

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

**WORK SESSION**  
**January 11, 2022**

Present: President, Larry C. Porter; President, Daniel J. Franklin; Vice President, Wilbur Levensgood; Commissioner; Jeremy Goldman, County Administrator; and Kaleigh Leager; Executive Assistant

**Topic 1: 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading and Public Hearing, Legislative Bill #2022-01- Composting Definitions:** County Attorney, Stewart Barroll, asked the Commissioners to enter legislative Session. Commissioner Franklin made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Levensgood, all Commissioners voted to go into Legislative Session. Mr. Barroll read the synopsis of the bill. There were the following public comments:

- Mr. Bob Chapel wanted to make sure there would be no slurry that isn't contained.
- Mr. Ryan Slack had a question regarding the bill and wanted to clarify the definition on agricultural by-product and what the definition means. Ms. Freeman (Director of Planning & Codes) answered that this was to avoid animal material.

Commissioners believe there should be a way to conceal slurry, so it's not spilled all over the place. The Commissioners stated that the companies who are producing the waste would reach out to the concerned citizens to ensure them that all proper protocols were being used. The public hearing was held open for comment until January 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Topic 2: 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading and Potential Enactment – Legislative Bill #2021-004** Bill Repel and Reenact Chapter 49, OPEP on motion by Commissioner Franklin, seconded by Commissioner Levensgood, the Commissioner unanimously moved to approve Legislative Bill #2021-004.

**Topic 3: Angel Perez, Program Coordinator – YMCA Caroline** Proclamation – Mentoring Month: Angel Perez, Caroline County YMCA Program Director, stated that the month of January is Mentoring month in Caroline County. He stated that the YMCA thanks the County for their strong partnership and continued advocacy regarding the youth in Caroline County. Mr. Perez stated that their program promotes physical and mental healthy as well as positive mindsets. Mr. Perez turned over the microphone to one of the local mentors, Ms. Mina Pincus who read the official proclamation.

The Commissioners thanked both Ms. Pincus and Mr. Perez for nurturing the youth in Caroline and allowing them to have a strong and positive foundation.

**Topic 4: 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to the Caroline County Chapter of the NAACP:** Willie Woods, President of Caroline County NAACP, thanked the Commissioners for allowing time to present the official citation to the dedicated members of the Caroline NAACP. Ms. Woods stated that the chapter was officially started in 1947. She stated that the Chapter continues to uphold their original mission which is to ensure equality in their community.

The Commissioners thanked all of the members for their continued steadfast advocacy for justice and equality in their small community of Caroline County.

**Topic 5: Purchasing Coordinator Class Specification Discussion:** Sherry Bratton, Director of Human Resources, presented the County Commissioners with a draft class specification for the position of Purchasing Coordinator. This employee would report to the Office of Finance and be responsible for all of the County's RFP and procurement processes. The Commissioners reviewed the class specifications and made minor changes. The Commissioner Directed Ms. Bratton to finalize the class specification and begin advertisement for the positions once the class specifications have been placed on their consent agenda.

**Topic 6: SDAT 2022 Reassessment Discussion:** Daniel Fox, Director of Finance, presented the Commissioners with a PowerPoint to explain the County 2022 reassessments. Mr. Fox stated that overall property increases in assessed value statewide by 12% from the last assessment conducted in 2019. He explained that for Caroline County this means that residential and commercial properties assessed increased by a total of 17%. He went on to explain that the Homestead Tax Credit is there to help homeowners deal with large assessment increases on their principal residence. State law has established the Homestead Property Tax Credit limits the increase in taxable assessments each year to a fixed percentage. The Caroline County percentage cap is currently 5%. He stated that this will generate a steady three-year increase in residential properties in the county.

**Topic 7: Large County Project Updates:** Jeremy Goldman, County Administrator, stated that he would present the Board with updated on large county wide projects.

He stated that the first project he wanted to discuss is the Detention Center Rehabilitation: He explained that the Detention Center was originally built in 1907 and has only received one renovation project in the late 70's early 80's. Mr. Goldman went on to detail the major issues with the current layout regarding the health and safety of employees as well as inmates. He reminded the Commissioners that they originally authorized this renovation during the bond bills process for Greensboro Elementary School. In the past year, the Board also authorized \$500,000 of American Relief Act Funding to be used towards the project to the cost of inflations. Mr. Goldman stated that it is his recommendation to authorize an additional \$500,000 due to some additional cost estimates from the architect.

Charles Scott, Warden stated how beneficial the renovations would be for his staff and stated that currently they are in violation of many State mandates on isolation cells and other security functions.

Commissioner Porter stated that an additional \$500,000 would bring the number for the project to around 7 million dollars. Mr. Goldman stated that was correct and that the current timeline had the project lasting about 500 days. The Commissioners agreed to move the additional \$500,000 dollars from the ARAP funding to put towards the project.

Mr. Goldman stated that the second project he wanted to discuss is the Master Plan for the Double Hills Road property. He stated that there will be a meeting with the Town of Denton on January 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss the YMCA project further.

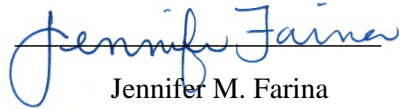
He stated that the final project is the Rehabilitation of the West Wing of the Courthouse. He stated that his project was needed due to the Finance and Tax Office combining as well as additional employees being added to the wing. He stated that there have been many steps moving through the initial design process, and they are currently working with IT and the Department of Public Works to build out how the HVAC system would work as well as all the wiring.

Mr. Goldman stated that they would need to add a discussion to an upcoming meeting regarding the spending from the ARRP funds.

At 11:00AM the Commissioners on motion by Commissioner Franklin, Seconded by Commissioner Levensgood went into closed session.

At 11:15AM the Commissioner motioned out of Closed Session

Meeting ended at 11:20

  
Jennifer M. Farina  
Public Information Officer