

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CAROLINE COUNTY
109 Market Street, Room 106
DENTON, MD 21629

Minutes
April 5, 2022

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

Convocation by Pastor Paul Merritt.

There was no public comment.

Amy Horne, Director of Outreach and Partnerships, CASA of Caroline, Inc. – Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation: Ms. Horne read the proclamation, proclaiming that April is Child Abuse Prevention Month in Caroline County. Every child deserves a happy, healthy, and safe environment to grow.

Steve Hurlock, Division Chief of Communications, DES – National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week Proclamation & iSimulate Demonstration: Mr. Hurlock read the proclamation, proclaiming the week of the April 10-16, 2022 as National Public Safety Telecommunicator week, recognizing the hard work and importance that telecommunicators play in emergency services. Mr. Hurlock and Ms. Marvel presented the iSimulate simulator to the Commissioners, showing how it allows trainees to receive real-life scenarios while training, with controls from a different location on an iPad.

COVID-19 Response & Recovery Update - Robin Cahall, Health Officer, Caroline County Health Department and National Public Health Week Proclamation: Ms. Cahall provided an update on COVID-19 statistics in Caroline County. There is a 2% positivity rate for Caroline County; 5.56% case rate, which is an increase from last week. 39% of cases are of those who are not fully vaccinated. There were 13 new cases in the last week. Ms. Cahall also mentioned there is an approved second booster shot available, and strongly suggested that those 60 years of age or older, should consider getting the second booster shot. After the update, Ms. Cahall read the proclamation which proclaimed the week of April 4-10, 2022, as National Public Health week. This proclamation recognizes the hard and dedicated work of the Health Department and Health Professionals around the County provide to the public.

Kaleigh Leager, Executive Assistant to the County Commissioners – Maryland State Legislative Session Discussion/Update: Ms. Leager provided the Commissioners an update on pending State legislation that directly impacts/names Caroline County. Ms. Leager stated that HB556/ SB342 - Caroline County and Queen Anne's County - Natural Resources - Sunday Hunting, has not moved out of the Senates EHEA Committee. Sen. Pinksey (Chair of the

Committee) has stated that it will not be passed without amendments. The bill may pass with allowing hunting from sunrise to 10:30 am then beginning at 2:30 pm until sunset.

HB620/SB341 - Caroline County - State's Attorney and Sheriff – Salaries has passed both chambers and is headed for the Governor's desk. HB663/SB933 - Education - Accountability and Implementation Board – Membership is most likely going to die. SB379 – Caroline County, Charles County, Prince Georges County Boards of Education – Removal of Member passed the Senate but has not yet been voted on in the House. Ms. Leager then stated that HB1187/SB726 – Transportation – Highway User Revenue – Distribution, is likely to pass, but it has been heavily amended. The Amendment moved the start time from FY25 to FY24. However, the amendment cut the percentage to Counties from 15.3% to 3.3% for FY24. Currently, Counties receive 1.5%. Ms. Leager stated that while this is an increase, it is still not a significant one that we were hoping for. The Senate should be voting on this, this week as adjourn Sine Dine is Monday, April 11th.

Sue Simmons Director of Recreation and Parks – Board Applications and Appointments:

Ms. Simmons joined the meeting virtually. She presented three appointment applications. Mr. Mike Mann is a new appointment to the rec & park advisory board. Mr. Mark Beaven is an appointment to the 4-H Park Board and Ms. Laurie Bishop is a reappointment to the 4-H and Youth Park Board. Commissioner Levengood made motion to appoint the applicants to their desired boards. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. All three Commissioners voted to appoint the applicants.

Kathleen Freeman, Director of Planning and Codes – Application for Rezoning Discussion – Marshy Hope Properties, LLC.:

Ms. Freeman stated that this is an unusual request because it is an application for rezoning. She mentioned that this is the only application that she has brought forward for approval in her time as Director. Ms. Freeman stated The Planning Commission has already reviewed, held a public hearing with no comment, and granted a positive recommendation. This will have to become a legislative bill and be introduced, have a public hearing at the Commissioner level. Commissioner Franklin made a motion to move this forward to a legislative bill introduction. Commissioner Levengood seconded the motion. All three Commissioners voted to move the process along for a rezoning application.

Daniel Fox, Director of Finance – FY23 Budget Workshop: Mr. Fox presented the FY2023 Capital and Operating budget to the Commissioners. Mr. Fox suggests moving \$9,500 to capital contingency.

Mr. Bill Shreives, President Board of Directors, Upper Shore Aging (USA) stated that Mr. Andy Hollis is taking Mr. Gary Gunthers position. The first reason USA's ask is the "Retired Senior Program". The second reason for their ask is salary increases for their employees; competitive salaries with other counties. The third reason for their request is for their new staffing plan.

Commissioner Porter asked about the budget allocation from Caroline Foundation amounting in \$50,000 last year; this year is projected to be \$54,000? Mr. Shreives stated he cannot answer that question, as he is unsure. Mr. Fox and Mr. Goldman stated it is possibly coming from a scheduled increase on the Caroline Foundations side. Commissioner Porter asked Mr. Schrieves if there is enough funding for their "Meals-on-Wheels" program; even those on the waiting list?

Mr. Schrieves stated that there was enough funding for that program.

Mr. Keith Adkins from Delmarva Community Transit (DCT) came to present the requested information from the Commissioners. Commissioner Franklin asked Mr. Adkins why they cannot receive the exact number of riders for Caroline County? Mr. Adkins responded that passenger trips equal a rider. Mr. Goldman reiterated the Commissioners statements that passenger trips do not actually equal amount of County resident riders. Mr. Goldman stated that DCT's data is not collected like the Commissioners request. They have to report to the State differently than the Commissioners are asking for. Commissioner Porter stated that something needs to be changed so they can count the actual number of riders they receive that are County residents.

Consent Agenda: (The following items were unanimously approved by the Commissioners): Commissioner Franklin made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Levensgood seconded the motion. All three Commissioners voted to approve the Consent Agenda.

- Minutes – Open & Closed Sessions – December 28, 2021, March 15, 2022, March 22, 2022 & March 29, 2022
- Resolution #2022-002 – The Technical Amendment to the Caroline County Employees Pension Plan
- Resolution #2022-003 – Chicken Bridge Road Name Change to Hannah Henry Way
- Location Agreement for Economic Symposium
- Purchase Order #2022-0284 – Multi-Factor Login Authentication Purchase
- Purchase Order #202200000272 – Top Notch Lawn Care
- Caroline County Public Library Contract – Fiber Infrastructure
- Caroline County Sheriff's Office – Grant Application – Law Enforcement Training

County Administrators Report – Jeremy Goldman: Mr. Goldman had nothing to report.

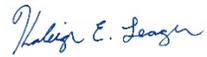
County Commissioners Open Discussion: Commissioner Levensgood stated that he attended and helped with the Goldsboro VFC Friday night shrimp and pulled pork event. He stated that he could barely walk afterwards because of his knees. He also mentioned he responded to an accident call. Commissioner Franklin received a complaint from citizen from Meadowbrook in Federalsburg who mentioned extremely loud noises at early in the morning and wanted to see what the County can do. Mr. Goldman stated he would investigate this. Commissioner Franklin also attended the shrimp feast. Commissioner Porter received an email from a person who was concerned about the intersection of drapers mill road. The email stated that people are blowing the stop sign and going up the hill and driving into someone's house. Commissioner Porter mentioned possibly installing a flashing stop sign. Mr. Ryan White, Director of Public Works stated that, that is an option. The only possible way to make a safe, non-lethal barrier to stop folks, would be water barrels. Mr. Goldman stated he would check to see if we can install a water barrier via a MOU with the property owner.

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Franklin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Levensgood seconded. All three Commissioners voted to adjourn the meeting.

There being no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Commissioner Levensgood made a motion to convene the Closed Session. Commissioner Franklin seconded. All three Commissioners voted to enter a Closed Session.



Kaleigh Leager
Executive Assistant to the County Commissioners