

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

Minutes
September 21, 2021

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 AM.

Convocation and prayer by Rev. Buddy Dunn.

There was no public comment.

COVID-19 Response and Recovery Update - Robin Cahall, Health Officer, Caroline County

Health Department: Ms. Cahall provided an update on the status of Caroline County in regard to COVID-19 and its variants (Delta & Alpha). The 7-Day Positivity Rate in Caroline County is 9.24% and in the State of Maryland it is 4.35%. The case rate in Caroline County has increased by 52.9% for a total of 45.76%. Maryland saw an increase of 13.3%, for a total of 20.3%. Statewide, 73% of cases were from those not vaccinated. Currently in Caroline County, regarding vaccinated citizens, all eligible ages (12+) are 58.6%. In the State of Maryland, all eligible ages (12+) that are vaccinated is 74.1%. In the past week, there have been 107 new reported cases in Caroline County. Following the updated statistics, Ms. Cahall asked the Commissioners to consider requiring masks be worn in County buildings, no matter the persons vaccination status. In addition to masks, Ms. Cahall asked the Commissioners to consider offering a telework option for County employees.

Commissioner Levensgood inquired about the status of the Pfizer booster shots. Ms. Cahall explained it still needs FDA approval, then CDC approval. Commissioner Franklin inquired about how many cases were considered breakthrough cases. Ms. Cahall said a case is only considered a breakthrough if the person is fully vaccinated, contracts COVID and gets severely ill. When the booster becomes available, the Caroline County Health Department will make it readily available. It is not a different shot than the first two vaccinations. It is the same vaccination that is available 6 months after you were fully vaccinated.

County Administrator, Jeremy Goldman mentioned that the Caroline Foundation donated \$175,000 to purchase a mobile van that can be used for off-site Health Department use such as a mobile vaccination clinic. Administrator Goldman requested the authority to purchase the chassis for the van so prices don't increase anymore, and the building process can begin. The Commissioners agreed to purchasing the chassis. The Caroline Foundation was created through funds received from the sale of the old nursing home. The Commissioners wanted to thank Mr. Terry Mead for his kind donation.

Public Hearing- Benedictine Foundation Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) -

Margaret Roe, Director, Finance: All three Commissioners voted to go into a public hearing. Commissioner Franklin stated that for the record, his wife, Stephanie Franklin is the assistant

principal of the Benedictine School, a separate entity than the Benedictine Foundation. The funds from this grant will be used for improvements to the campus such as a road and sidewalk. The total cost of the project is \$822,508.00.

All three Commissioners agreed to move forward with the grant application.

Public Hearing – Davis Road – Through Traffic: All three Commissioners agreed to table the hearing as the County Attorney was not in attendance.

Discussion – Upper Shore Aging – Gary Gunther, Director: Mr. Gunther presented the Annual Senior Care Program Plan for FY22 to the Commissioners for their approval. This program aids seniors across the upper shore and in Caroline County. These services include medical supplies, nutritional supplements, some in-home services, medications, etc. All three commissioners approved Mr. Gunther's request to apply for renewal.

Consent Agenda: (The following items were unanimously approved by the Commissioners):

- Caroline Human Services Council – MOA – FY22 Community Partnership Agreement
- North County Regional Park – Grant Request Form – FY22
- North County Regional Park – Land Water Conservation Funding - Grant Request Form – FY23
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources – Program Open Space Grant Application – Henderson Community Park
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources – Program Open Space Grant Application – Jonestown Community Park
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources – Program Open Space Grant Application – Harmony Community Park
- Memorandum of Understanding – Town of Denton – Use of the County's Emergency Alert System
- Memorandum of Growth Allocation Award – Jones Estates Bay Country, LLC.
- Purchase Order #2022-00000092 – Office of Technology – Dell Replacement Equipment
- Purchase Order #2022-96 Motorola Solutions Inc. – Department of Emergency Services – FY2022 Motorola Maintenance, Support and Software Upgrade
- Purchase Order #2002-00000098 – Department of Public Works - Russell Standard Corp. – Tar & Chip
- Minutes – September 7, 2021 & September 14, 2021 – Open & Closed Session

Recessed at 9:58am

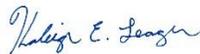
Reconvened at 10:03am

County Administrators Report – Jeremy Goldman: Administrator Goldman stated that he has an operational directive that he plans to send out by the end of the week and would like to have the Commissioners input. In addition, Administrator Goldman mentioned someone reached out to him regarding the pay for EMS employees. He reached out and has yet to hear back.

County Commissioners Open Discussion: Commissioner Levensgood mentioned he is planning on visiting his daughter and hopefully his grandson (if he is born) sometime soon. Commissioner Franklin mentioned that he and his wife had a very busy weekend. He attended an alpaca festival, the Ridgley Car Show, Cars & Cocktails, and a few other community events. Commissioner Franklin also thanked Mark Sheridan, Director of Emergency Services, for their presence at the Ridgley Car Show. Commissioner Porter stated that it takes a lot of hard work and effort to put on an event like the Ridgley Car Show. Commissioner Porter mentioned that the fire companies should have made a lot of money off their food stands as he saw continuous long lines for food at the event. In closing, Commissioner Porter wanted to verify that the Commissioner Meetings and Work Sessions are live streamed and recorded for the public to be able to view. Administrator Goldman stated that the meeting is currently being live streamed and is recorded for archival purposes.

There was no public comment.

There being no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 10:09 a.m.



Kaleigh Leager
Executive Assistant to The County Commissioners