

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CAROLINE COUNTY
Health and Public Services (HAPS) Building
403 S. 7th Street, Room 111
Denton, MD 21629

Minutes
January 17, 2023

Present: President J. Travis Breeding; Vice President Larry C. Porter, Commissioner N. Franklin Bartz, III.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM.

Commissioners Meeting Convenes, Invocation by Rev. Dartanyon Hines – Eternal Life Ministries - Denton

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Ed Thomas, Chairman of the Eastern Shore Human Trafficking Task Force – Human Trafficking Prevention Month Proclamation: Ms. Heather Amador, Victim Services from the Governor’s Office, read and accepted the proclamation, proclaiming January as Human Trafficking Prevention Month in Caroline County.

Kenneth Kozel, President, and CEO of UM Shore Regional Health – UM Shore Regional Health Update: Mr. Kozel presented the Commissioners with a presentation that included the history of Shore Regional Health and the direction that it is moving. Mr. Kozel also discussed the Certificate of Need and the process of building a new facility in Easton. Mr. Kozel stated that 7 days ago, Shore Regional Health submitted their application for the Certificate of Need from the State. Mr. Kozel mentioned that that process takes a year for the State to approve. Mr. Kozel stated that with everything in place, the facility is estimated be ready and operational by the summer. The Commissioners discussed specifics with Mr. Kozel and thanked him for his continued contributions to our communities.

Warden Charles Scott, Caroline County Department of Corrections – Departmental Update & Facility Discussion: Warden Scott presented the Commissioners with a Departmental Update in addition to discussing the need for renovations to their current facility. Warden Scott discussed the types of renovations need and their importance to the operations of the Detention Center. The Commissioners and the County Administrator discussed the possibility of a regional Detention Center with Kent and Queen Anne’s County.

Consent Agenda: Mr. John Bartlett, Chair of the Police Accountability Board (PAB), came before the Commissioners and answered questions regarding the PAB Annual Report. Ms. Berneski stated that there are 13 applicants for the ACC that need to be interviewed. All three Commissioners unanimously approved the consent agenda.

- Minutes – December 13, 2022 – Open & Closed
- Board of Education Reappointment Letter of Support – M. Wayman

- Caroline County Ethics Board Appointment Letter – T. Kintop
- [2022 Police Accountability Board \(PAB\) Annual Report](#)
- [Caroline County Department of Emergency Services – FY2023 MIEMSS Cardiac Device Grant - \\$10,000.00](#)
- [State Aid Police Protection Grant through the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth and Victim Services](#)

County Administrators Report – Jeremy Goldman: Mr. Goldman stated that he is off this coming Friday but will be available by phone.

County Commissioners Open Discussion: Commissioner Porter stated that he has done some quick research on the information that Ms. Leager sent to him regarding the Maryland Healthcare Commission (MHCC). Commissioner Porter stated that there looks to be 1 person from the Eastern Shore. 3 lawyers, 5 doctors, the others are misc. Commissioner Porter also mentioned the County has been contacted by Mr. Riddleberger. Mr. Barroll stated that the County has paused and is hoping his attorney will reach out to the County. Commissioner Porter stated the Tenchi food truck issue has been resolved with the Fire Marshal’s Office. Commissioner Porter stated that during that conversation, he was able to discuss the Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) issue. Commissioner Porter stated that he was able to get the Fire Marshal’s phone number. Commissioner Porter also mentioned he was appointed to the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Tax Subcommittee. Commissioner Porter also mentioned he wants to discuss the tax differential again. Commissioner Breeding asked about the point of the Certificate of Need (CON). Commissioner Breeding stated that if eliminating the CON is not an option, possibly changing some language to allow residents of Counties to choose where they wish to be cared for, even if it is in another county. Commissioner Breeding requested that Ms. Leager write a letter to Compass Hospice inquiring about status of their progress. Commissioner Bartz stated that a citizen reached out about having an oil city traffic light.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Commissioner Bartz made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Porter seconded. All three Commissioners voted to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Porter made a motion to convene the closed session. Commissioner Bartz seconded. All three Commissioners voted to convene the closed session.

Closed Session: Section (9) General Provisions Art. 3-305(b): “To conduct collective bargaining or consider matters that relate to negotiations.”

There being no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Valerie E. Leager

Kaleigh Leager
Executive Assistant to the County Commissioners