

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

Minutes
February 9, 2021

Present: President Larry C. Porter; Vice President Daniel J. Franklin; Commissioner Wilbur Levengood, Jr.; via conference call.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM.

COVID-19 Response and Recovery Update:

Laura Patrick, Health Officer: Ms. Patrick provided an update to the COVID numbers in Maryland and Caroline County. The positivity rate in Maryland is 5.67%, with Caroline County being 6.12%. There have been 18 COVID related deaths in Caroline County and there are currently 7 people hospitalized. Ms. Patrick reminded everyone that if an individual seeks care at a Delaware hospital and they pass away, it will take approximately two months for the Health Department to receive that information to properly update the numbers. Ms. Patrick thanked everyone who is working in the call center at the HAPS building. There has been a decrease in the number of residents that are requesting so the Health Department will be downsizing the testing centers. Testing will continue at the wellness centers in schools on Wednesdays and at the HAPS building on Tuesdays. If there is an increase in need, they will open testing back up to multiple times/locations per week. Ms. Patrick reported that to date we have received 2600 doses of the moderna vaccine and have distributed 2672 doses. This is because some vials contain more doses than others. The Health Department has received 1100 second doses and distributed 1054 of them. They are working on hiring more nurses and filling vacant positions.

Anna Sierra, Director of Emergency Services. Ms. Sierra stated that 11.32% of the residents in Caroline County have received their first doses, while 3.79% have received their second doses. Easton Memorial Hospitals alert times have been seeing a slight uptick. Emergency Services is averaging approximately one additional EMS call per day in comparison to this time last year. Operational and clinical site managers are being hired to work in the vaccination clinics. Some EMS employees are volunteering their time on their days off to work in the vaccination clinics. The new website featuring the eligibility screening tool went live yesterday and has already received approximately 1,000 requests.

Ryan White, Director of Public Works. Mr. White presented the Commissioners with a memo outlining the following Capital project requests:

- 1) Hot mix Asphalt heated holding box on a trailer -- \$55,000
Skid Steer with required attachments and trailer --\$130,000
Asphalt roller with trailer -- \$60,000

The Commissioners tabled this discussion until next week.

- 2) Replace leaking slate roof on courthouse with remainder roof budget - \$210,500.

The Commissioners unanimously agreed to move forward with this project.

- 3) Rehabilitating 4 dump trucks. This would include sandblasting and painting the frames, bumpers, wheels, and undercarriage of all four units. Replacing all body bushings, and hinge pins, along with any other found issues. Two of the units can be sand blasted and painted. The other two units have bodies that are beyond the state of repair and need to be replaced.
 - Replace 2 bodies and rehabilitate trucks -- \$30,000
 - Rehabilitate 2 bodies along with the trucks -- \$30,000

The Commissioners unanimously agreed to move forward with this project.

- 4) Replace HVAC unit in Courtroom #2. The unit has recently expired and is no longer functioning. This is the ideal time to get this unit replaced without causing any future disruption.
 - Replace HVAC unit #2 in Courtroom -- \$15,000

The Commissioners unanimously agreed to move forward with this project.

- 5) Replacing the windows in the Courthouse has been a several year project. We have been replacing about 6 windows per year to this point. The windows take several months to make and then need to be scheduled for install. The energy efficiency of the already replaced windows has proven to be very beneficial. Request is to get the current years windows on order and installed.
 - A) Replace 3 windows in the courthouse -- \$20,000
 - Mr. White stated that there are four large windows left to be replaced on the second floor. The Commissioners suggested replacing all four windows at once.

The Commissioners unanimously agreed to move forward with this project.

- 6) Currently a lock on a door is the only security into the Jonestown water plant. It has been recommended by MDE and MES to better secure the facility with fencing.
 - Install new fencing at Jonestown water plant -- \$10,000

The Commissioners unanimously agreed to move forward with this project.

- 7) The Roads department was very fortunate in 2008 to purchase 6 dump trucks. The downside is we have not purchased a new dump truck in the past couple of years. Request is to start replacing one or two units each year, so our fleet does not become too aged/broken to complete the tasks when called on. I respectfully request to procure a replacement dump truck for unit 283 and start the phasing out cycle of the older units.
- Replace Dump Truck unit 283 equipped with a new plow and sander box -- \$180,000

The Commissioners unanimously agreed to move forward with this project.

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

- Minutes, February 2, 2021 County Commissioners Meeting
- MOU – Department of Emergency Service and Caroline County Health Department for Public Health Emergency Planner
- Planning and Codes, Rural Legacy Area Prioritization and Letter of Support

County Administrators Report:

Mr. Goldman reported that the financials involving the construction of the Sheriff's Office will close out next month and is happy to report that the project came in slightly under budget.

Open Discussion Period:

Commissioner Levensgood stated that he has been busy with MACO and is continuing to advocate for more vaccinations for Caroline County.

Commissioner Porter stated that all Counties across the State are advocating for more vaccinations. He advised that the State is asking the local pharmacies to collaborate with the Health Departments on vaccination protocols and at the end of February the Federal Government will start allocating doses directly to the pharmacies.

No public comment was received.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.



Mary Berneski
Paralegal