

**MEETING MINUTES  
CARROLL COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY  
AUGUST 13, 2018  
CARROLL COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL CENTER  
BOARD MEETING ROOM  
HILLSVILLE, VA  
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**CALL TO ORDER**

The Carroll County Public Service Authority held their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, August 13, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. in the Carroll County Governmental Center Board Meeting Room. Members present included: Dr. Thomas Littrell, Chairman, Jeanette Dalton, Keith Meredith, Vice-Chairman, Doug Winesett, Phil McCraw, and Gary Jessup. Also present were Executive Director/PSA Engineer, Jessica Montgomery and Dana Phillips, Assistant Director, Secretary/Treasurer of the Authority.

Dr. Littrell- We'd like to welcome our newest member, Gary Jessup. He's from Laurel Fork and he's already thought about a plan to put water through Snake Creek, so we'll see if we can do that, I suggest you talk to Jessica to see what we can work out. First item on the agenda is Citizen's Time and I remind everyone you have 5 minutes per speaker. Our first speaker signed up is Judy Jones.

**CITIZENS TIME**

Mrs. Jones - Good afternoon. My name is Judy Jones I'm from the Cliffview Community and I brought the Gazette where it headlines "Carroll Citizens Protest Non-User Fee" and right off the bat I wanted to read a statement that was put in here by Ethan Campbell and it says "the non-user fees are a requirement of the Federal Agency that funding Carroll County's water projects that USDA Rural Development" and I think over the past two months that we've been coming presenting evidence the USDA does not require the non-user fee to be charged to these citizens of Carroll County and actually that decision the non-user fee was made in this room by this committee and approved by the Board of Supervisors. So, I'm here asking that these two committees to relinquish this non-user fee for the citizens of Carroll County those that did not ask for or sign up to connect to the water. Thank you.

Dr. Littrell – Second speaker is Robert Patton.

Mr. Patton – Hello everyone. I attended my first PSA meeting on February of 2017 and I expressed my opposition to the non-user fee and I've not agreed with it since the very beginning and I also was concerned with the fluoridation of the drinking water supply and that's been over a year and a half ago now. It's always been we'll look into it and get back to you sometime or something. Always. And now once again for the last three months evidences have been presented thanks to Benny that proves that mandatory non-user fee did not have to be in place in order to receive a grant for the Cliffview project so now I want

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to know what steps are being taken to do away with this non-user fee in its entirety. This has been going on for too long and by using deception stall tactics half-truths and silence to discourage opposition. This has been going on long enough and the time to do something about it is now. And if anyone needs to know what the definition of deception is I got it right here. But that's all I got to say. Thank you.

Dr. Littrell - Our next speaker is Benny Robinson.

Mr. Robinson – Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the Board. For the record I'm Benny Robinson and I live in the Pipers Gap District. I'm here along with the others today to learn what information you can share regarding the repeal of the non-user fee ordinance. You should recall that you have repeatedly pledged that you would get back to us and I for the record am one that not heard a single response emanate from this board. But what we have heard is that you have assured us that you'd give us answers, that you were listening that you were working the issue and that you would get back to us. Yet, I have not heard zilch. And I do not believe that any of the others in this room have as well. Mr. Chairman, I have been assured that the information that I presented at the last meeting and that was USDA did not mandate these non-user fee requirements has since been validated. And I thank Mr. Truitt for that confirmation. However, troublesome to me is the fact that I have been given more than a reasonable assurance that the information I conveyed was understood and known at the time of the last meeting by certain persons and was answered by silence. Mr. Chairman silence speaks volumes in integrity. I have heard Carroll County officials express their claimed confidence of promoting transparency in government. If that is to be taken as a heartfelt announcement, then why silence? Why the non-responsiveness? Transparency is not silent. Transparency is not withholding information. True transparency in government is a free flow exchange of information in and between citizens and government. I have had the opportunity, as others as well, to discuss these water sewer projects with consumers It's amazing what happens when the newspapers get hold of it. Regrettably, I must inform you that many have described tactics that resemble Gestapo methods. It's using the non-user fees as a weapon to get people to go along with water connections. Now I don't know whether these were exchanges between Carroll County officials or contractors but this is more than bothersome. I will close with this thought, it is time for Carroll County to become a more responsive and caring government. We are not the enemy. One or more of us may have to learn how to work out problems at a higher level. You have and always will have word for the taxpayers and the citizens of this county that is if you choose to do so. Without us you don't have a seat to

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occupy. The time for solutions is past due. And whatever remedies you pursue I urge expediency. I thank each of you for your time and your service. Thank you.

Dr. Littrell – Robert Mabe is our next speaker.

Mr. Mabe – Good evening. My name is Robert Mabe a Carroll County citizen and I'm here as far as the water deal goes as far as making us pay a non-user fee I don't think it's right. I think it's Communist and here at the other meeting you said something about having a sewer line hookup that you'd make it mandatory. Well you're making the water pay a non-user fee mandatory as well. I don't think it's right. It's not good to have a citizenship saying that it is right and then you go out into the public and the people see you that's not very good morals. Sometimes we pray to God and wonder what God we're praying to and we need to think about when we go to putting our name on it and I'd just appreciate it if y'all would do something about it. I don't have a meter or a blue hose going to the house or anything and I'd like to know some answers hopefully today about the sewer system you are trying to make mandatory as well as the non-user fee. I live ten miles out of Hillsville and lived there about twenty years and I don't have no problem at all with my water out of the well and I don't think it's right. And I wouldn't want to be in your seat. I appreciate it. Thank you.

Dr. Littrell – That is all the speakers that were signed up. Is there anyone else that would like to speak that wasn't signed up?

**(ORDER)**

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Upon a motion by Mr. Meredith, seconded by Mrs. Dalton, and duly carried the Authority does hereby approve the consent agenda, section A, B, and C. The July 9, 2018 minutes were also approved, they are on file in the PSA office. They are as follows:

**Claims**

Check # 22831- 22851	\$20,236.09
Check # 22851-22857	\$5,003.81
Check #22858-22890	\$211,527.57

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**Transfer for Claims**

CCPSA to Operating July 18, 2018 Claims \$20,236.09  
CCPSA to Operating August 13, 2018 Claims \$211,527.57

**Transfer for Reserves**

CCPSA to Debt Reserve      \$8,918.62

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**PROJECT UPDATES**

Cana/Meadowbrook Water – Planning Phase

We have continued to compile operational data for each of the wells in the Cana System, so we can prioritize and use that MRPDC the grant funds that we have and we have a pretty good planning process. I could probably update you in detail next month if you're interested in those plans.

Coulson Church Road/Ridge Road – Design Phase

The Environmental Review document for the project has been submitted to the Health Department which is the funding agency (VDH) and is currently under review. No comments have been received to date. Upon authorization from VDH, the next step with the Environmental Clearance process would be to advertise for the Public Notice and initiate the public comment period, then continue with the Environmental Review process. The preliminary plans have been completed and reviewed and approved. We are currently working on securing regulatory permits. We also submitted this to the planning commission for their review.

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**Funding Applications**

There are currently no funding applications in process.

Mrs. Montgomery – Any questions on the projects?

Mr. McCraw – With the debt that we have, when are we gonna start really getting serious about paying this back? You know I mean we just keep going in debt, more and more projects, more expansion I mean why don't we stand still a little bit and try to keep our feet on the ground. This is supposed to be a self-supporting outfit. I talked to one of the previous board members and it was supposed to have been we were putting a million dollars of County tax money the Supervisors did in it. I think we need to put our feet on the ground.

Mrs. Montgomery – I understand completely. Cana/Meadowbrook is 100% grant as far as the wells go. So that is all grant money that is there to improve the current system so that those 412 people there do not run out of water. So that is a proactive thing there and that is grant money. Of course, Meadowbrook is lumped in there because they have asked for water. Seventy-five customers down there asked for water and that's what spurred us into looking to get more water added to this system. Coulson Church/Ridge Road we went a little more proactive as well. These folks were begging for water and our PSA crew is actually going to install that to save the money as opposed to paying a contractor to do it. It's actually cashflows positive this specific project. The fees will pay for itself.

Mr. McCraw – And I'd like to see the citizens have a vote on some of these things instead of I know the A on our title is authority, but I believe we need to get some citizens in this non-user fee is very unpopular. I don't know how it is with the others but I talked to a citizen this morning in the Fancy Gap District I don't know who did the sign ups on Exit 1 but they talked like they put a strong arm down about it he wasn't very happy about it. The way it was presented to me I wasn't very happy either. I mean we need to approach this thing with in the citizens in the community.

Mrs. Montgomery – I understand. I have been a part of many of those projects. It's up to you to tell us how to move forward. You want more citizen impact that's what we do. We always have community and citizen meetings for those individual projects. And we don't move forward without sign-ups for water or sewer projects.

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As far as the PSA and what we're working on; new connections that's been done just year-to-date is 26 new water connections within the existing systems. Eleven of those were in May so that's a lot of connections within our systems. And five new sewer connections. As far as work orders which can be anything from customer call ins whether wanting to know if they have a leak or a pressure change or maybe final reads, turn offs, leave-ons, we had 555 work orders from January to June and then a total of 105 in the month of July just to let you know some things that we've been up to. Thank you.

Dr. Littrell - Next is Old Business

**OLD BUSINESS**

Dr. Littrell – Some of you know that governmental affairs move very slowly I can assure you that we've been having meetings we're trying to address your concerns in spite of the fact that you don't see any progress, progress has been made behind the scenes and I don't mean that to be non-transparent but there are a lot of consequences that we have to consider if we make changes and we'd certainly like to make changes but until we get more information we'll have to do that internally. Be assured that as soon as we get to public hearings you'll get information about what potentially might happen. Thank you all for coming.

**AUTHORITY MEMBERS TIME**

Mr. McCraw – Yeah, we got authority "A" is authority. You and I are the only two that they can vote on. There's they do and pass, and they're not held accountable and I wish all of us could be more accountable with what we do and I think that's only fair.

Mr. Winesett – Ladies and gentlemen the non-users fee I realize it's a point and I think we'll all work our way through and hopefully get rid of it. As far as whether you're a supervisor or not a supervisor and you sit on this board that's a decision of the supervisors. My supervisor put me here because he thought I had some knowledge about this process and I do and I wouldn't do anything to hurt any of you and that's about all I can tell you. The non-user fee was here before I came and if we can get rid of it I don't have a problem with it.

Mr. Meredith – Ditto on what Doug said.

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Mr. Jessup – I got nothing.

Mrs. Dalton – Well, I've been quiet for a couple months, but I think I'm ready to speak this time. I was appointed on the PSA Board, I'm serving my tenth year on the board. Wes Hurst appointed me. And then Bob Martin has appointed me for two terms and I'm sure that they didn't appoint me thinking I was a scape goat. I have served on the Board of Supervisors and I don't think that makes you king or God or anything else. I think that the vote of the rest of us here Keith, and Doug, and Gary now, our vote counts just as much as everyone else's. And for the first ten and half years I have been on this board my agenda was to help people in Pine Creek and Carroll County and so far, I feel like we have done a great job with that. I just want to say that I'm not here for any personal agenda, I'm not here for any political agenda, I'm just here to help the people and that's what I intend to continue doing.

Dr. Littrell- The whole purpose of the PSA is to provide reliable and dependable water to the citizens of Carroll County and some people do not have that. We feel like if we can do that then we have met our goal and unfortunately some of the people in those service areas end up not needing water and hopefully you'll never need water but if you do you have the availability of that water in front of your home or business and with that thought, I request a motion for adjournment.

**(ORDER)**

**ADJOURNEMENT**

Upon a motion by Mr. Meredith, seconded by Mr. Winesett and duly carried the Authority does hereby adjourn at 3:22 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting on September 10, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. in the Carroll County Governmental Center Board of Supervisors Meeting Room.

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Dr. Thomas Littrell, Chairman

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Jessica Montgomery, Executive Director

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Dana Phillips, Sec./Treasurer

