

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CAROLINE COUNTY
109 Market Street, Room 106, Denton, Maryland

MINUTES
January 9, 2018

Present: President Larry C. Porter, Wilbur Levensgood Jr., Vice President; Daniel J. Franklin; Commissioner; and County Administrator Ken Decker;

Invocation by Reverend Denzil Cheek; **Pledge of Allegiance.** The agenda was accepted as presented.

President Porter called for **public comment** and there was none.

Consent Agenda: The following items were approved by unanimous consent:

- Minutes: December 5, 2017 Health Care Report Card meeting; Open Minutes December 12, 2017, Work Session December 19, 2017
- Joint-Use Agreement for 2018 Martin Luther King Day
- P.O. 2018-00000140 and Master Services Agreement, Michael Baker International, Next Generation 9-1-1 Data Quality Assurance and Control, \$85,700.00
- Medicare Revalidation Authorization Letter
- P.O. #2018-00000138, and Accompanying Contract, Tyler Technologies CAD Upgrade in the 9-1-1 Center, \$135,360.00
- P.O. #2018-00000129 and Accompanying Contract, Cato Inc. Cooperation, for Gasoline and Diesel, \$358,687.50
- State Aid for Police Protection Form
- Transfer FY 2017 Transfer Tax from General Fund to Capital Improvement Fund, \$512,869.24
- Memorandum of Agreement with Maryland Department of the Environment, Upper Choptank Watershed Restoration Project Grant Renewal
- Confirmation of Tourism Board of Directors (Behlke, Blades, Casey, DeLude, Franklin, Kreiner, Mulrine, Phillips, Schwab, Whaley)
- Letter of Support for Upper Shore Aging FY2018 Allocation for Maryland Department of Aging
- Appointment to the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board (Wielgosz)

Proclamation of January 2018 as National Mentioning Month: Jonathan Spencer, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Chesapeake, thanked the Commissioners for allowing him time on the agenda to talk about Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Eastern Shore. Mr. Spencer stated that the organization has been on the Eastern Shore of Maryland for over 30 years. He explained that many children from the age of six-eighteen are enrolled in the organization in Caroline County. Mr. Spencer went on to state that anyone interested in being a sponsor for a child could fill out an application from their website at <https://ymaryland.org/programs/biglittle/bbbsyprogram>. He stated that they are always looking for more individuals to volunteer and be a confident role model for the youth of Caroline County.

Public Hearing Public Hearing: Emergency Legislative Bill #2017-5, Chapter 152 – Roads, Bridges, and Right-of-Ways – Specifications and Design Standards for County Roads: Sara Visintainer, Chief of Staff, stated that this bill is an emergency act concerning specification and design standards for County roads; for the purpose of expanding existing road specifications and design standards for uses that create a substantivize impact and increased traffic on County roads; by adding a new §152-8.B.- §152-8.F. to the Code of Public Local Laws of Caroline County, Maryland. She stated that this bill has been previously workshopped and staff have identified a number of updates to the Code that are needed to address impact on County roads due to development, including increased vehicle traffic. She explained that this bill has

been categorized as “emergency” because it relates to the safety of roads for Caroline County citizens, and it allows the Commissioners to move through the moratorium period for non-coal surface mining more quickly, since this Bill addresses one of the key areas that precipitated the moratorium. She stated that no prior testimony has been received before the public hearing.

President Porter stated that no one signed up to give public testimony and he called for any public comment on the Bill. Mr. Bob Chapel, County Resident, stated that he thought the Bill was well written and thanked staff and Commissioners for working on important issues related to public safety. There being no further testimony, the Commissioners stated that Emergency Legislative Bill #2017-5 would be added to the January 23, 2018 Commissioners meeting agenda for its third reading and potential enactment.

County Administrator’s Report:

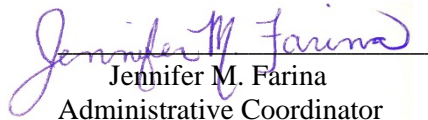
- Mr. Decker stated that the Commissioners would need to designate a member of the Board, if not all, to take the Open Meetings Act (OMA) course, in order for the Board to be compliant with new OMA requirements. On motion by Commissioner Levengood, seconded by Commissioners Franklin, all three Commissioners agreed to be designees for the Board and complete the OMA course.
- Mr. Decker stated James McCormick, former Director of IT, has officially had his last day with Caroline County and will be moving to Newark DE, where he will be working in the IT department. The Commissioners and County staff wished Mr. McCormick the best of luck on his new employment. Chris Rice will be the acting IT Director for Caroline County.
- Mr. Decker explained that over the past week the County opened late due to inclement weather. He stated that Department of Public Works and their equipment handled the first snow storm of the year well, and were able to clear County roads.
- Mr. Decker informed the Commissioners that Chesapeake College will be setting up a date to give a budget presentation to all five counties.
- He stated that the Department of Human Resources has officially hired a third employee who will be starting at the end of the month.
- He stated that Leslie Grunden, Planning and Codes, has been working on finalizing the grant processes for the jail sewage project, as well as the design grant for several small projects located in the County. Ms. Grunden stated that the grant applications are complete for the design process of the projects, however they are waiting for the State of Maryland to distribute the funding to the Department of the Environment.
- Mr. Decker stated that the Town of Denton dropped off a signed fiber agreement between the Town and County with a change from the term being 5 years to 10. Both staff and Commissioners stated that they would feel comfortable with a shorter-term agreement. The Board directed the County Attorney to discuss the contract with the Town of Denton’s counsel.
- Mr. Decker stated that he will be meeting with Greg Holsey, State Highway, to discuss upcoming priority projects for Caroline County, including dualizing 404 to the Delaware state line.

Commissioners Open Discussion Period:

- Commissioner Franklin stated that he met with Bonnie Johnson, Humane Society Board President, to discuss the Caroline County budget process. He stated that Ms. Johnson has not attended budget meetings in the past because staff handled this responsibility, so he explained the process to her and encouraged her to attend the budget round table on March 6, 2018.
- Mr. Franklin stated that he substituted at Greensboro Elementary School over the past week, and stated the County funding the project for the new school is very much needed and he applauds the staff and employees at Greensboro Elementary School for working in such small and overcrowded conditions.

- Commissioner Levengood stated that he attended the networking event held by Caroline County Recreation and Parks, as well as a meeting with Mid-Shore Behavioral Health to establish its annual plan.
- Commissioner Porter stated that he sat in on a conference call with Atlantic Broadband and Heather Price, County Attorney, to discuss the financing letter they have requested signed by the County. They stated that Atlantic Broadband is in the process of expanding their franchise and our currently in the process of borrowing money for the acquisitions of another cable provider which will put Atlantic Broadband in a better position and allow them to enhance their existing services and well as the service in Caroline County. He stated that they explained that signing a letter to allow them to use the franchise attached to Caroline County would have no financial liability or responsibility on the part of the County approving the request. Ms. Price stated that the letter is a standard procedure which allows Atlantic Broadband to move forward with expanding their franchise. The Commissioners stated that they had no questions, and on motion by Commissioner Franklin, seconded by Commissioner Levengood, the Commissioners unanimously agreed to sign the franchise letter to Atlantic Broadband.
- Commissioner Porter stated that this was the first meeting of the new year and the last year for this group of Commissioners. He stated that he and his fellow Commissioners are looking forward to the new year and dedicating their service to improving Caroline County for its citizens.

There being no further discussion the Commissioners adjourned their meeting at 7:01 p.m.


Jennifer M. Farina
Administrative Coordinator