

Carroll County Commissioners' Meeting
Minutes
December 7, 2011/December 12, 2011

Commissioners Present: David Sorensen, Asha Kenney. **Absent:** Dorothy Solomon

Representatives: David Babson.

Public: Chip Albee, Steve Brown, Kathleen Maloney, Susan Wiley, Maureen Spencer, Henry Spencer, Daymond Steer.

The meeting was called to order, by Commissioner Sorensen, at 8:38 a.m.

Public Input

Susan Wiley: I want to thank the Commissioners for doing such a good job with the budget. One of the things that should happen is that we need to do is a better job with our website. Once again, I tried to pull the minutes off the website, but could not get them. I know that you are working on negotiating once again with the IT people and there are people here who are capable of putting together a user-friendly website. Something has to happen.

Steve Brown: At the last meeting, Commissioner, you said that when the truck arrives, it would be paid for.
Commissioner Sorensen: Correct. **Steve Brown:** Will it be paid for in full at the time of delivery, and how will it be paid for. **Commissioner Sorensen:** It is charged to the Farm budget, but the Delegation said it should come out of the budget. We will take it out of the budget, right now, we do not know where it will come out of, and it depends on how much money is left over. It will be charged to the Farm because it is a farm vehicle. We will transfer the money from other departments to make up for that.

Mr. Albee: I understand the tradition that you have about not taking money out of reserve or other places in order to reduce taxes and letting the Delegation come forward to do all of that. With just a cursory look at the current budget as it stands, and the proposed budget that you sent to the state, I can find easily the 2.5 million dollars you are looking at for increasing taxes. In March 2012 when the budget is finalized, we will not be increasing taxes by that much at all. I think that the budget the Commissioners submitted obviously is not going to be the budget that we will end up paying taxes on. I am concerned that when it starts hitting the paper that County taxes are going up 17%, there will be public outcry. The reality of the situation is that there is no way in the world that it should.

Discussion ensued regarding the bond agreement and the options that could be taken. For details, refer to www.governmentoversite.com

Mr. Albee: I have to agree with Ann Aiton. When you structure your pay increases on a penny basis, i.e. 30 cents an hour, what you are doing is giving a 3% increase to a \$10.00 an hour worker and a 1.5% increase to a \$20.00 an hour worker. You are not rewarding your most able workers, and you are actually making them go backwards. If you have a 3% inflation rate, those workers who are most able, most educated and most valuable to the County are actually taking a 1.5% hit. As we did in the last few years structuring the raises on percentages is more equitable to the workers. **Commissioner Sorensen:** That is your opinion.

Representative Babson: I have a copy of the recent minutes from Tamworth. When Tri-County CAP came into their board, they were seeking funding for their program. One of the notes here says, "There are loans on property in Tamworth, and the County does provide an incidental contribution of 1.4%." First, I will have to find out what the 1.4% represents. Second, where do we provide any money for CAP? **Commissioner Sorensen:** I do not think we do. They had put in for a \$1000.00, but never requested it, so it was never paid.

Maureen Spencer: I was just reading the minutes and noted the request for K-9 training of dogs in the old nursing home. Is that going to happen? **Commissioner Sorensen:** Yes, we approved that last week. **Maureen:** This is just another good reason not to tear this building down.

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Carroll County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes December 7, 2011/December 12, 2011 Page 2

Captain Fowler: I would like to follow-up on Mr. Albee's comment on pay raises. Last week when I attended this meeting, the only comment I heard from Commissioner Kenney was that Federal employees have not received a pay raise for seven years or several years. Commissioner Kenney: Federal employees have a pay freeze for several years, and then I said, just keep that in mind.

Captain Fowler: With keeping that in mind, I want to see if you were aware what the starting pay for a Federal Correction Officer is. Commissioner Kenney: No, I am not aware. Captain Fowler: Are you aware what the starting pay for this County is for a Correction Officer?

Commissioner Kenney: So what is your point, what do you want to say? Federal employees have a pay freeze for several years, they do not get free meals, they do not get laptops, and they do not get cell phones.

Captain Fowler: The starting out pay for a Carroll County Correction Officer is \$29,368.63; the starting out pay for a Federal Correction Officer is \$38,619.00 minimum up to \$51,193.00 My point is that it is a lot easier not to accept a pay raise when you start out \$10,000.00 higher. Comments like that demoralize employees.

Commissioner Kenney: They have a lot of cost too. Like I said, they don't get free laptops, free cells phones, free a meal. Captain Fowler: Neither do I. Commissioner Kenney: So your cell phone is not paid, you don't get free meals?. Captain Fowler: I am on-call 24 hours a day and I get a portion of my cell phone reimbursed. My point I am trying to make is, that when you put out comments like that, I have no problem with no pay raise or the information on how you come up with pay raise, but to make a simple comment with no facts to back it up, it is demoralizing, that is my point.

Commissioner Sorensen: I have to give the Delegation some credit because the County is not in any kind of fiscal deficiency with our finances. We are above board and a lot better off than some other counties. I am not saying we don't need or deserve more, no question about it, it is a fight every year to get our budget passed, and it will be a fight this year. Refer to www.governmentoversite.com for further details.

Minutes

Commissioner Kenney requested that the minutes of 11/29/11 be tabled.

Motion

Commissioner Kenney made a motion to approve the non-public minutes of 9/21/11 and keep them sealed. Commissioner Sorensen seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion passed.

Department Head

Will DeWitt Farm

Will: As I have been reporting, we continue to cut and split wood. We have approximately a little over 60 cords, cut, and split and stacked on the landing. We are still working on that. We cut logs for the pole barn. We cut eleven trees out back and we got +/- 9,000 board feet. I have someone scheduled to come in tomorrow to mill it.

We removed the loam where the pole barn will sit. We have to add some gravel.

Last week fourth quarter water samples were done and sent out. We are working on winterizing the backhoe. Last week we had the generator serviced, the one here at the Administration Building and the one in the old nursing home. This was our last generator service for that contract. They did recommend, when we have the generator service done, in the Administration Building, next year, that we replace some of the belts.

Carroll County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes December 7, 2011/December 12, 2011 Page 3

There was an issue with the generator at the old nursing home, something to do with the exhaust pipe. He felt that it might be leaking a little, and would need to be looked at. I asked him to give me a price first, as that is in a very well ventilated area. The contracts on these generators are up next year.

The one for the new nursing home is good until 2013, and that is serviced on a semiannual basis. Eventually, we would like to have all three on the same service. This will be something that I would be looking at in the future.

We have been working on the new website. The people have been working very hard on this. Stephenie has been working with me on the new website and taking photos so that we can keep the public updated on the new projects taking place on the Farm.

Commissioner Sorensen: Has there been any progress on the timber cut? Will: I haven't seen Wendy. She did come and get a key to be able to gain access so that she could go up to hill and start marking. That was about three to four weeks ago.

Commissioner Sorensen: Asked Will to look and consider selling some of that loam that is piled up at the nursing home. Just look into that project for next time to see if we can derive any income from that.

Jason Johnson HOC

Jason: Commissioners, I come to you today as an extremely frustrated Department Head. I will not be providing my normal weekly report as I feel that report is irrelevant today. For further information, please refer to www.governmentoversite.com

Commissioner Sorensen: I would suggest, Jason, that you get an RFP as to what it would cost to enclose the exercise yard with an appropriate overhead enclosure and have that ready for the Delegation and the Chairman of the sub committee. .

Sandi McKenzie MVC

Sandi: Our census today at Mountain View Community is 103. We have 7 Medicare residents, 27 Private Pay residents (7 of which are pending Medicaid) and 69 Medicaid residents.

Today, I have two contracts; one is an insurance contract from Northeast Community Care, which is a Medicare Advantage Plan and they are looking for our participation. Huggins Hospital and Memorial Hospital are in their network. I do not expect to have any residents on this program, but the issue is that we would be fool-hearty not to be able to participate if a resident came in to our facility with that type of insurance.

The second contract has to do with General Linen Service. We have been going over negotiations with them saying that they have to do better than what they are doing. They came back with this contract. The unit price per piece has decreased which reveals approximately a \$9,500.00 savings. We currently have delivery and pick up three times a week and we would decrease that to twice a week, which would see approximately a 2% savings, and would decrease the Biohazardous charge. I felt that 60 months was out of the question, and I asked them if 36 months was doable, and they thought it would work. In the budget, we put in \$9,000.00 but we could probably end up with a few more thousand dollars more in savings if we work on that. They also closed the discussion by saying that if at the end of a year we had other concerns and other feelings where we could save more money they would be very happy to come back to the table even though we signed the contract for 36 months.

Commissioner Kenney: What is the cost? Sandi: The original cost was originally \$70,000.00 but it is approximately \$10,000.00 less a year that we are budgeting for. Commissioner Kenney: So it is \$60,000. I don't see it in the contract. I need sometime to read the contract. It is going too fast.

Carroll County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes December 7, 2011/December 12, 2011 Page 4

Sandi: I think you need to remember on thing, Commissioner Kenney, when you read it. This is by piece, so it will not say an exact amount. We averaged it out to be \$70,000.00 for last year. We look at this because, it will tell you what the price is for a Johnny, and it is a flat rate. What they did, was decrease our rate from 50% to 40%. This is based on volume, and we annualize our volume and this is how we came up with that.

Commissioner Sorensen: Is there any commitment for the County with the Northeast Community Care Plan?

Sandi: It is good for a year. It is not a commitment for the County, only that if we had a resident who is in the plan, obviously we would have to do filing and a response on our billing for a certain amount of time.

Commissioner Sorensen made a motion to sign the contract with Northeast Community Care, a Managed Care Medicare Advantage Plan.

Commissioner Kenney: You have not read the contract. Commissioner Sorensen: I believe that what Sandi is telling me is honest and above-board.

Commissioner Kenney: This is a lot; I cannot read it all at this time.

Sandi: A timely response is important with this so if I could get an answer next week, I would appreciate it. Commissioner Sorensen: We will get a response to you on Monday.

Commissioner Sorensen: Commissioner Solomon is in California this week, will be back next week. I will not be here next week, so we probably will not have a meeting next Wednesday, but we will post it on the website. We will have a meeting on Monday after the Delegation meeting, to approve these contracts and to bring up whatever information we have to talk about at that time. We also have bids for the pellet stove that are due in on Friday, 12/9/11. We will take that up on Monday as well and get that moving along. It has been delayed and the furnaces are going to be delivered and we are not going to be ready for them.

Rob Horace Food Service Director

Rob: Food pricing is continuing to increase. Its inflation as well as costs associated with the distribution of food and supply. There has been more pressure in the last year to try to remain within budget than I have seen in the last eight years. With that in mind, I decided to review our purchasing program. Currently it is with Sysco/ Amerinet, our group purchasing organization. Amerinet is a national GPO, which is healthcare specific.

Our pricing has been competitive, but in reviewing two other GPO organizations, there are significant opportunities to save some real dollars in 2012, without sacrificing quality. The summary page is the rational of the study. refer to summary discussion on www.governmentonsite.com

Rob: When you figure in incentives with Sysco/Amerinet the amount is \$3,991.00 and with Sysco/UHF it is \$18,630.00. Further discussion ensued. Rob: My recommendation is to switch to Sysco/UHF effective January 1, 2012.

Motion

Commissioner Sorensen made a motion to approve the recommendation from Rob Horace, Director Food Service, to switch from Sysco/Amerinet to Sysco/UHF effective January 1, 2012. Commissioner Kenney seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion passed.

Carroll County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes December 7, 2011/December 12, 2011 Page 5

Kathy Garry Finance

Kathy: I received an email from Betsy Miller, regarding the Regional Planning Commission, and the various counties involvement in the Regional Planning Commission. We did receive in the mail the dues for the North County Council. Commissioner Sorensen: We have never paid those in the past. There are representatives from Carroll County on that board.

Kathy: Do you have any questions for Monday's meeting? Commissioner Sorensen: We will have a full printout of all departments available, and those we have no control over. The Delegation requested copies ahead of time, but they do not meet until January, and this a meeting for the public to ask questions. I asked Kathy to come up with RSA 24:23 Public Hearing. To review this RSA, refer to www.governmentoversite.com.

Kathy: The notice of the Public Meeting has been posted in the County Sun and the Independent. The notice and summary of the budget sent to the state is on the website.

Robin: Some employees had asked me about the meeting on Monday and if there would be an opportunity for them to speak about their budget.

Commissioner Sorensen: There are several opportunities for them to talk about their budget through the sub committees, through the Delegation, and we have had them in here. I don't see any problem, if they want to talk about their budget.

Kathy: People are asking with Christmas coming on a Sunday, would it be appropriate to take the holiday on Monday. Robin: The union contract states that if the holiday falls on a Sunday, we take the following Monday off.

Discussion ensued regarding the Bond. Please refer to www.governmentoversite.com for content.

Commissioner Kenney: Commissioner Solomon was looking for checks. Kathy: Yes, we did find them.

Commissioner Kenney: I have to sign them too. Kathy: I will give you a copy, there were three checks.

Public Input

Henry Spencer: One of the things I heard at the beginning of this meeting is that one of the reasons that Commissioner Kenney put forward for not wanting to give raises to County employees, is the Federal situation. Whether or not the people should get raises is not my point. It is trying to apply the situation of the Federal government towards making her decision on how to behave in the County. It is somewhat ridiculous; these are not the same things. My reaction to what the Federal government is doing is not going to predicate the way I feel how County government is handled. I can understand why someone is upset using that as a reason. Whether or not people should get a pay raise because other citizens and workers in Carroll County are not making more money, they are taking pay cuts, is a fine argument, if that is your argument, but not he Federal government.

Commissioner Kenney: I just made a statement, a general statement that Federal employees have had a pay freeze for several years. These are bad economic times. People are losing their homes, they are struggling. It is just a general statement. I talked with people in the County, and they are losing their homes, they cannot afford to pay their taxes, they ask me did you give pay raises to the employees. That is just a general statement that I make.

Henry: That is a fine argument, but relating it to the state of the Federal government and how that is being handled just does not relate to the County.

Carroll County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes December 7, 2011/December 12, 2011 Page 6

Commissioner Sorensen: There are still two union contracts that have not been negotiated; they are the nursing home and the jail. They were to meet tomorrow, but due to possible inclement weather, it may not happen until January 2012, but everyone would be getting roughly \$624.00 increase.

Mr. Albee: We are now coming up to one year when we were supposed to have our Kronos system up and running. Department Heads would like to use them as a management tool, they cannot because it is not up and running completely. Are we using it at all? Commissioner Sorensen: Yes, we are. I think the question has come up in the past, how much is that going to save us?

Representative Babson: I have to agree with Mr. Albee. It was sold to us on the basis that when it was up and running it would save us money.

Discussion ensued regarding the Kronos system and the cost to have the pellet system installed.

Susan Wiley: I have listened to Jason speak about security issues since he came. There is that 50-page report that was done, and I recognize that it may not be information that has to go out to the public, but I would suggest that it be here for the Delegation, who have not been paying attention and have not read it. I would like to think that the sub committee members have read that 50-page report. I remember hearing a member of our Delegation saying, - we do not need to invest that money, we are not preparing for a riot.

Fortunately, this person has been put back into the facility and no one was seriously harmed, but we have battles there, we have persons that are being hurt because we don't have enough security in that building. Again, to save money, we need to spend money. When a department head come to us and says he is concerned about his employees, the inmates, and the community, be that, the County complex community or the community at large, we need to listen. I know the Commissioners have read that report.

Commissioner Sorensen: We have read that report, and he has put into his budget roughly \$20, 000, 00 for all kinds of protection of his staff; ammunition, training, floor mats. My problem is how much money we spend in one year, when we have had two escapes within the last ten years, the first one being a walk off the farm, and this one an escape out of our new jail. We can spend hundreds and hundreds of dollars to put a perimeter fence around, put a razor wire fence on what is there, and we can cover in the exercise area. I have asked Jason to get us a figure. There are all kinds of things we can do. We are doing things gradually; \$20,000 for ammunition and training is one-step forward. Maybe we should have put the cover on the exercise yard before we go into the guns and the radios.

Susan: I recognize that people are doing what they can do, but I have a reminder in the back of my head, "what is a life worth"?

Mr. Albee: Jason is now out there at a Press Conference facing the embarrassment of being blamed for that person escaping. That is what you heard this morning. Until somebody from the Delegation and somebody from the Commissioners steps up and takes that blame, he will remain upset, because it was not his fault. Commissioner Sorensen: I don't think anybody is blaming anyone over at the jail, as to whose fault it is. They have done their job. .

Mr. Albee: All his professionals are looking at him, he feels, and thinking he has done a substandard job. That is what I got out of what Jason said to the Commissioners. The Commissioners and/or the Delegation really need to step up and get behind him on this. We really have made that election, not to put a perimeter fence in because it is too expensive, not to cover the exercise area because it is too expensive. We make those elections, as you said, based upon two escapes in ten years. Maureen: Didn't Jason, at one point, ask for a camera, for that area they cannot see now? Captain Fowler: We do have outside cameras. Last year in the budget, we actually asked for an upgrade of our camera system because they are old and out-dated, but it was cut from the budget. Commissioner Sorensen: That was

removed by the Delegation.

Carroll County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes December 7, 2011/December 12, 2011 Page 7

Maureen: So there is no camera there currently? Captain Fowler: There is a camera in that section, but it does not cover the entire recreation area, and it is also on a 3-second delay

Commissioner Sorensen: Correct me if I am wrong, Captain. There are two individuals that supervise out in the yard with one actually out supervising those people in the exercise yard. I am assuming he saw the guy climbing the fence, radioed the control tower and the lieutenant went out there and also watched this guy jump off the roof on to the ground and scramble away,

Captain Fowler: In a perfect situation, we would have an officer in the Direct Supervision Unit supervising the day room and the outside recreation yard. Due to staff shortage, the officer, in the Direct Supervision Unit, is tasked with not only supervising the day room, but also the recreation yard. At any given time, he may leave to do his rounds in the day room. It is this time the individual took the opportunity to go over the fence. When the officer came out, he saw the individual already on the ground. That is when he made the initial call. There are no towers and no cameras of that area, so nothing was picked up.

Ed Comeau: Commissioner Sorensen, you made a comment that the budget we sent to the state does not make any sense. Could you elaborate on that?

Commissioner Sorensen: It is all summarized in different categories, it doesn't itemize out anything. Whereas our budget that we worked on for the last couple of months itemizes out everything; travel, conferences, heat, etc. All that goes to the state is a summary of the Sheriff's Department, bottom line, etc. It doesn't make a lot of sense.

Ed: What about the public portion that you had in the paper? Is that equally as confusing for the public to understand?

Commissioner Sorensen: That is just a notice, like any other delegation notice. Only this is for the budget.

Ed: Do you personally feel that the public has enough time to review that budget? Do you feel that the citizens of Carroll County have enough time to understand that budget?

Commissioner Sorensen: If they have the time and the interest to look at the budget, I think they have the opportunity to understand it.

Commissioner Sorensen: I would like to recess this meeting until Monday, December 12, 2011, after the Delegation Meeting, at which time we will look at contracts and any other meetings that will come before. We will post this on the bulletin board down stairs.

Motion

Commissioner Sorensen made a motion that we go into non-public session for ongoing legal issue and employee compensation. Commissioner Kenney seconded the motion. All agreed. Roll Call Vote – Commissioner Sorensen- yes, Commissioner Kenney- yes. Motion passed.

This meeting was recessed at 10:13 a.m. Commissioner Sorensen reconvened the meeting on Monday, 12/12/11 at approximately 1:15 pm to look at contracts.

Motion

Commissioner Sorensen made a motion to pay for the pellet boilers with the understanding that they will not be delivered before mid-January. Commissioner Solomon seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion passed.

Carroll County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes December 7, 2011/December 12, 2011 Page 8

Motion

Commissioner Sorensen made a motion to sign a three year laundry contract for the nursing home. Commissioner Solomon seconded the motion. Commissioner Kenney voted no. Two were in agreement. Motion passed.

Motion

Commissioner Sorensen made a motion to accept Arcadian Health as a health plan for the nursing home residents. Commissioner Solomon seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion passed.

Motion

Commissioner Sorensen made a motion to sign the contract for General Assessing at Hales Location. . Commissioner Solomon seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Twyon Recording Secretary

corrected/approved minutes of 12/7 with addendum on 12/12/11 srt

