

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

Minutes
July 18, 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 Convened, Invocation by Pastor Thomas Fisher – Abrams Memorial Church of Denton

Reporting Out Statement: Commissioner Breeding read the following statement, “During the July 11th Commissioners Meeting, the Commissioners held a closed session to discuss pending litigation. Commissioners Breeding, Porter, and Bartz were in attendance in addition to County Administrator, Jeremy Goldman, County Attorney, Stewart Barroll, Paralegal, Mary Berneski, and Executive Assistant, Kaleigh Leager. The Commissioners directed Mr. Barroll to contact opposing council.”

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Introduction to Caroline County – Sec. Kevin Atticks – Maryland Department of Agriculture: Sec. Atticks introduced himself and thanked the Commissioners for inviting him to attend this meeting. Sec. Atticks discussed the impacts of farming practices and how Gov. Moore is focused on rural communities. Sec. Atticks mentioned that Spotted Lantern Flies are a huge threat to the agriculture of our State. Sec. Atticks mentioned that the push for solar energy is a concern of the Dept. of Agriculture. In addition, Sec. Atticks stressed the importance of open space and farmland in addition to the importance of the work that farmers do to support conservation and the environment. The Commissioners thanked Sec. Atticks for attending the meeting and discussing their shared concerns regarding solar energy.

Recreation & Parks Month Proclamation – Sponsored by Commissioner Porter- Jamie Beechey, Director of Recreation and Parks: Commissioner Porter read the proclamation, proclaiming that July is Parks and Recreation Month in Caroline County. The Commissioners thanked Ms. Beechey and her staff for the jobs well done in this County and for the community.

Emergency Management Coordinator Class Specification Discussion – Sherry Bratton, Director of Human Resources: Ms. Bratton stated that this position will become vacant at the beginning of August. Ms. Bratton stated that the County is changing this class specification to reflect clearer expectations and to assigning this position to a more equivalent grade on the pay scale.

Pre-Trial Release Discussion – Warden Charles Scott & Deputy Warden Luke Dixon,

Department of Corrections: Warden Scott and Deputy Warden Dixon discussed the process of pre-trial release and the steps taken to determine eligibility and the monitoring process with the Commissioners. The Commissioners asked Warden Scott several questions related to processes within the Detention Center.

Consent Agenda: All three Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda.

- Caroline County Department of Emergency Services – [Purchase Order #2024-05](#) & [Contract Amendment – Tyler Technologies](#) - \$90,175.00
- Caroline County Sheriff’s Office – [Sex Offender Compliance and Enforcement in Maryland Grant Award & Acceptance](#) - \$8,759.00
- Caroline County Office of Law – [Caroline County Police Accountability Act Compliance Grant Award & Acceptance](#) - \$105,272.00
- Caroline County Department of Planning & Codes - [MDE 319\(h\) Clean Water Act Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\) & Form D Conditions of Financial Assistance -Greensboro Pumping Station Streambank Reinforcement Project](#) - \$10,000
- Caroline County Economic Development & Tourism – [Rural Business Development Grant Award Obligation of Funds & Letter of Intent](#) - \$37,000
- [Caroline County Joint Use Agreement – Pre-Summerfest March & Prayer Gathering – North Carolina Clergy Association, Inc.](#)
- Caroline County Department of Planning & Codes – [Purchase Order #2024-46 – Lane Engineering, LLC. – Caroline Industrial Park/Double Hills Road](#) - \$58,200.00

Action Items: All three Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the action items agenda.

- [Resolution #2023-015 – Revised Class Specification – Emergency Management Coordinator](#)

County Administrators Report – Jeremy Goldman: Mr. Goldman stated that Commissioner Breeding, Ms. Leager, and himself will be in Texas at the National Association of Counties (NACo) Conference this week. Mr. Goldman also mentioned that the new camera system for County meetings is almost completed.

County Commissioners Open Discussion: Commissioner Bartz stated he attended the Farm Bureau dinner with Commissioner Porter and received a compliment on the Planning & Codes website. Commissioner Porter mentioned an email sent regarding complaints related to tree trimming on River Road. Commissioner Porter stated that the old country club owner may be reopening the golf course, but currently, the venue is available for weddings and other events. Commissioner Porter mentioned that Mr. JOK Walsh passed away and that the County should use some portion of our venue to recognize all that he did for this County. Commissioner Porter stated that Mr. Walsh was primarily responsible for the Denton and Federalsburg Industrial Parks. Mr. Walsh was the most influential and hardest working individual to preserve history in this County. Commissioner Porter stated that in addition, Mr. Walsh worked hard to bring volunteer fireman to this County and was influential on bringing paid EMS to the County. Commissioner Breeding

stated that staff has been working on reallocating Rural Maryland fund monies: \$1M towards expansion of Double Hills, \$300,000 toward Greensboro Library/Maryland Rural Development Corporation (MRDC) Building, and \$1,353,000 to Choptank Marina. Commissioner Breeding stated that Waterway Improvement money is available through the State to match the contribution by Mid Shore Regional Council (MSRC). Mr. Fox recommended a possible Capital Budget amendment. Commissioner Breeding stated that he had a conversation about the River Road Culvert Pipe project with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and the Board of Public Works (BPW).

Public Comment: No public comment was received.

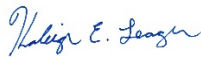
Commissioner Porter made a motion to convene the closed sessions. Commissioner Bartz seconded the motion. All three Commissioners unanimously voted to convene the closed sessions.

Closed Session 1: “To discuss an employment resignation.” Under Section (1) of the General Provisions Art.: 3-305(b)

Closed Session 2: “To consult with staff about pending litigation.” Under Section (8) of the General Provisions Art.: 3-305(b)

Commissioner Porter made a motion to direct Mr. Barroll to sign the contract with Gipe Associates. Commissioner Bartz seconded the motion. All three Commissioners voted unanimously, directing Mr. Barroll to sign the contract with Gipe Associates.

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.



Kaleigh Leager
Executive Assistant to the County Commissioners