

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CAROLINE COUNTY
109 Market Street, Room 106
DENTON, MD 21629

Minutes
February 15, 2022

Present: President Larry C. Porter (virtual); Vice President Daniel J. Franklin (virtual),
Commissioner Wilbur Levengood, Jr.

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

Convocation by Reverend David Griffin.

There was no public comment.

COVID-19 Response & Recovery Update - Robin Cahall, Health Officer, Caroline County Health Department: Ms. Cahall stated that there is a steady decline in positivity rates for Caroline County. Currently, the positivity rate is 8.29%, a 41% decrease from last week. Maryland's positivity rate is 3.77%, which is a decreased by 58%. In Caroline County, there have been 38 new cases within the past 7 days. As of January 31, 2022, there have been 8 deaths; bringing the total deaths to 75 in the County.

Kaleigh Leager, Legislative Update: Ms. Leager stated that Senate Bill 341 (SB341), States Attorney and Sheriff's Salaries in Caroline County, received a favorable report in the Senate Committee (Judicial Proceedings) after she testified and submitted a letter of support from the Commissioners. The next step is that it will be sent to the Senate floor for its second reading. Currently, the bill has a crossfile in the House of Delegates (HB620) that is having a hearing on 2/18/22 in the Environment and Transportation Committee that she will be testifying on in addition to submitting a letter of support. The next item is House Bill 556 (HB556). This bill is for Queen Anne's County Sunday hunting, allowing folks to hunt deer and small game on every Sunday within the designated seasons, on private land only. Per request of the Commissioners, Del. Arentz is submitting an amendment to add Caroline County to the legislation as it is the bill that was requested to be submitted on behalf of the Caroline County Delegation. Ms. Leager then mentioned House Bill 1070 (HB1070) – Solid Waste Disposal and Diversion and On-Farm Composting and Compost Use. This bill is sponsored by Del. Boyce from Baltimore City that will establish an “on-farm composting and compost use grant” that is funded via existing composting facilities to the tune of a \$5 tax per ton of compost sold. This will also establish an Environment Stewardship Fund and transfer certain funds to the State Recycling Trust Fund. Ultimately this bill will increase the cost for consumers as well as force current composting facilities to fund new facilities, thus sponsoring competition. The County Commissioners requested that a letter of opposition be drafted and submitted. Senate Bill 379 (SB379) is another bill that Caroline County included on. This bill removes Caroline, Charles, and Prince Georges Counties from requiring the governor's approval to remove a member of the Board of Education and solely leaves that responsibility to the state Board of Education. SB379 has a hearing on

2/16/22 and the County has submitted a letter of support to the Committee. Ms. Leager stated that the last bill to mention today is Senate Bill 604/House Bill 1285 – Maryland Electricians Act – Revisions. This is an attempt to correct the bill that was rushed through last year (HB1262). The Chairman of our Trades Board is going to submit a letter as well as possibly testify in Annapolis for more aggressive corrections be made. The Commissioners requested that the letter be reviewed by the County Attorney before submission.

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

- Minutes – Open & Closed Sessions – November 9, 2021, November 16, 2021, November 23, 2021, December 14, 2021, January 11, 2022, January 25, 2022, February 8, 2022
- [Denton Police Department – Memorandum of Agreement – FY20](#)
- [Greensboro Police Department – Memorandum of Agreement – FY20](#)
- [Federalsburg Police Department – Memorandum of Agreement – FY20](#)
- [Baltimore County Community College – Affiliation Agreement – EMS Precepting Site](#)
- Contractor Contract – L. Davis
- [Choptank Electric Cooperative, INC. – Memorandum of Understanding](#)

Commissioner Levengood made a motion to vote on the Benedictine School agenda item separately, Commissioner Porter seconded. Commissioner Franklin recused himself and abstained from the vote. Commissioners Levengood and Porter approved the following item:

- [Benedictine School Transforming a Campus to Transforming Lives – CDBG Local Subrecipient Agreement](#)

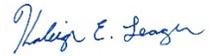
County Administrators Report – Jeremy Goldman: Mr. Goldman stated that the 911 system was down for about 90 minutes yesterday due to a mishap when upgrading the system. The 911 call center was able to flawlessly transfer all calls to the Talbot County dispatch center until our system was back up and running. This allowed for us to test our backup system.

County Commissioners Open Discussion: Commissioner Levengood mentioned that he will be on a call with the Rural Maryland Coalition (RMC) this evening and will mention the energy bill. Commissioner Franklin stated that he attended an uneventful Planning Commission meeting this week and did a paint night at Studio. Commissioner Porter stated that he attended the Tourism Board meeting and had mentioned the Daughters of the American Revolution project to erect a marker in recognition of Mr. Thomas Carney on the Court House Greens; asking Ms. Hill-Coursey to contact Ms. Leager about the project. Commissioner Porter asked Mr. Goldman if the process of getting information together regarding a merger of Tourism and Economic Development was moving forward. Mr. Goldman stated that everything requested is being put together.

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Franklin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Levensgood seconded.

There being no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kaleigh E. Leager". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kaleigh Leager
Executive Assistant to the County Commissioners