

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CAROLINE COUNTY**

109 Market Street, Room 106

DENTON, MD 21629

**Minutes  
June 21, 2022**

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

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

Invocation by Pastor Ray Parsons – Park Lane Church of God – Federalsburg

Commissioner Porter stated that on June 7<sup>th</sup>, the County Commissioners held a Closed Session under 2014 Maryland Code, State Government 3-305(b)(1) to discuss applicants for the Police Accountability Board (PAB). Commissioners Porter, Franklin and Levensgood were in attendance as well as Stewart Barroll, County Attorney, Mary Berneski, County Paralegal, Jeremy Goldman, County Administrator, and Kaleigh Leager, Executive Assistant.

**Public Comment:** Mr. Glen Todd from Preston, MD asked the Commissioners for help to establish a type of property maintenance code. Mr. Todd stated specifically one that addresses issues beyond dust and noise. Commissioner Porter stated this has been reviewed previously. Commissioner Levensgood stated that we have a limit for two unregistered vehicles, but nothing to address grass and overgrowth.

**Robin Cahall, Health Officer – Convene as Board of Health:** Commissioner Franklin made a motion to convene as the Board of Health. Commissioner Levensgood seconded. All three Commissioners voted to convene as the Board of Health. Ms. Cahall provided the Commissioners with an update of Caroline Counties Health Outcomes; in 2019 Caroline County ranked 21<sup>st</sup> out of 24 Counties in Maryland (amongst the least healthy in the State) and in 2022, Caroline County ranked 17<sup>th</sup> out of 24 Counties in Maryland (lower middle range of Counties). Ms. Cahall concluded the presentation by stating that the 2023 Initiatives are to add a 2<sup>nd</sup> mobile treatment unit, expand school based mental health services, scale down the COVID-19 response efforts, Adult Evaluation Resource Services (AERS), Narcan leave behind program, work towards the National Public Health Accreditation, Expand Chronic Disease Prevention, and increase staff training for ICS & Trauma. Commissioner Franklin made a motion to adjourn as the Board of Health. Commissioner Levensgood seconded. All three Commissioner voted to adjourn as the Board of Health.

**Debbie Bowden, Director of Economic Development – Rural Maryland Economic**

**Development Fund Project Discussion:** Ms. Bowden stated that this is a continuation of the conversation from the May 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ms. Bowden stated that since the Commissioner last met, she has had the opportunity to talk with Choptank Electric/Fiber about Data Centers. She stated that she is hoping to receive guidance from the Board to continue to pursue the “Mom & Pop Data Centers” at Ridgley Tech Park. The funds from the Rural Maryland Economic Development Fund could be used to build the building for the data center and do all the site

work. Choptank Electric and Choptank Fiber could put their infrastructure in. This project would cost \$1-\$1.2M of the \$3M allocated to the County. Ms. Bowden stated she is looking for guidance to go ahead and work with the necessary partners in the community. Commissioner Levengood state that he thinks it's a good idea. Commissioner Franklin stated that anything within the Tech Park should have the Town of Ridgely involved in it or at least keep them in the loop. All three Commissioners approved of the idea.

**Sherry Bratton, Director of Human Resources – Employee Grievance Procedure**

**Discussion:** Replaces entire current procedure. Stewart stated that this eliminates the need to hire an outside attorney. Represented by Department head. Appeal consists of. Renamed panel to employee review panel. Home Detention Coordinator.

**Stewart Barroll, Third Reading & Potential Enactment – Legislative Bill #2022-002 -**

**Planning Commission Membership:** Mr. Barroll stated that this bill is AN Act to repeal and reenact with amendments Chapter 175 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Caroline County, Maryland; FOR the purpose of revising the Zoning chapter to reduce the membership of the Planning Commission from seven to five members. BY repealing and replacing Chapter 175-163 and Chapter 175-166 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Caroline County, Maryland. Commissioner Franklin made a motion to adopt the legislative bill. Commissioner Levengood seconded the motion. All three Commissioners voted to adopt the legislative bill.

**Stewart Barroll, Third Reading & Potential Enactment – Legislative Bill #2022-003 –**

**Chapter 175 – Zoning Map 61 – Repeal and Reenactment:** Mr. Barroll stated that this bill is AN Act to repeal official Zoning Map 61 of Caroline County and reenact the same with an amendment changing the Zoning District on a portion of Tax Map 61, Grid 3, Parcel 12, consisting of 6.90 acres of land, more or less (the “Property”), from C-2, General Commercial District, to the I-2, Light Industrial District. Commissioner Levengood made a motion to adopt the legislative bill. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. All three Commissioners voted to adopt the legislative bill.

**Sherry Bratton, Director of Human Resources – Class Specification Discussion:** Ms. Bratton presented the Commissioners with the new Employee Grievance Procedures. Mr. Barroll stated that the previous procedure was cumbersome, ineffective, and expensive. One change that this new proposed procedure does, is eliminates the need for outside council; the position of the County will be represented by the department head. The entire grievance process, old and new, is to ensure that the County's process was followed; not to overturn a termination. Mr. Bratton also mentioned that the current procedure allows for 30 days to file a grievance. The proposed procedure reduces it to 15 days. The proposed procedure was approved by the Employee Advisory Board. The Commissioners requested this in a paper copy to review.

**Consent Agenda: (All three Commissioners voted unanimously to pass the consent agenda):**

- Minutes – May 24, 2022 & June 7, 2022 – Open & Closed
- [MOU Between Maryland Department of Human Resources & County Commissioners For FY2023 Summer Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#)

- [MOU Between Caroline County Board of Commissioner and Choptank Community Health System for the Delivery of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Program Under the Direction of Caroline County Recreation and Parks](#)
- [State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources Waterway Improvement Fund Grant Agreement-Choptank Fuel Tank Install](#)
- [State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources Waterway Improvement Fund Grant Agreement-Choptank Parking](#)
- [P.O #2022-0378, Maryland Environmental Services, Contracted Services at three Homeowner Drop-off Waste Facilities, \\$87,454.00](#)
- [Fixed Price Contract Between Owner and Contractor-Replacement of Fretterd Roof](#)
- [MOU Coordination of Care Agreement between the Caroline County Health Department and Caroline County Department of Emergency Services](#)
- [MOU Between Caroline County and Simple Fiber, LLC for Conduit Use in Town of Denton](#)
- [Inter-Governmental Agreement Between Maryland State Department of Health and the Caroline County Detention Center for Drug and Alcohol Counselor Services](#)

**Action Items (All three Commissioners voted unanimously to pass the action items):**

- [Sex Offender Compliance and Enforcement in Maryland \(SOCM\) Grant Application Form with the GOCCP](#)
- [Resolution #2022-010, Establishing the Caroline County Police Accountability Board and Caroline County Administrative Charging Committee](#)

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

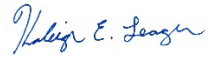
**County Commissioners Open Discussion:** Commissioner Levengood stated he has spoken to Ms. Freeman regarding another mining operation in Caroline County near East Beetree. This facility was approved for mining in the early 2000’s. Commissioner Franklin stated he received a complaint about an intersection, but it was an intersection owned by SHA. Commissioner Porter stated that there was a discussion with Compass Hospice about them pulling out of their project to build a hospice facility in Caroline County. Commissioner Porter stated that Compass never fundraised for this or committed to building one. Commissioner Porter stated this decision was made less than 50 days after they asked when the County could transfer the land to them and when construction could start. Commissioner Porter stated that Compass does excellent in-home care, but the issue is that they misrepresented their intentions. Commissioner Porter asked Mr. Barroll if the County could request their audited financial requests for where the money fundraised from Caroline County for their location in Compass. Commissioner Porter stated that the County will find a company to build an in-county facility. Mr. Goldman stated that he did in fact have a comment. Mr. Goldman stated that Planning and Codes sent a cease-and-desist order for the energy storage facility in Federalsburg as they went above their approval. He spoke with the State Fire Marshall’s office, and they stated that the State doesn’t provide regulation for this. Mr. Goldman suggested that the County adopt the National Fire Protection Agencies code for energy storage systems.

**Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

**Closed Session:** Commissioner Franklin made a motion to enter closed session. Commissioner Levengood seconded. All Three Commissioners voted to enter closed session.

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

There being no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m.



Kaleigh Leager  
Executive Assistant to the County Commissioners