

March 29, 2010

The Carroll County Board of Supervisors held a meeting with the on, March 29, 2010 at the Board Room at the Carroll County Government Complex.

Present were: Wesley G. Hurst
Dr. Thomas W. Littrell
David V. Hutchins
W.S. "Sam" Dickson
Andrew S. Jackson
N. Manus McMillian
Gary Larowe, County Administrator
Ronald L. Newman, Assistant Administrator
Nikki Shank, Assistant Administrator

Me. Hurst called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and asked Mr. Dickson to lead in invocation and pledge.

Mr. Hurst told that it is good to see a turnout.

RECREATION ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION

Upon motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Hutchins and passing, the Board approved an additional allocation in the amount of \$1,180 from fundraiser donations for spring activities.

VOTES

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

(Order)

EMS ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION

Upon motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Hutchins and passing, the Board approved an additional allocation in the amount of \$5000 from the Department of Emergency Management to improve the response and recovery efforts in case of disaster.

VOTES

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

(Order)

LGIP CAPITAL PROJECT RESERVE

Upon motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Hutchins and passing, the Board approved to transfer \$700,000 from LGIP Capital Project Reserve to the general fund capital projects to purchase capital items.

VOTES

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

Mr. McMillian Yes

(Order)

ANIMAL CLAIM

Upon motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Hutchins and passing, the Board approved an animal claim in the amount of \$32.50.

VOTES

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

(Order)

SURPLUS

Upon motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Hutchins and passing, the Board approved to surplus the following items:

Morrison Utility Truck Bed
1992 Ford Explorer ID# 1FMDU34X8NUA19065
2000 Ford Crown Victoria ID# 2FAP71W7YX186429

VOTES

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

(Order)

WAIVER OF DISQUALIFICATION

Upon motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Hutchins and passing, the Board approved the waiver of disqualification allowing Judge Brett Geisler to hear the case Town of Hillsville v. County of Carroll.

VOTES

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

(Order)

VOLUTNEER ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Upon motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Hutchins and passing, the Board approved to increase the limit of volunteer accident insurance to \$250,000 with an annual premium increase of \$3648.

VOTES

Mr. Jackson Yes
Mr. Hurst Yes

Mr. Hutchins	Yes
Mr. Dickson	Yes
Dr. Littrell	Yes
Mr. McMillian	Yes

(Order)

SCHOOL BUDGET PRESENTATION

Dr. Smith handed out the proposed budget and told that this year is the most challenging budget that he has ever worked on. He told that every day is spent in some way trying to figure out how to not place undue burden on the county. He thanked all of his staff who have worked on the budget.

He told that when he began with the school system he knew it was a quality system, but has found that it is a truly excellent system. He listed many achievements that have been accomplished and some of the services that are provided to citizens. He told that their budget goals are to maintain qualities and skills within the schools, to maintain personnel to ensure quality, to support instruction and to provide open lines of communication. He told that there is a reduction in state funding in the amount of \$3,786,858 and the scale of loss is almost too much to consider. He told that for every vacancy that they don't fill that is a job saved later on. He told that they have a very dedicated workforce and personnel are the largest category in the budget. He told that when they have gone over how to manage the shortfall they have found that the only way is through workers.

Dr. Smith told that they are not filling 40 vacancies and they expect that the number will go up by the beginning of the school year. He told that they are reducing the supplement for dual credit classes and also for extracurricular activities. He told that they would be consolidating summer school and they have reduced materials, travel, and equipment purchases by 10%. Dr. Smith told that they have also restructured their health insurance program. He told that because of these adjustments they have already seen it begin to hinder students. He told that while there is no job loss it will result in larger class size, minimizing services and program reductions.

Dr. Smith told that school begins on August 9th and the outlook for 2012 is looking grim. He told that they would not be receiving any additional state funds and they are also looking for an increase in VRS plus the elimination of stimulus funds. He told that next year they may not have the resources to utilize in order to balance the budget. He told that they plan to continue to work on ways to save. He told that they will need additional revenue to maintain services. Dr. Smith asked if there are any questions.

Mr. Hurst told that there has been a lot of hard work in compiling this data. He asked about the dual credit classes and asked if any of the classes were getting cut.

Dr. Smith told that all classes would stay in place and the reduction is in the payment to staff who teach those courses. He told that the savings in that is \$28,442.00

Mr. McMillian asked if the money is coming from somewhere else.

Dr. Smith told that it is a flat savings. He told that they just cut the pay and all of the programs are still there. He told that payments for these courses are above their regular salaries.

Mr. Hurst told that these courses are very important and it helps the students greatly. He told that he would like to see students get to use more of those programs. He told that we never thought we would be facing budget times like these. He told that with college prices going up there is a great savings and it is a fantastic program.

Mr. McMillian asked which positions are vacant and not being filled.

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Dr. Smith told that they were a little of everything including health services, food services, aides, coordinator of alternative education will be moving, special ed, a principal, math, career and technical, custodial and several others.

Mr. Dickson asked about the number of teachers that effected.

Dr. Smith told that right now it is 25 with an additional 5 due to upcoming retirements.

Mr. McMillian asked why the positions are not filled presently.

Dr. Smith told that they had forecasted the budgetary loss and they took advantage of the vacancy and didn't fill it. He told that they would see the effects of it.

Mr. Jackson asked what the average size classroom is now and what do they expect it to be.

Dr. Smith told that now it is around 18-23 and they expect it to go to 25-28.

Mr. Jackson asked about the principal position not being filled.

Dr. Smith told they will fill the position internally.

Mr. Hurst asked what their projection is for next year.

Dr. Smith told that they will have a large gap to fill and they will start the next budget atleast \$1.4 million short.

Mr. Dickson told that there is a \$2.2 million difference in the state funding and asked where the other came from.

Ms. Quesenberry told it was the stimulus funds.

Mr. Dickson asked how many teachers are still 11 and 12 month employees.

Ms. Quesenberry told that no one is 12 months and there are only a few who are 11 months.

Mr. Dickson told that the debt services is \$500,000 less this year and told that they were still getting that money and asked where it would be used.

Dr. Smith told that it would go into operational.

Mr. Dickson stated that they say it is level but actually it is \$600,000 more. He asked if we saved any money in food service.

Dr. Smith told that with switching to Chartwell's that the goal was not to save money but to enhance the quality of the food and they feel like they have done that.

Mr. Dickson asked if anyone had seen the budget before tonight and told that last year they worked a little closer. He told that it would have been nice to have seen it earlier.

Dr. Littrell told that he would like to commend the staff and school board members who worked on this during such a tough time. He asked about the debt service in 2012.

Dr. Smith told that in 2010 it would be \$3,077,552.

Dr. Littrell told that he has heard comments about the efficiency of the units at the highschool and wanted to know if it is something they are going to be working on.

Dr. Smith told that some parts of the school is so cold that at times they cannot put students in.

Dr. Littrell asked if there is any money to fix the problem.

Dr. Smith told that the estimate to fix the high school is \$3.5 million.

Dr. Smith told that they would request that they are able to rollover if they have surplus.

Mr. Dickson told that he sees no problem with that and it encourages them to save. He told that he is not seeing any money in the textbook funds.

Dr. Smith told that in the past they have only been able to spend textbook funds on materials and now they are allowed to use it in operational.

Mr. Dickson asked about enrollment.

Dr. Smith told that they have around 4025 students right now so there is some growth.

Mr. Dickson asked if the census helps.

Dr. Smith told that it does and they are supporting it.

Mr. McMillian asked where the lottery money goes.

Dr. Smith told that when the program was started it was suppose to be money that would go over their initial funding, but now it is actually the money that is used to fund instead of a supplement. He told that he is not sure how it was sold, but it was not intended to be the sole funding source.

Mr. McMillian told that he commends the staff.

Dr. Smith told that they have worked hard to take the burden off the taxpayer.

PUBLIC HEARING AUTHORIZATION

Upon motion by Mr. Dickson, seconded by Mr. Jackson and passing, the Board approved to set a Public Hearing on April 15th at 7:00 for the school budget and a meeting on April 26th at 7:00 for approval of the school budget.

VOTES

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

(Order)

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Mr. McMillian, seconded by Mr. Jackson and passing, the Board adjourned until April 12, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.

VOTES

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

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(Order)