

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

WORK SESSION
January 16, 2018

Present: President, Larry C. Porter; Vice President, Wilbur Levensgood; Commissioner, Daniel J. Franklin; Heather Price, County Attorney; Ken Decker, County Administrator; Sara Visintainer, Chief of Staff; and Jennifer Farina, Administrative Coordinator

Topic 1: Sheriff's Office Architecture and Engineering

Tim Crosby, Architect, Crosby & Associates, presented the Commissioners with the concept drawings for the new Caroline County Sheriff's Office. Mr. Crosby stated that his firm has been in practice for over 38 years and specialize in community and public safety projects. He stated that the most recent sheriff's office Crosby & Associates completed was Hurlock Police Department in 2016 and they are currently working on St. Michael's Police Department. He went on to explain that 85% of their projects are safety facilities that have a set number of standards and protocols.

Mr. Crosby stated that he has been working with Sheriff Bounds, Captain Henning and Mr. Decker over the past nine months to understand the needs and wants for the site plan of the building. He went on to state that the estimated cost of the new Sheriff's Office would be around \$3.5-4 million, with the added cost of construction inflation over the next year. He went on to explain that this cost estimate comes from past police departments they have constructed over the past two years.

A schedule has been drafted which will have the projected completed by April of 2020. Mr. Crosby stated that this completion date includes an 18 months construction period, with a final occupancy being completed in June 2020. Mr. Crosby stated that the next step after meeting with the Commissioners would be to have the geotechnical engineer look at the site picked out and study it to ensure there would be no issues, before breaking ground. They then would go over the site plan with the Sheriff's Office one last time to ensure they have the building planned out to fit the safety needs of the staff and public. He stated that the County would need to give the firm a confirmed answer by March 1st for the timeline to remain the same.

Mr. Decker stated that the current Sheriff's Office is 4,600 sq. ft., and the new building plan is 12,000 sq. ft. which will allow for the office to have more space to function safely. The Commissioners stated that when the bids go out for contractors, their main request is to use local subcontractors whenever possible. Mr. Crosby stated that they would make sure local contractors were chosen for this project in Caroline County. Sheriff Bounds stated that Mr. Crosby has been easy to work with through this process. He explained that the firm sat down with every officer and staff member of the Caroline County Sheriff's Office, so he could understand their true needs and area of improvement needed for the future building to be successful.

The Commissioners directed staff and the County Attorney to draft a professional service agreement with Crosby & Associates to be signed at an upcoming meeting.

Topic 2: Draft Legislation for Chapter 175—Zoning—Moratoria

Katheleen Freeman, Director, Planning and Codes, stated that Chapter 175—Zoning—Moratoria, would allow the County to establish a process for declaring a moratorium. She stated that over the past couple of months the County has had two moratoriums, and in the process of drafting those, several questions surfaced over process. This legislation would make it clear that a moratorium would be adopted by resolution. Ms. Freeman stated that she will work with Ms. Visintainer on drafted a legislative schedule for Chapter 175—Zoning –Moratorium.

Topic 3: Draft Legislation Chapter 175—Zoning –Administration and Enforcement—Zoning Administrator

Ms. Freeman stated that this piece of legislation would clarify the powers and duties of the zoning administrator as they relate to enforcement action, and clarifies the discretionary authority of the zoning administrator regarding enforcement. Ms. Freeman stated that in the past violations have been taken to court due to the zoning administrator not having the proper discretionary authority in zoning dispute.

Topic 4: Chapter 175—Zoning –Mineral Extraction Facilities

Ms. Freeman stated that the Planning Commission has finished its extensive review of changes to the zoning code related to mineral extraction facilities. The Planning Commission has had lots of discussion on these issues and taken a great deal of public comment, and recommends this ordinance to the Commissioners. This ordinance is one of the major items on the checklist for the mining moratorium.

Ms. Freeman stated that language had been added regarding criteria for approval process such as setbacks and road access. She stated that any extraction projects in the County would have to receive a zoning certificate from the County before moving forward to the State of Maryland for approval. She stated that in this legislation, it will be proposed that all projects be sent to the Planning Commission for site plan approval first, and then be moved forward to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Ms. Freeman stated that this chapter has been reviewed and revised by both County Attorney, Heather Price and outside legal counsel, to ensure that the County is requesting proper requirements for these facilities.

Topic 5: Potential Litigation Regarding Opioid Crisis Impact and Costs

Ms. Visintainer stated that there is potential litigation regarding the opioid crisis in the State of Maryland. She stated that several law firms have filed a suit against the pharmaceutical companies and distributors, stating that they failed to be honest on reporting the addictive effects as well as failing to monitor the number of prescriptions being filled. She explained that the firms' goals are to sue for funds related to the damage the industry has caused from advertising and distributing these drugs. Any funds collected by this lawsuit would be distributed to help with ongoing education on addictions and providing addiction services.

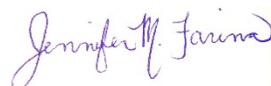
The Commissioners stated that their main concern is the lawsuit hurting local pharmacy in Caroline County. Commissioner Franklin stated that if the main pharmaceutical companies get sued, they will pay for the suit by increasing the price of prescriptions which would then fall on the local pharmacies and local citizens, who need prescriptions. Ms. Price stated that she understood that concern and stated that she could have local pharmacist attending a meeting to discuss the potential adverse effect it may have.

Ms. Price stated that seven counties on the Western Shore have filed against the pharmaceutical companies. Ms. Price stated that damages are widespread throughout Caroline County when you factor in treatments from the Health Department, Corrections and the Sheriff's Office. The Commissioners asked staff to set up a meeting with the law firms to speak on the issue further. They stated that they want to be aware of all the unintended consequences that may come from suing the pharmaceutical companies.

Commissioner Open Discussion Period:

Commissioner Levenoog stated that the Schiff Farm in Caroline County sold to be the first major solar project in the County. He also stated that he is against the filming of County Commissioners meetings, and does not feel it is needed.

There being no further discussion the meeting ended at 11:00 a.m.



Jennifer M. Farina, Administrative Coordinator