

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CAROLINE COUNTY
Greensboro VFC Community Hall, 13781 Greensboro, Maryland
MINUTES
May 8, 2018

Present: President, Larry C. Porter; Wilbur Levengood Jr., Vice President; Daniel J. Franklin, Member; County Administrator, Ken Decker; and Jennifer Farina, Administrative Coordinator

Following the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation, President Porter called for public comment; and there was none.

Special Presentation of Citation, Allison Murphy, Board of Elections: Commissioner Larry Porter presented Ms. Murphy with a signed citation from the Caroline County Commissioners, recognizing her for her efforts and continued professionalism with the Board of Elections. Ms. Murphy was named the 2017 Maryland Election Official of the Year by the State of Maryland. The County thanks Ms. Murphy for giving her time, talents, and consistent professionalism to the Caroline County Board of Elections.

Budget Overview, Daniel Fox, Office of Finance: Mr. Fox gave a brief presentation on the overall Operating and Capital FY2019 proposed budgets and process. Mr. Fox explained that both internal and outside agencies play a role in finalizing the budget. He also stated that over \$15.1 million dollars of the budget is mandated to State agencies such as the Board of Education, and State departments. He stated that there was no proposed increase in property taxes this year for Caroline County residents. Employees would be receiving seniority pay increase, and across the board pay increase, while maintaining existing benefits. Mr. Fox stated that the Commissioners were able to balance this year's budget while still being committed to public safety, and all Caroline County employees.

Budget Hearing: Proposed FY2019 Capital and Operating Budgets

President Porter welcomed everyone to the final budget hearing for the Operating and Capital Budgets for the fiscal year 2019. The following is a summary of testimony received:

Debby Bennett, Caroline County Public Library: Ms. Bennett thanked the Commissioners for their continued support each year for the many programs the Library provided to the community. She stated that the increase given to the Library will allow for a deputy director position to be hired, which will help the Library and the staff with balancing work load and succession planning.

Dr. Caroll Visintainer, President, Caroline County Library Board of Trustees: Dr.. Visintainer stated that the Library Board would also like to thank the Commissioners for their continued support to all the public libraries in Caroline County. She stated that the she is aware of how difficult it can be to balance the County budget, and fund important agencies, and she is glad the Commissioners are able to work together to help the community.

Kevin Reichart, Chair, Recreation and Parks Advisory Board: Mr. Reichart stated that he is thankful for the Commissioners continued support each year for recreation and parks. He stated that he and the Board look forward to upcoming projects such as the North County park, which will help bring families together in the community in a safe and family-oriented environment.

Deborah Vornbrok, St. Martin's Ministries: Thanked the Commissioners for their continued support over the past years to help St. Martin's Ministries.

Charity Peris, Goldsboro Resident: Ms. Peris stated that she understands it is hard to balance a budget for the entire County, however she hopes that in the future the Commissioners are able to spread money out throughout agencies and departments, so more funds can be used in different areas.

President Porter stated that if anyone who would like to speak that had not signed out to testify, to please come to the podium. With no further comment from the audience the Commissioners gave their remarks regarding the proposed budget.

Commissioner Franklin stated that he wanted to thank all the County staff, with emphasis on the Office Finance and the Tax Office. He explained that every year the budget process in an adventure that is not easy to navigate, however with the help of the exceptional budget staff of Caroline County, the Commissioners are able to tackle the task. Commissioner Franklin stated that the main issues every year is that request continue to rise, while the revenue for Caroline County has remained flat. The County continues to struggle with increased burdens of State cost shifts, like teacher pensions, new mandates, and the diversion of revenue intended for the County, such as Highway User Revenue. Commissioner Franklin emphasized through all the hardships regarding the budget, the County is still able to put their employees first with seniority pay improvements, as well as an increase to all staff. The County also brought Economic Development in house, which shows their commitment to growing business in Caroline County and increases their revenues without putting pressure on the tax payers. He stated that he is proud of what he has accomplished as a Commissioner the past four year and he hopes to continue to improve the County in the future.

Commissioner Levengood stated that he thanks all County staff as well as his fellow Commissioners, for completing another successful budget cycle. He stated that every year the Caroline County Office of Finance wins an award of excellence for their financial records, and it shows in the budget. Although Caroline County is a small county, we set an example and standard in the State of Maryland. He stated that he believes he has always made the best decisions for the whole community on budget matters, and he hopes he will be able to continue to support and help the people of Caroline County.

Commissioner Porter, thanked all County staff and the Finance and Tax Offices. He stated that although Caroline County may be considered a poor county, with the help of the staff and community, the Commissioners are able to do the best they can for the community. He stated that this is his eighth budget, and it has been a tough budget process each year. He explained that many decisions are hard and not all of them are perfect. He emphasized that this Board was able to dualize Route 404, help move Dover Bridge replacement forward, build an Urgent Care facility, and many more projects that were said could never be done in Caroline County. Commissioner Porter stressed that in the future the County must do better for their Sheriff's Office, fire companies and all emergency services, however it will not be an easy task. He ended by explaining that Caroline County is unique and the way the community and departments work together is both helpful and amazing.

The Commissioners closed the hearing on the FY2019 Proposed Operating and Capital budgets.

Public Hearing: FY2019 Constant Yield Tax Rates

Cathie Moore, Comptroller, stated that the County Commissioners of Caroline County, Maryland, proposes to increase real property taxes. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2018 the estimated real property assessable base in the unincorporated areas of the county will increase by 1.0%, from \$1,687,092,809 to \$1,703,995,266. If Caroline County maintains the current tax rate of \$.98 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 1.0%, resulting in a \$165,644 increase in real property tax revenues. To fully offset the effect of decreasing assessments, the real property tax rate could be decreased to \$.9703, the constant yield tax rate. The same information for municipalities is shown on

the attached chart. The County is considering not decreasing its real property tax rate to offset increasing assessments. The County proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$.98 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 1.0% higher than the constant yield tax rate and will show an increase of \$165,288 in property tax revenues.

Jurisdiction	2017-2018 Net Assessable Base	2018-2019 Net Assessable Base	% Change in Base	Current Tax Rate	% Change in Revenue at Current Tax Rate	\$ Change in Revenue at Current Tax Rate	2018-2019 Constant Yield Tax Rate (CYTR)	2018-2019 Proposed Tax Rate (PTR)	Revenue Difference Between CYTR & PTR	% Change PTR Over CYTR
Unincorp.	1,687,092,809	1,703,995,266	1.0%	0.9800	1.0%	165,644	0.9703	0.9800	165,288	1.0%
Municipalities:										
Denton	344,641,566	347,676,799	.9%	0.9100	.9%	27,621	0.9021	0.9100	27,466	.9%
Federalsburg	155,592,154	144,751,607	-7.0%	0.8900	-7.0%	-96,481	0.9567	0.8800	-111,204	-8.0%
Goldsboro	12,020,617	12,397,356	3.1%	0.9800	3.1%	3,692	0.9502	0.9800	3,694	3.1%
Greensboro	92,371,284	92,854,641	0.5%	0.9100	0.5%	4,399	0.9053	0.9100	4,364	0.5%
Henderson	4,304,346	4,382,820	1.8%	0.9800	1.8%	769	0.9625	0.9800	767	1.8%
Hillsboro	10,144,693	10,105,668	-.4%	0.9800	-.4%	-382	0.9838	0.9800	-384	-.4%
Marydel	6,560,024	6,749,908	2.9%	0.9800	2.9%	1861	0.9524	0.9800	1863	2.9%
Preston	60,173,049	60,921,843	1.2%	0.9400	1.2%	7,039	0.9284	0.9700	25,343	4.5%
Ridgely	107,818,508	109,061,549	1.2%	0.9100	1.2%	11,312	0.8996	0.9100	11,342	1.2%
Templeville	1,297,179	1,301,000	0.3%	0.9800	0.3%	37	0.9771	0.9800	38	0.3%

Commissioner Porter stated that no one signed up for the public hearing, and asked if any members from the audience would like to speak. No one came forward. The Commissioners stated that the tax rate would be set on May 22, 2018 during their normal commissioners meeting at 6:00 PM at the County Commissioners Hearing Room, Courthouse, 109 Market Street, Room 123, Denton, Maryland.

The Commissioners closed the hearing on the FY2019 Constant Yield Property Tax Rates.

Public Hearing: FY 2019 Municipal Real Property Tax Differential Rates

Commissioner Porter stated that the municipal property tax rates, which are also summarized in the chart above. He stated that no one signed up for comment, however he welcomed anyone in the audience to give testimony. No one came forward.

The Commissioners closed the hearing on the FY2019 Municipal Real Property Tax Differential rates.

The Commissioners convened their regular meeting.

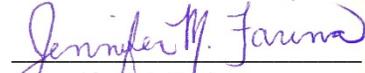
Consent Agenda: The following items were approved by the unanimous consent.

- Minutes: Closed Session of April 17, 2018
- Resolution #2018-008, Amendment to the Caroline County Comprehensive Plan: Mineral Resources Element
- Resolution #2018-009, Lifting the Temporary Moratorium on Noncoal Surface Mining
- Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration Cost Sharing Agreement with Caroline County, for Costs of Service to Municipalities
- P.O #2018-00000330, and Accompanying Contract to Rex Landscaping, for FY2018-2019 County-Wide Mowing, \$49,410
- P.O #2019-00000002, and Accompanying Contract to Freightliner of Delmarva for the Purchase of a Freightliner with Spreader and Snowplow, \$149,788
- State of Maryland and Department of Agriculture Agreement for Control and Eradication of Noxious Weeds

- Memorandum of Understanding Between the Caroline County Historical Society and Caroline County Commissioners, for the William Still Family Interpretive Center

President Porter called for public comment and Cathy Schwab, President, Ridgely Historical Society, thanked the Commissioners for supporting all the Towns, and stated that she is thankful for their continued support of the Town of Ridgely.

There being no further discussion the meeting convened at 7:02 p.m.


Jennifer M. Farina
Administrative Coordinator