

(c) Whenever the office of County Clerk is vacant, the County Commissioners may appoint a successor to the remainder of the term; or if the County Clerk be absent at any time for any reason, the County Commissioners may appoint a temporary replacement, who shall be a county officer or employee, and who shall serve without additional compensation.

SUBTITLE 4. CONTRACTS AND PURCHASES.

[3-17.] 3-401. Contracts and purchases.

In contracting for any necessary public work or improvement or for the purchase of supplies and equipment needed at any time by the several departments of the County, the County Commissioners of Carroll County may enter into contracts for [said] public work or improvement and may purchase [said] supplies and equipment on an order passed by the County Commissioners provided that the cost of the public work or improvement or the purchase price of the supplies and equipment does not exceed \$12,000.00. When the cost of any project for public work or improvement, or the purchase price of any supplies and equipment exceeds \$12,000.00, except in emergencies or when there is a sole source of supply, the Clerk to the County Commissioners shall advertise for one week in not less than two newspapers published in Carroll County for bids to perform the public work or improvement or to furnish the supplies and equipment, which advertisement shall state the date, time and place of opening of the bids; and the bids shall be opened in the presence of the Clerk to the County Commissioners, and the County Commissioners of Carroll County shall award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder whose bid is considered reasonable, or in its discretion, may reject any or all bids. The County Commissioners may authorize nonprofit entities that are funded by the County or eligible to receive County funds, to participate in County procurement contracts.

SUBTITLE 5. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION.

[3-21.] 3-501. [Economic Development Commission.] CREATED.

[(a) Created.] The Economic Development Commission of Carroll County is created for the purpose of advancing the general welfare of the people through programs and activities to develop Carroll County's natural resources and economic opportunities pertaining to commerce, agriculture, forestry, transportation, travel, tourism and recreation, and to cooperate and offer assistance to existing industries and businesses, and to promote and encourage the establishing and locating of new industries and businesses in Carroll County and other matters intended to foster and develop gainful employment and the pursuit of happiness of all who are now or may [hereafter be] BECOME residents of Carroll County.

[(b) Members.]

3-502. MEMBERS.

The Commission shall consist of at least nine members, who shall be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. The members shall represent a cross-section