

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

WORK SESSION
April 26, 2022

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

Debbie Bowden, Director of Economic Development – Office Update & Tourism Manager Class Specification Introduction: Ms. Bowden provided an update on the Department of Economic Development. Ms. Bowden provided the following information:

BUSINESS ATTRACTION AND GROWTH ACTIVITY

Commercial Real Estate projects:

- Hanover facility
- AquaCon
- Yale Sportswear
- Tech Park
- 404 Property
- Delmarva Industries facility

Development initiatives:

- Food truck commissary Accommodations
- DES Tour Hiring Event
- Economic Symposium

Caroline County Department of Economic Development Supported 20 start-ups and next stage since September 2021.

BUSINESS SENTIMENT

Information from business owners of all sizes indicates that inflation, labor market, and supply chain are the largest challenge facing productivity and economic growth.

PARTNERSHIPS

Economic Development shares outreach materials and social media content with Chamber of Commerce, and writing article for its monthly newsletter.

Economic Development is working with resource partners to gather and share specific information that businesses need.

Economic Development works closely with Maryland agencies, such as Maryland Department of Agriculture, to support business attraction.

Ms. Bowden also mentioned the upcoming Economic Symposium on June 2nd. Commissioner Porter stated that we need to make opening a restaurant in Caroline County as feasibly close to owning a food truck as possible.

Ms. Bowden then presented the Commissioners with the updated information for the new position of Tourism Manager under the Department of Economic Development. Ms. Bowden mentioned this position starts on July 1, 2022 (first day of FY23) with salary and benefits that were included in the budget request from Tourism. Ms. Bowden stated that the next step is to get this into Resolution format and on the consent agenda for the next meeting.

Sherry Bratton, Director of Human Resources – Vision Insurance Discussion: Ms. Bratton stated that she had several employees call and question our vision plan as their eye doctor visits didn't prove to have assumed coverage. With that, Ms. Bratton investigated the options for supplemental coverage. With the EyeMed supplement, the County needs at least 10 employees to sign up for this coverage. The current plan provides \$45 towards frames. With this additional plan, coverage would provide \$150 towards frames. It would also provide greater reimbursements for more services. There is a little cost associated with this plan per employee. Ms. Bratton also mentioned that the County's Life Insurance and Long-Term Disability Insurance did increase slightly for next year. Ms. Bratton mentioned that the Life Insurance increased \$.02/\$1000 and the Long-Term increased by \$.05/\$100. In closing, Ms. Bratton stated the increase was included in the budget, but she needs approval to keep Mutual of Omaha. The Commissioners approved this change.

Stewart Barroll, County Attorney – Police Accountability Act Resolution Discussion: Mr. Barroll stated that the State has set the adoption and creation deadline for this mandated legislation to July 1, 2022, for each Police Accountability Board (PAB) and Administrative Charging Committee (ACC). While there is the deadline of July 1, the State has not released any of the information on how, where, or when the members of these boards will be trained. Mr. Goldman stated that this document is a combination of input and ideas from our legal team, the State statute, fellow Counties, and law-enforcement agencies/work groups. Mr. Barroll reviewed each section of the drafted Resolution with the Commissioners. Mr. Barroll also mentioned that the County will likely have to amend this document throughout the history of this board as processes are created and the unknowns become discovered. The Commissioners agreed that this will be a volunteer board (no financial compensation) other than possibly providing members per diem expenses for travel to trainings. Commissioner Porter stated that he believes if the officer in question is from the County, it is the County's expense. If it is an officer from a municipality, it is that municipality's expense; so on and so forth. Ms. Berneski, County Paralegal, stated that like the other County Boards, there is a staffing requirement to do administrative work for that board, such as record keeping and management. Thus, this board (PAB & ACC) is going to require a staff person. For example, the State statute requires that these boards keep separate records from the law enforcement agencies. Members of the Caroline County Sheriff's Office Command Staff, as well as leadership from a few of the County's municipal police departments were in the audience and provided feedback.

Commissioners Open Discussion: There was no discussion.

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kaleigh E. Leager". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kaleigh Leager
Executive Assistant to The County Commissioners