

A continued meeting of the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday, September 12, 2019, in Room M203 at the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, 2 Riverside Circle, in Roanoke, Virginia, beginning at 6:00 P. M.

PRESENT: Members: Dr. Donald M. Scothorn, Vice-Chairman  
Mr. Steve Clinton  
Mr. I. Ray Sloan  
Dr. Richard G. Bailey

ABSENT: Members: Mr. Billy W. Martin, Sr., Chairman

Others present at the meeting:

Mr. Jeremy Carroll, County Attorney  
Mr. David Moorman, Deputy County Administrator  
Mr. Gary Larrowe, County Administrator  
Mr. Ken McFadyen, Economic Development Director  
Mr. Cody Sexton, Assistant to the County Administrator

Mr. Nick Conte, Executive Vice President and General Counsel for Carilion, then welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted that there are over 20 localities represented at this meeting. He noted that the names of each locality invited to this meeting will be announced and those who have quorums of their governing body present will now be able to call their meeting to order as per State Code open meeting requirements.

The Vice-Chairman then called the meeting of the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors to order at 6:10 P. M.

Mr. Conte stated that this meeting will be to review the plans and progress for the shared future of Carilion, Virginia Tech, and the region's localities. He noted that Ms. Nancy Agee, President and CEO of Carilion; Dr. Tim Sands, President of Virginia Tech; Dr. Lee Learman, Dean of the VTC School of Medicine; and Dr. Michael Friedlander, Founding Executive Director of the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute; are this evening's speakers.

Ms. Agee stated that it is a pleasure to have everyone in attendance at this meeting. Ms. Agee stated that she thinks that this is the first time that an event of this nature has been held in the region. She stated that this meeting is to discuss the region's future and obtaining the localities' help to craft that future.

Ms. Agee stated that Carilion has partnerships with Virginia Tech Carilion, a nationally renowned medical school, and the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute, an internationally renowned research institute. She said that together they have transformed the region and are helping to define it. She noted that these groups and the region's localities have a shared vision of improving lives through research, education, and advancing the region's quality of life. Ms. Agee stated that it will take all of us working together to define our future.

Dr. Sands welcomed everyone to this meeting and noted that it is an amazing gathering. He noted that healthcare is attributed to a viable economy. He further noted that Virginia Tech has representations (offices/facilities) in all of the localities present at this meeting, have many successful collaborative partnerships with these local governments, and they are ready to do more. He noted that it takes all of those present to develop a bigger vision for the region.

Dr. Learman then stated that the School of Medicine teaches their students about collaborations with other medical schools as the current trend in medicine is "small group" education. He noted that the School's tenth class began in July and consists of a diverse group of 43 students. Dr. Learman noted that the School's first six classes consisted of 240 graduates who are now participating in their residency programs.

He stated that the drivers of the school's success include faculty contact, small class sizes, research-intensive curriculum, active learning in small groups, early patient contact, clinical learning opportunities, and community engagement. Dr. Learman noted that, as part of their community engagement, students volunteer in many facilities in the region including the Bradley Free Clinic in Roanoke.

Dr. Learman then stated that several books have been written on why healthcare systems in other countries do better than those in the United States. He stated that we are not optimizing healthcare in this country and Virginia Tech is grateful to have Carilion as their partner to improve the region's healthcare options.

He stated that the "human factor" is important and they want their students to be familiar with this area. Dr. Learman stated that they have developed more community-based models of care, one of which includes a health facility at Fallon Park Elementary School. Dr. Learman stated that they are growing investments in their commitment to serve, encouraging public/private partnerships, sustainable community engagement, and preserving natural resources.

Ms. Agee stated that Carilion is a \$2 billion company headquartered in Roanoke that is nationally recognized for the care that they provide across their platform. She noted that they are a physician-led organization which uses the latest tools and techniques; employs approximately 1,000 physicians, have between 600 and 800 physicians in private practice, approximately 350 medical residents, and have 13,500 employees across their 230 mile long health system. She noted that they also have 3 helicopters and approximately 30 ambulances available to serve their patients.

Ms. Agee stated that Carilion contracted with the Weldon Cooper Center in Charlottesville to conduct a study on their facility's economic impact in this region. She noted that this study's results should be available in the next few months.

After discussion, Ms. Agee stated that Carilion has planned a \$1 billion, long-term capital investment for their Roanoke facility, including a renovated/expanded emergency room, which should be open in 2024. She further stated that Carilion and Radford University recently announced a new partnership where Radford's nursing program would be based at Community Hospital in downtown Roanoke. Ms. Agee noted that, through this partnership, they expect to double the program's graduates in the next five years.

She stated that Carilion considers the Jefferson Street corridor as the Roanoke Innovation Corridor and seed funding should be made available for start-ups and commercialization in this area. Ms. Agee stated that Carilion's partnerships continue to grow and even include local high schools.

Dr. Friedlander then stated that the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute is an enterprise which focuses on areas of research involving the heart and brain. He noted that the Institute has seen a lot of growth in its number of employees since it opened in 2010. He noted that they have between 300 and 400 employees at the present time and are working on a new, more spacious facility which should open in May 2020. Dr. Friedlander stated that their employees range from high school to graduate students. He noted that they plan to hire between 350 – 400 new staff members over the next five years.

After discussion, Dr. Friedlander stated that, with the assistance of Virginia Tech, their Blacksburg Veterinary Medicine School's oncology department will be relocated to Roanoke.

He then reviewed the Institute's increase in grant awards over the past few years including National Institutes of Health grants which have been used to research strokes in children and grants received from private foundations such as Siemens, Indivior, Vibrent, etc.

He stated that they are also using "focus ultrasounds" to study concussions and are developing exosomes which package molecules to protect them from immune system reactions in the body. Dr. Friedlander stated that cow's milk is loaded with exosomes so they have been working with a local dairy to obtain this substance for their studies. He also stated that they have a large program on substance abuse and addiction.

Dr. Friedlander stated that the Institute has a supportive local environment but they also need national and international support for their research. He noted that they conduct a lecture series every Thursday in the facility where tonight's regional meeting is being held on various topics and issues and conduct meetings/conferences with international attendees.

Dr. Friedlander stated that he estimates the Institute has already had an approximate \$500 million impact on this region. He noted that a thriving academic health center can impact a community greatly and he looks forward to the regional governments' support of their efforts.

Dr. Sands then stated that Virginia Tech aspires to be a globally relevant institution that powers economic growth. He noted that their research sectors include transportation, agriculture, finance, tourism, manufacturing, healthcare, energy, etc. Dr. Sands further noted that it is important to bring the rest of the globe to our region and Tech's northern Virginia facilities are a portal to Blacksburg, Roanoke, and the State of Virginia

He noted that Tech's signature strengths include research, partnerships and collaborations, cross-commonwealth and urban/rural issues, magnet for talent, and *Ut Prosim* (that I may serve). He stated that Roanoke has the healthcare capabilities that Virginia Tech is looking for. Dr. Sands then mentioned other companies that Virginia Tech has been involved with: Excella Consulting, Daimler Trucks, Mahindra (robotic farming equipment), Block One, Wing (drones), the 1901 Group which is based in northern Virginia but has a second office at Tech's Corporate Research Park, etc.

Dr. Sands stated that local government, community, and industry partners are key to attracting and retaining talent in this region and a collaborative culture makes all of this work.

The meeting was then opened for questions from the floor.

After questioning regarding additional school medical facilities, Ms. Agee stated that Carilion wants to ensure that their new facility in Fallon Park Elementary School operates successfully before considering an expansion of that program.

Another individual noted that outlying counties such as Alleghany depend on their community colleges and questioned if there are any plans for Virginia Tech to work with the community colleges. Dr. Sands stated that Virginia Tech works closely with the area's community colleges and had 1,200 community college transfer students this year. He noted that these students are a critical part of the economic system. Ms. Agee stated that Carilion participates in the community colleges' workforce programs especially Virginia Western Community College but they can work with other community colleges as well. Mr. Friedlander stated that the Institute is interested in working with people with other skill sets as well.

Ms. Darlene Burcham, Clifton Forge Town Manager, stated she is concerned for Virginia's rural localities. She stated that rural localities think that they are a great location for a new business but, the farther away from Blacksburg that a locality is located, the more challenges there are for economic development. She questioned how do the more-rural localities

help Virginia Tech and how do they (Virginia Tech/Carilion) help us to become an integral part of what Carilion and Virginia Tech offer.

Dr. Sands stated that many of Tech's employees live in surrounding counties and transportation is an issue for them to deal with. He noted that Roanoke is building amenities to attract talent and other localities should work on that same issue and then think about how to develop businesses in their area. He further stated that the Virginia Economic Development Partnership is also working on this issue of concern for rural governments.

Dr. Friedlander stated that the National Institutes of Health's Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) program has community outreach components to partner with communities.

Ms. Agee noted that 20% of the country's residents live in rural areas and electronic services (telemedicine) are needed to provide improved healthcare opportunities.

A realtor then congratulated Carilion/Virginia Tech for a job well done and noted that these two "engines" are driving southwest Virginia. She noted that there is a housing strain on the local communities and she would like to see the types of discussions such as tonight's gathering held more often. She thanked them for putting together this presentation and for starting this dialogue.

Roanoke City Mayor Sherman Lee thanked Carilion and Virginia Tech for their commitment and partnership. He questioned if there are any plans to "go further into the city" as there are some areas that are in need of services. Mayor Lee stated that he would also like to see more citizens take advantage of the opportunity to listen/ask questions of speakers brought in by Carilion and Virginia Tech.

Dr. Friedlander stated that he would be glad to talk to Mayor Lee about these issues and come up with some ideas.

Dr. Sands thanked Mayor Lee for the City's partnership with Virginia Tech.

Ms. Agee then thanked everyone for their support. She noted that they are also in the process of developing a community needs assessment over the next several years to see where their services are needed.

Roanoke County Board of Supervisors Chair Phil North then stated that he hopes that there will be a lot built from tonight's meeting. Mr. North stated that they are working hard on transportation issues and hope that the newly-formed I-81 Commission is able to make progress on improvements to I-81.

He noted that, in response to the previous comment regarding housing, the Roanoke Valley/Alleghany Regional Commission is working on a regional housing needs study. Mr. North further stated that Roanoke County has been lobbying the Virginia General Assembly to increase VATI grant funding for broadband expansions. He encouraged Ms. Agee, Dr. Sands, and Dr. Friedlander to discuss this issue with the General Assembly representatives when they have the opportunity to do so.

Dr. Sands stated that they have discussed increased broadband funding for a long time. He noted that broadband access for the region is essential to build businesses and connect citizens.

A gentleman then noted that Virginia Tech, Carilion, and the Biomedical Research Institute bring in a lot of new talent into the area but questioned whether this talent has a lot of diversity.

Dr. Sands stated that Virginia Tech has had a long-time priority of diversifying its teachers and student body and they have set a goal of having 40% of their incoming 2022 class be minority or first generation students. He noted that universities and companies need to be diversified and Virginia Tech has been told that they need to deliver culturally-competent graduates to work in today's worldwide economy.

Dr. Friedlander agreed and stated that diversity adds to the quality of research and a more-diverse community is needed.

Ms. Agee stated that we need to work together to do more. She noted that Carilion has a culturally-diverse staff as well. She noted that the community will be stronger if we all work together to be more open. She then thanked everyone for coming to this meeting and wished everyone goodnight.

Dr. Scothorn and the Board members in attendance then considered a resolution authorizing and directing the County's outside litigation counsel, Sanford Heisler Sharp, LLP, The Cicala Law Firm, PLLC, and Kaufman & Canoles, P.C., to file suit in the opioid litigation on behalf of Botetourt County, upon approval by the County Attorney.

Mr. Jeremy Carroll, County Attorney, was noted as being present to answer questions.

Dr. Scothorn stated that he believes that the County's litigation has been filed in order to meet the short deadline for this lawsuit.

Mr. Carroll stated that he believes that Mike Lockaby has been in contact with the County's outside litigation counsel regarding filing this opioid litigation suit.

Mr. Larowe stated that the County's counsel is already involved in filing this suit and the motion that the Board is being asked to consider this evening "memorializes" the counsel's action.

There being no further discussion, on motion by Dr. Scothorn, seconded by Dr. Bailey, and carried by the following recorded vote, the Board authorized and directed the County's outside litigation counsel, Sanford Heisler Sharp, LLP, The Cicala Law Firm, PLLC, and Kaufman & Canoles, P.C., to file suit in the opioid litigation on behalf of Botetourt County, upon approval by the County Attorney. (Resolution Number 19-09-01)

AYES: Mr. Clinton, Mr. Sloan, Dr. Bailey, Dr. Scothorn

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Martin

ABSTAINING: None

There being no further discussion, on motion by Dr. Scothorn, seconded by Mr. Sloan, and carried by the following recorded vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 P. M. (Resolution number 19-09-02)

AYES: Mr. Clinton, Mr. Sloan, Dr. Bailey, Dr. Scothorn

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Martin

ABSTAINING: None