

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

Minutes
March 2, 2020

Present: President Larry C. Porter; Vice President Daniel J. Franklin; Commissioner Wilbur Levensgood, Jr.

The meeting began at 9:00 AM.

COVID-19 Response Update: Laura Patrick, Health Officer, stated that she wanted to share some good news. She emphasized that Caroline County would be receiving 100 doses of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine this week. She stated that they will be working with the planning committee to review how they will administer these doses. The Johnson and Johnson JANSSEN vaccine is only one dose. She also explained that they received over 300 more doses of the Moderna vaccine. Currently the county clinics are still running smoothly. She informed the Board that Currently COVID-19 testing has slowed down however they are continuing to offer testing at the Caroline County Health Department every Tuesday.

Anna Sierra, Director, Caroline County Department of Emergency Services, informed the Commissioners that there have been several EMS employees who have been trained as vaccinators. She stated that these extra hands will allow for more vaccines to be administered at each vaccination site. She explained that currently there is one trained COVID-19 vaccinator on each division shift.

Sara Visintainer, Chief of Staff, updated the Commissioners on Public information and outreach. She emphasized the strong need for County citizens to fill out the Caroline County Vaccine Eligibility Screen Form which can be found on www.carolinecovid19.org

Jenn Farina, Administrative Coordinator, informed the Board of the Governor's announcement of March 5, 2021 as the one-year anniversary of COVID-19 and the Day of Remembrance for all those lost. She stated that the Caroline County Courthouse would be lit up the color amber for remembrance and 21 lanterns would be lit on the courthouse steps to represent the 21 Caroline County residents that were lost to COVID-19. Ms. Farina stated that all local municipalities are encouraged to participate in the day and light up amber to remember and represent those lost during the pandemic.

Dr. Saelens, Superintendent stated that the County's positivity rate continues to remain low, which has helped with in person learning to kick off in all of the schools. She stated that currently there are 65 percent of the population back in grades 4-12. She thanked the Health Department and County Commissioners for their continued support and partnership to help get kids back into the classroom safely. Ms. Saelens stated that due to the County working so hard in getting the school staff vaccinated so quickly the number of cases have significantly gone down in the school system which has allowed for students to return to the classroom so quickly. The Commissioners thanked Ms. Saelens and the entire Board of Educations for being a part of the team during the covid-19 response as well as the vaccination process.

Proclamation for March as Endometriosis Awareness Month in Caroline County: Shannon Hannawald, Ambassador for Endometriosis Associations and Founder of Endo Warriors of the Eastern Shore thanked the Commissioners for lighting the courthouse up yellow to represent those who have battled the disease. Ms. Hannawald informed the board that over 200 million people worldwide suffer with Endometriosis. She stated Endometriosis is a chronic illness for which there is no permit cure.

The Commissioners thanked Ms. Hannawald for sharing her personal background with Endometriosis, as well as reading the proclamation and promoting the awareness of this diseases.

Special Introductions: Debbie Bowden, Director of Caroline County Economic Development, gave a special introductions for new Caroline County leaders. Ms. Bowden stated that despite the worldwide pandemic, many local business have been able to fight and move forward towards recovery. She stated that she is happy to announce Tara Hill-Coursey has taken the positions as the Director of Caroline County Tourism. Ms. Coursey is a local resident who has been involved in many tourism and county related events.

Ms. Bowden stated that she is excited for Ms. Coursey to oversee the future of Tourism in the county.

Another local North Carolina High graduate, Nicholas Tindall, has taken the position as Executive Director of the Caroline County Arts Council. Ms. Bowden stated that she feels there will be a strong partnership and collaboration with the Arts Council and Tourism Office.

Ms. Coursey and Mr. Tindall thanked the Commissioners for the introductions and stated that they are excited to move forward in their new positions.

Discussion of River Road Project: Ryan White, Director, Caroline County Public Works, introduced Tim Glass, Lane, Engineering. He stated that they have been working with Lang Engineering to discuss the possible solutions to correct the issues regarding the flooding on River Road. Mr. White stated that currently, Public Works had conducted a hydrology study, worked with licensed engineers to develop 12 different solutions, and examined each option to determine which option would provide the best return on the investment

He stated that Lang Engineering has determined the best solution to fix the flooding problem is to raise the road 18 inches and increase the waters natural flow under the roadway with two 4'x8' culverts. Mr. White stated that to date, Lang Engineering has contacted Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and shared the solutions with them, however MDE has yet to give any feedback regarding the project. Mr. White stated that he suggests the County have the engineers move forward with the design of the two 4'x8' boxed culverts, which will give MDE more time to review the project.

Commissioner Levensgood stated that the issue on River Road is over 20 years old. He stated that he does not feel that raising the road 18 inches will fix the issue due to the high traffic volume, however he is willing to move forward with the project. He stated that citizens need to understand that there may never be a permit fix to this flooding issue if there is an excessive amount of rain.

Commissioner Franklin stated that after reading the Public Works MEMO provided, he feels that closing that portion of the road is out of the questions, however increasing the water flow with pipes seems to be a reasonable solutions. Mr. Franklin reiterated Commissioners Levensgood statement regarding expectations. He stated that with high and wind driven tides, the road may still flood during bad storms.

Staff was directors to bring back a budget and design for discussion during an upcoming Commissioners meeting.

Discussion of Caroline County Mosquito Control Program: Ryan White, Director, Caroline County Public Works, informed the Board that currently the last couple of years the County has partnered with

Maryland Agriculture to spray for mosquitos. After reviewing the budget vs. revenue, he stated that the mosquito control program shows a loss in revenue between \$22,000-24,000 per year. He stated that the department has found it hard to find manpower to complete the duties for this current position. Mr. White stated that he recommend the County dismantle the Mosquito Control Program and allow residents to use private companies to spray.

The Commissioners stated that they were not interested in eliminating the program without more details on what the cost would be for individuals to use a private sector company. The board stated that they would like staff to provide additional information and resources to be evaluated at a later time.

Consent agenda: the following items were approved by unanimous consent

- [P.O #2021-0302, Fred Frederick Chrysler Jeep, 2020 Ram 5500 4x4 Chassis Ambulance, \\$50,255.00.](#)
- Employee Contract, Department of Emergency Services, EMT(Midthun)
- [Resolution #2021-03, Amendment to Caroline County Personnel Rules and Regulations, Class Specification for Caroline County Department of Emergency Services—Public Health Emergency Planner/Coordinator](#)

County Administrator's Report

- Mr. Goldman stated that first budget hearing for the FY2022 budget is now the 16th of March.

Commissioner Open Discussion Period:

- Commissioner Levensgood stated that he's been busy and attending MACo Board meetings. He stated that he continues to be frustrated with bills and fees that are being pushed by Annapolis.
- Commissioner Franklin stated it's a shame there are legislators that are trying to push negative legislations through during a pandemic, when there is no in person testimony. He stated that testimony is limited, and this is extremely unfair. He stated that he wanted to thank the County teams and partnerships for pushing out so many vaccinations the past week.

There being no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.


Jennifer M. Farina
Administrative Coordinator