

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

Minutes
January 10, 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 Convenes, Invocation by Buddy Dunn- Faith Fellowship Preston

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Debbie Bowden, Director of Economic Development – Departmental Update: Ms. Bowden provided an update of the Economic Development and Tourism Office. Ms. Bowden stated that within the last 10 days, her department has had 4 inquiries about how to start a small business. Ms. Bowden stated that during the first half of FY23, web-traffic increased 73% with 5,781 independent site views. Commissioner Porter asked for the status of the property that AquaCon had planned to use. Ms. Bowden stated it is privately owned so it is up to the landowner. Commissioner Bartz asked about the ARPA funding that was spent by Economic Development. Mr. Fox stated that \$2.2M was set aside for Broadband assistance, \$750,000 for Choptank Community Health, \$500,000 for the Greensboro Judy Center, and \$500,000 for the Economic Development Office. 2024 funds had to be obligated but spent by 2026. Commissioner Breeding stated that his concern with using ARPA money in a general fund manor doesn't give us a true picture of our general fund liabilities because the funds have a sunset date.

Commissioner Breeding mentioned the equipment for the Food Aggregation Project. He wants to make sure that the information on the grant is accurate as the County has not sold any of the Tech Park land to anyone involved in this project and currently does not have an agreement with Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC). Commissioner Breeding stated that his concern is that the MARBIDCO Grant states that the County Commissioners submitted the grant, and he does not want the County paying this back if the project is unsuccessful.

Daniel Fox, Director of Finance & Lee Martin, Managing Director of Marquette Associates, Inc. – County Pension and OPEB Investment Update: Mr. Fox and Mr. Martin presented the pension and OPEB information to the Commissioners. Mr. Fox stated that pulling in the LOSAP Fund (1.5M initial), we have been in contact with Lee to set up this fund that will mimic the OPEB Fund but smaller. Mr. Fox stated that he suggests a resolution to diversify the portfolio to invest more heavily in real-estate.

County Administrators Report – Jeremy Goldman: Mr. Goldman stated that he had a productive 3.5 days at Winter MACo. He stated he was able to have a lot of beneficial conversations. Mr. Goldman also mentioned that the County identified a leak at the Jonestown

Water System. The County had to it shut down and are working hard to get it back up and running.

County Commissioners Open Discussion: Commissioner Bartz stated that he was overwhelmed by the support for Officer Nagel when he attended his service. Commissioner Bartz also stated that he attended the MSRC Meeting (Mid Shore Regional Council), and it went well. He also asked about the status of the West Wing renovations. Mr. Goldman stated he is meeting with the contractor to find out the reasoning behind the late completion date. Commissioner Porter stated that he attended the MSRC meeting at MACo where Dorchester County has requested a delay in the Certificate of Need letter of support. Commissioner Porter stated that the County has already sent their letter of support a few weeks ago. Commissioner Porter stated that the Maryland Rural Commission was discussing housing authorities. Commissioner Porter wants to discuss the possibility of a code change to create one in Caroline County. Commissioner Porter stated that he also attended Winter MACo and there is a mental health for first responders event planned in March. Commissioner Porter stated that Mayor McNinch announced they are going to have a moment of silence this Friday the 13th at noon in memory of the recent incidents that have happened to the community. Commissioner Breeding stated he had a conversation with Administrator Goldman. He stated that the County is in the middle of several projects. He wants to see the project drawings during the progression of the project to allow for Commissioner input before money and time is spent for the plan to be reviewed. Mr. Goldman stated that he was thinking about doing a plan review committee that would have a Commissioner on the committee in addition to a few staff members. Commissioner Breeding wanted to know if he could get a list of the typical funders in addition to a generic letter for the public.

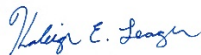
Public Comment: There was no public comment.

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

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

Closed Session: Section (2) General Provisions Art. 3-305(b): “To protect the privacy or reputation of individuals with respect to a matter that is not related to public business.”

There being no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.



Kaleigh Leager
Executive Assistant to the County Commissioners