

Board of County Commissioners

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Board of County Commissioners Highlights from Tuesday, March 1, 2016

Westminster, Tuesday March 1, 2016 – The Board of County Commissioners approved a request to utilize funds for the Westminster Community Trail project. The project will improve access to the Westminster Community Pond by connecting the trail on the northwest end of the park to the Carroll County Commerce Center and Autumn Ridge subdivision. This project will enhance the general user experience at the park and increase accessibility to the park.

The Family Law Administration of the Circuit Court received approval to submit a grant application to the Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office (MACRO) for the training of mediators. Carroll County would spearhead efforts in the area of guardianship mediation, a service that will prove beneficial to residents who are aging in place. MACRO has encouraged this application.

Two funding requests presented by the Bureau of Engineering for road work were approved. One request was for the repair and replacement of pipe culverts on eight roads and the second request is for paving of 31 roads throughout the county. The Commissioners were reassured that all technology options are considered when bidding the projects. Staff also reassured the Commissioners that when recommending specific roads for work, the cost of repair versus replacement as well as the volume of traffic traveling the road is used to determine priority for the project.

Commissioner Howard's proposal to consider other options for the replacement of the Career and Technology Center in the current Capital Budget was discussed. Budget discussions scheduled to begin on Thursday, March 17th and Commissioner Howard felt that this was the appropriate time to encourage the Board of Education to consider their options prior to presenting the FY17 budget request to the Commissioners. Among the suggestions made were to consider dedicating a portion of Westminster High School to Career and Technology classes, repurposing North Carroll High School as the new Career and Technology Center, or creating a Career and Technology High School which would operate as a magnet school. Commissioner Weaver noting that many of the program's graduates excel during their college careers. Commissioner Rothschild summed up the discussion, stating "Ways of reducing costs can also be means to improve education and result in a win-win for everyone." The Commissioners will send a letter to the Board of Education summarizing today's discussion and encouraging the Board of Education to be creative in ways of utilizing the excess capacity of the system.

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CARROLL COUNTY

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