution.

VOTES

|          |     |
|----------|-----|
| Mr. Webb | Yes |
|----------|-----|

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Mr. Phillip McCraw | Yes |
| Mr. Hill           | Yes |
| Mr. Robbie McCraw  | Yes |
| Dr. Littrell       | Yes |
| Mr. Martin         | Yes |

(Order)

**PSA AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT**

Mr. Truitt told this is an amendment basically a change to the agreement between the Carroll County PSA and the City of Mt. Airy which was originally signed in 2012 and essentially it is getting us the right to buy more water for less money. He told currently we can buy something like 9999 gallons a day and now we can do up to 200,000 gallons a day and we will be able to buy it for half the price that we were paying.

Ms. Montgomery told the rate is lower and for example if we just looked at Exit 1, last year what we spent a month it would be a savings of over \$5000 just for that small system.

Mr. Truitt told in addition to the savings, if we were to get additional economic development opportunities around exit 1 water would no longer be a factor. He told that he doesn't see a downside to it.

Mr. Martin told that it is a very positive thing from the standpoint that it puts Carroll County cooperating with North Carolina and in the future it strengthens our hand for economic development.

Upon motion by Mr. Hill, seconded by Dr. Littrell and passing, the Board approved the PSA amendment to agreement with the City of Mt. Airy.

Dr. Littrell noted that the PSA passed this earlier with the Board to coincide with it.

**VOTES**

|                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| Mr. Webb           | Yes     |
| Mr. Phillip McCraw | Abstain |
| Mr. Hill           | Yes     |
| Mr. Robbie McCraw  | Yes     |
| Dr. Littrell       | Yes     |
| Mr. Martin         | Yes     |

(Order)

**HB 222 RESOLUTION**

Mr. Truitt told this is a resolution in support of a bill being sponsored by Delegate James Moorefield and basically it will give several localities in the former coal areas new economic development opportunities, including new tax credits we can give to businesses and allow us to sweeten deals through our IDA. He told it will allow us to partner with richer counties where we can trade credits back and forth where we could work with like Fairfax County and they can get tax credits while we get a physical presence of a job creating business or vice versa. He told that it gives us a bunch of new tools. He told we are going our neighbors in this effort. He told he is very excited about this legislation and he really hopes it passes.

Mr. Robbie McCraw told that he read this and doesn't it offer tax reductions to even employees.

Mr. Truitt told that it has benefit to the company as well as the employees.

Upon motion by Mr. Phillip McCraw, seconded by Dr. Littrell and passing, the Board approved the HB 222 Resolution.

VOTES

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Mr. Webb           | Yes |
| Mr. Phillip McCraw | Yes |
| Mr. Hill           | Yes |
| Mr. Robbie McCraw  | Yes |
| Dr. Littrell       | Yes |
| Mr. Martin         | Yes |

(Order)

**BUDGET DISCUSSION**

Mr. Truitt told that Nikki has put together an initial pass at a process.

Ms. Cannon told that we would like to determine what the Board would like the process to look like, do we want to make changes from what we have historically looked like in the past, are we going to have a budget committee of two or three or the entire board. She told that we want to gauge the entire board.

Mr. Martin told that he originally made the motion to go to a more stream line budget process and we appointed two members and they met with the School Board and the advantage was they nailed some things down and they brought it back to the Board. He told anything will work if you want it to and nothing will work if you don't want it to. He told we used to have a group of 6 and discussed it and so forth and spending hours and hours on us and when we finished the budget had gone up \$15,000. He told it has been suggested that Nikki and Steve that you be the point person on talking to some of these departments to see if there is common ground and report back to the board. He told he is not opposed to all six of us doing it.

Mr. Truitt told whether it is all six or it is two, the budget has the same process, you have to identify what you are going to do and what its gonna cost. He told whatever mechanism makes you feel comfortable is fine with us.

Mr. Hill told he thinks the whole board should look at it, when he came on and still to this day I don't everything there is to know about the budget. He told he thinks it is helpful for each member to be on the budget committee and have it in front of the folks that wish to opine when we make a decision and the new gentleman will learn where we are spending money and where the revenue comes in and things like that. He told to him that would be the most appropriate way. He told he has looked back and it has gone different ways.

Ms. Cannon told that she would like to make one request, if you would like to have the entire board on the budget committee, can we set up a second board meeting at 6:00 after anyone who is working in this format during the whole budget cycle.

Mr. Robbie McCraw told he agrees with that.

Mr. Hill told we definitely need to add more dates and we need to start later on this month. He told that doesn't mean every board member has to be here but if we have more than 3 board members we have to make public notice, if a board member doesn't want to participate that would be up to them.

Ms. Cannon told even if you have two members but it is a committee of the board you have to notify the press.

Mr. Hill told in the past we have had members who want to be on the committee but were not able to because it was limited to two.

Mr. Robbie McCraw told he has to side a little bit with what Rex is saying, he does like the idea of all of us serving on the budget committee and that goes back to we are here to represent the citizens of the county and each one of us should have that

responsibility and accountability and we need to stand up and be that part so we know about the budget. He told that it an important part of all of us serving.

Mr. Martin told in 1975 they were spending \$17,000 for the landfill and people were screaming we were getting robbed and now its over \$1 million a year and the problem with six is sometimes you get to nitpicky. He told he will always remember spending 2 hours over \$200 on a typewriter. He told that he did not enjoy last budget where it appeared we cut out \$600,000 but we had all these unbudgeted expense items. He told that he would like to build up our surplus, try to cut expenses and by the same token and improve the revenue situation. He told there ain't no perfect way.

Ms. Cannon told you haven't adopted the budget calendar but the process is still moving along, we have requested the CIP's and we are going to keep the process moving but have a process the Board is happy with. Would it be okay to schedule a budget meeting on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and we will use it for an educational session.

Dr. Littrell asked if we can group the budget into categories that you can look at. He told that a six member committee is a little awkward but if you had a smaller number that could go over portions and report back and get a general consensus.

Ms. Cannon told we have 9 sections of expenditures and all of the revenues but if we are going to try to use it as an educational tool she would like it to be all encompassing.

Mr. Martin told that he is not sure it is limited to the two new members getting an education because there are so many items. He told when you a large number it goes into a 10 minute explanation and you better count on several meetings.

Mr. Hill told why do we look at revenues because that will determine what our expenditures are going to be, realistic revenue and stick to that.

Ms. Cannon told it is a little early on the revenue, we are typically forecasting revenues in March but we can do that. She told that we are trying to incorporate the Treasurer in those discussions.

Mr. Robbie McCraw asked if you feel like Bonita would have a good idea of what is trending on collection.

Mr. Hill asked when do Constitutional budgets come in.

Mr. Truitt told that they will be late this year.

Mr. Robbie McCraw told we need to hold off until after this meeting to decide if we want to do a committee or the entire board.

(Order)

## **BOARD GOALS**

Mr. Martin told our goals have to center around budget and surplus.

Mr. Truitt told that it is safe to say that we would like to see some successful economic development and the financial health of the county improve. He told our cash flow is significantly better than it has been. He told that he hears over and over is broadband and that is supportive of those goals. He told it is important and he is willing to throw it out as one of his goals. He told things continue to change and we need to be realistic.

Dr. Littrell told each individual could submit something.

Mr. Hill told Jason has a thing we can share stuff like goals.

Mr. Robbie McCraw told he likes Dr. Littrells idea and we can all work on it and come up with a list.

(Order)

### **TAX COLLECTION**

Mr. Truitt told he doesn't have a report from the Treasurer, she has committed to giving me one tomorrow. He will be happy to share that with the press when we get it.

(Order)

### **CITIZENS TIME**

Mr. John Lynch gave the following dissertation. I operate Silver Maples Farm, here in Carroll County. Everyone knows me as Farmer John and I am the lone produce vendor at the new downtown Hillsville Farmers Market. I have nothing but the highest regard and respect for the Brady sisters who have worked extremely hard to create a most impressive farmers market operation. Occasionally, I purchase wholesale produce from them and they do the same from me. However, I feel I must disagree, regarding their opposition of wine sales at our new Visitors Center now located in the retail Farmers Market facility. First of all, the rule against alcohol was originally put in place for a valid reason 25 years ago, to prevent the possible sale of illegal alcohol at the Farmers Market. That was 25 years ago and times have changed. As far as suggesting wine sales should not be in the hands of county government, all hard liquor sold in Virginia must be purchased at state run liquor stores, by law. To the best of my knowledge, none of our state run liquor stores can be held liable for any consequences related to the sale of their products. As far as church groups being turned off by visiting the Farmers Market, because of wine slaes at the Visitor Center, Jesus turned water into wine and wine was served at the Last Supper. When my wife and I receive Holy Communion at our church, we are served wine which represents the blood of Christ. Wine is available at Food Lion, Dollar Discount, Walmart and many other such stores. I know of no Christian that boycotts nay of those stores because they happen to sell wine. Our relocated Visitor Center is now something every resident of Carroll County can be extremely proud of. Adding a nice display of regional wines, would add another layer of excellence to what is already on display there. You will find no items made in China or other such cheap flea market type items. Everything on display is the work of our very talented local craftsman and artisans. Many tourists from other states and countries visit our Carroll County Tourist Center and would just love to be able to purchase our fine regional wines to take home with them, many to stock their wine cellars. Amanda Parris, the Tourist Center director has done a very commendable job creating a county Visitor Center that we can all be extremely proud of. The passion she puts into the Visitor Center, is very evident and to insinuate that she wants to create a saloon type environment at our fine Visitors Center is like a slap in the face and far from the truth. Also, the insinuation that the Tourist Center discriminates against any legitimate farm in Carroll County is also far from factual as any productive farm can apply as a vendor at the Farmers Market. We have several fine wineries in Carroll County, all of whom work extremely hard to create their products. There are also a few upcoming small scale wineries being created. All could be represented as a part of the nice regional wine display at our very impressive Visitors Center. It is my hop that 3 or 4 of the supposed 980 farms in Carroll County will come forth and participate in our new downtown Hillsville Farmers Market this year, as I am the only produce vendor there.

(Order)

### **SUPERVISORS TIME**

Mr. Webb told that this is all fascinating to him and he didn't have a clue what he was getting into when he did it. He told that he looks very forward to serving Carroll County, to helping this Board help Carroll County get back going like everybody has been talking about tonight as far as the budget and economic development. He told that he has a lot to

learn and he intends to learn it and intends to help people, especially those in the Laurel Fork District who he represents.

Mr. Phillip McCraw thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He congratulated the Chair and Vice Chairman. He thanked everyone for answering the questions that he has asked today. He apologized for interrupting the meeting.

Mr. Martin told the class on budget is showing proof and he may try to sign up for the course on county budgets. He told that it is evident that the Board has tried to get a handle on our budget and it is hard to do when they add stuff that we don't know about. He told the County Administrator went over the entire meeting and the Board were like the cat in the back of the window and that didn't go over well with the public. He told he is glad to see instead of the County Administrator and Nikki being unseen the budget, we involve you. He told somebody asked what he thought about the 2 new supervisors and he said they will be better than I am. He told that it behooves all of us to listen because there may be a better way of doing it. He told that he appreciates the views of everybody.

Dr. Littrell welcomed our two new members and told if there is anything he can do to help he would be glad to help. He recommended them both taking the Certified Supervisors Class. He told the budget is a guesstimate and no matter how much you know things change. He told that the Southwest Virginia Training Center is scheduled to close in less than 6 months. He told there will be another push to keep it open but we need to have a plan b. He told that others have gotten an economic development option and he thinks we need to pursue both directions and we don't have a lot of time. He told that he had more discussions about a section that has dead cell coverage. He told there are a lot of people out there and we need to encourage someone to come put in a tower. He told another issue is internet service.

Mr. Hill thanked Dr. Littrell for reminding us about the Training Center. He presented Mr. Martin with a gift and told that they really appreciate his work as Chairman.

Mr. Robbie McCraw thanked everyone for being here and told we have a good group that can work together and have the best interest of this County at heart. He told he appreciates Dr. Littrell's comments and he likes the ideas of doing a plan b. He told he doesn't live far from Dr. Littrell and he is correct about the cell service and it is a huge concern. He thanked staff and told that our budget plan is going to come together.

(Order)

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Chairman adjourned the meeting.

(Order)

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Chairman

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Clerk

January 8, 2018